



Guest Spotlight

Dario

Age: 69

Transplant: Liver

Hospital: Houston Methodist Hospital

Hometown: Kingsville, TX

Caregivers: His Wife Sylvia

Transplant Journey: Dario was admitted to the ER in December of 2023 and didn't realize how badly jaundiced and ill he had become from his sick liver until his home hospital had to transport him to San Antonio for more testing. There, they ran some tests immediately but told him he was dying and needed to prepare for hospice. Following his labs however, Houston Methodist Hospital contacted him January 15 at 6 am and told him that they had a liver for Dario. He was transferred immediately and arrived in Houston at 10 am and went right into surgery. Halfway through the surgery, the surgeon texted his family and said she didn't know if she would be able to continue the operation because Dario had so much scar tissue from previous surgeries (12 surgeries, to be exact, for various issues). After 10 hours, the surgeon worked tirelessly to complete the transplant and thankfully it was a success! It took about 6 months for Dario to recover and leave the hospital. Through the entire transplant process and with his previous health challenges, Dario shares he felt the support of his wife, family, his local churches, and God sustaining him and he trusts there is a purpose for him surviving. Dario is working hard to continue his recovery with occupational and physical therapy and is committed to never giving up, even when the odds seem stacked against him.

What is the first thing you wanted to do after receiving your transplant? I can't wait to see my grandchildren and my kids. Just the fact that I'm home will be enough for me. They don't have to do anything. We've missed 7 ½ months of activities for my grandkids. I missed out on seeing them getting awards, watching their sports games, and spending holidays together. It is hard not being there to see all of that, so I am very ready to be back home.

What would you say to someone who is considering becoming an organ donor? If you think you're healthy enough to donate your organs and are able to, please do it. I would do it myself if I could. You are changing a person's life by donating your organs. If it hadn't been for my liver transplant, I wouldn't be sitting here right now. It's such an important gift.

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home? I love how friendly everyone is. You walk in here for the first time and you are welcomed immediately. Patients compare their stories and it's so inspiring to hear the strength of others. We have no family here in Houston, so being able to stay here at Nora's Home is such a blessing.

What has been your favorite space at Nora's Home? The garden is very special. The landscaping and flowers are so beautiful. It is serene and very peaceful. You see little rabbits and birds, and it's amazing to be out there.

What would you say to the donors who support Nora's Home with financial donations? If there's any way you can help by donating so others in my situation can be helped, please do. It's so important and benefits others so much in a financial crisis.

