

Guest Spotlight



Claudia

Age: 60

Transplant: Double Lung

Hospital: Houston Methodist Hospital

Hometown: Plaquemine, LA

Caregiver: My Friend, Frances

Transplant Journey: I was diagnosed a long time ago, but it took a while for me to be added to any transplant list. In 2009, I began my first set of evaluations. I'm from Louisiana, but I had to go to Alabama for my first set of evaluations because of Hurricane Katrina. Once I got there, they told me, "I wasn't sick enough", and they sent me back to Louisiana. From then on, I did my yearly pulmonary exams. By 2019, the hospital began doing evaluations to determine if I was eligible for a transplant and this continued into 2020 and 2021.

In May 2022, they told me everything was "ready," but in June 2022, another test found that my antibodies were too strong. I couldn't be listed. In June 2023, they recommended I come to Houston Methodist. The first appointment available was in October. By December, I was told that I was eligible to be listed—but I had to either live in Houston or live within two hours of the city. On December 14, I arrived in Houston with my mom, Astoria, and best friend, Frances. Finally, on December 29, 2023, I was added to the list and am still waiting.

What would you say to someone who is considering becoming an organ donor? I would encourage them to look at organ donation in a positive light. As an organ donor, you are giving someone the greatest gift—being able to continue life. A lot of people have this misconception that being a donor cuts your life short. This is not the case. Being a donor is a positive thing, it only helps those who really need it, and it can change their life.

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home? Is there a favorite memory? I found Nora's Home through Houston Methodist, and I was drawn to Nora's Home immediately. The entire setup of Nora's Home, and the activities they provide residents, is amazing. My mother and friend are very social people. I wanted them to have things to do and people to talk to, and Nora's Home seemed like a great fit.

I enjoy the peace of Nora's Home the most. As soon as you walk in, you feel this peace wash over you. You know that here you are wanted, and everything around you is to make you feel as comfortable as possible. My favorite space at Nora's Home is the library.

What would you say to the donors who support Nora's Home with financial donations? I would tell them that their money is being well spent. Everything in Nora's Home is intentional, with the goal of making sure all of the guests feel comfortable. As a resident, you are never asked or feel pressured to pay for more than you can afford—and we know that gift is thanks to the Nora's Home donors.

I would tell them, "Thank you". It's thanks to their generosity that I've been able to meet these amazing people. It's been wonderful to talk to others who understand what I'm going through and bond over our shared experiences.

