

Guest Spotlight

James



Age: 83
Transplant: 2x Heart
Hospital: Baylor St. Luke's
Hometown: White Castle, LA

Transplant Journey: On February 28, 1992 I had a massive heart attack. Before then, I was experiencing some chest pain and visited my PCP. He asked about my family history and requested to observe me on the treadmill. I was sent to a cardiologist and told there was nothing to be concerned about. Three months later, I had the heart attack and was told I would need a heart transplant. I asked my doctor "where would you go if you needed a transplant?" and he replied "Baylor St. Luke's in Houston." After moving to Houston, I was the 118th person to be admitted to St. Luke's experimental LVAD unit. On July 20, 1993 I received my first heart transplant. Years later in October 2009, I came back for an annual and they found a blood clot the size of a golf ball and 15 months later I received my second heart transplant.

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home?

Two words: Ease and Convenience. For years, I stayed at costly hotels while receiving treatment. Nora's Home is very reasonable and convenient, and you are surrounded by people who understand where you are at. The convenience of being around people who know what you are going through and why you're here is the most practical thing a human being can encounter during a transplant.

What would you say to someone who is considering becoming an organ donor?

I would tell them that it's the most humane thing a person can do. I once saw this sticker that said, "Don't take your organs to heaven, heaven knows that we need them here," and I think that is a perfect illustration of organ donation. Once someone passes, they do not need their organs. There are a lot of misbeliefs surrounding organ donation. I spent 25 years traveling around Louisiana, educating people. I never aim to convince anyone to become an organ donor, I just want to dispel the myths surrounding organ donation.

