

Aurora House News



The light of a new day...

SPRING 2026 Newsletter Volume 19 Issue 1

Patient and families served: 1,776

Age Range: 6 wks - 103yrs

Average Length of Stay: 35 days

Students & Community #: 27,514

Hospice Care Is Often Underused by Families — and You Can Help

Did you know that many families wait too long to use hospice care, or never use it at all, even when a loved one could truly benefit? This isn't because families don't care — it's often because hospice is misunderstood or not talked about early enough.

Why This Happens

In many families, caring for a loved one during serious illness is deeply personal. Family members often feel it's their responsibility to "do everything possible," and hospice is sometimes misunderstood as giving up or stopping care.

Talking about illness, dying, or end-of-life wishes can feel uncomfortable, emotional, or even taboo. As a result, hospice conversations may be avoided until a crisis happens, leaving families feeling overwhelmed and unprepared.

Language barriers, lack of trust in healthcare systems, and not knowing where to turn for information can also make it harder for families to explore hospice as an option.



What Hospice Really Is

Did you know hospice care is about comfort, dignity, and quality of life — and it can often be provided right at home? Hospice teams work alongside families to support both the patient and their loved ones. Services often include:

- Pain and symptom management
- Emotional and spiritual support
- Guidance and education for caregivers
- Support for families before and after a loss
- Hospice does not replace family care — it strengthens it

How You Can Help

- You don't need to be a medical expert to make a difference.
- Start the conversation. Open, compassionate discussions can reduce fear and confusion.
- Share what hospice truly offers. Help others understand hospice focuses on comfort and support, not giving up.
- Encourage questions. Remind families they can ask for clear explanations and care that respects their values.
- Connect families to resources. Local hospice providers, community organizations, and faith leaders can help guide the way.
- Support caregivers. Small acts of kindness can ease the burden on families caring for a loved one.

Stronger Together

When families and communities talk openly about care options, they empower one another to make informed, compassionate decisions. Hospice care is not about giving up — it's about showing up with comfort, dignity, and love when it matters most.

Aurora House News

Community Shines Bright for Those Who Need Us Most

We use these two words often, but they never quite seem to be enough: **THANK YOU.**

As we reflect on our 2025 All Is Bright Gala, our hearts are filled with gratitude. What an extraordinary evening it was. We welcomed over 250 guests to the beautiful Llano Grande venue, gathered together in support of compassion, dignity, and care for those who need us most at the end of life.

Because of you, the funds raised that evening directly support the programs and services Aurora House provides to our community. Whether you served as a sponsor, made a donation, attended the Gala, or purchased a live or silent auction item, you helped advance our mission of caring for individuals at end of life—especially those with nowhere else to turn. Your generosity ensures that we can continue providing comfort, dignity, and compassionate care to the most vulnerable members of our community.

We would like to extend special recognition to Dr. McDougal for his generous donation of beautiful paintings, which added both elegance and excitement to our auction. We are equally grateful to Robert and Rhonda Garza for their generous live auction donations and continued support. Their contributions helped make the evening such a tremendous success.

While we celebrate the success of the evening, we must also acknowledge the many hands and hearts working behind the scenes. Events like this are built on months of planning, countless phone calls, sponsorship requests, auction item collections, and long hours beyond already full schedules. Our dedicated board members and staff went above and beyond to make this evening possible.

We heard so many wonderful comments throughout the night—about the incredible auction items, the delicious cuisine prepared by Chef Torres, the signature drinks, the amazing performance by The Hot Rodz, and the stunning décor by Vachoram Productions. It was truly a beautiful evening, made possible by the commitment of our Aurora House family and the unwavering support of our community.

From the very beginning, the steadfast leadership of our Aurora House Board of Directors and Gala Committee has been instrumental. These individuals gave generously of their time and talents—attending meetings, seeking donations, and helping guide us through another successful event.

We were especially honored to have City of Weslaco, Mayor Adrian Gonzalez, and McAfee Agency, Robert Garza, serve as our Live Auction Master of Ceremonies, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and heartfelt support to the evening. Their leadership, commitment, and support helped make the night both meaningful and memorable.

These words of gratitude come not only from our leadership team, but from the residents, families, and staff who make up the Aurora House family. Your support of All Is Bright ensures that we can continue providing compassionate end-of-life care, educating our community, and serving those who need us most. From the bottom of our hearts—thank you for making the 2025 All Is Bright Gala a night to remember and a gift that will impact lives all year long.

Thank You!



Building Hope Together

LEADERS IN CARE

PIONEERS IN QUALITY



PERSONALIZED HEALTHCARE FOR EVERY STAGE OF LIFE

- ✓ Primary and Preventive Care
- ✓ Chronic Disease Management
- ✓ Urgent Care
- ✓ Pediatrics and Family Medicine
- ✓ Behavioral Health
- ✓ Care Coordination



SCAN TO
FIND A CLINIC
NEAR YOU



*Support
those who
support our
Community!*



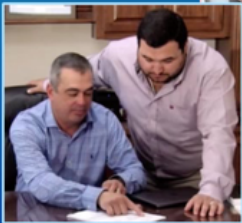
Andrew Levine M.D., P.A.
Board Certified Nephrologist
Specializing in Kidney Disorders & Treatment



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MEDICAL TRANSPORT



Our owners!



You've built
Your business.



We will
help you
protect it.



Building Hope Together



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*Harold John & Deborah
Zurlo*

*Support those who
support our Community!*

Aurora House News

Donations

October 2025 - January 2026

ADL Services
Adrian Farias
Aguirre Elizabeth
Alexander Patricia
Alexis De Sela
AllState Hospice
Amedisys
Andrew Levine MD PA
Andy & Pam Scott
A Neighborhood Hospice & Palliative Care
Angel Wings Hospice
Anonymous
Anthony Ryan Vaughan
Bill Neff
Brian Humphreys
Burton Companies LLC
Carl & Linda Meiners
Carmel Reyna
Carmen Garza
Celia Lopez
Christopher & Minerva St. John
Clinica Familiar San Jose P.A.
Connie Garrels
Dalia Carpenter
Development Corporation of Mercedes
Dimas or Consuelo Martinez
Donna Economic Development
Corporation
Donna Rothman
Dr. Jose F. Pena
Elizabeth & Subram Gopal Krishnan MD
Eloy Gonzales & Marisela Gonzalez
Ericka Hernandez
Eric L. Polzin
Estate Charles E. Thompson Jr.
Eugene R. Vaughan
Fanny & Buddy Ross
First Baptist Church Weslaco
First Care EMS LLC
Hollon Oil Company
India Association Rio Grande Valley
J & E McConnell
Jack & Julianne Carlson
Jacky Sustaita
James & Sondra Plowman
Jessica & Lowry McAllen
Julieta Piando
Kapal Management LLC
Kendra Scott Design
Knapp Medical Center
Knights Columbus Council
LaDuke Nancy
La Mision Palliative Care & Hospice
Lana Mendez
LeRoy Rodriguez
Life Giving Outreach
Ministries/Crossroads
Liz Free

Love Christ Lutheran Church
Luanna Gracia
Magic Valley Electric Coop
Marco Flores
Maria Ramirez
Mary Cardenas
Mid River Christian Centre Inc
Miriam Ford
Montalvo Insurance Agency
Mr. & Mrs. Alejandro L. Estrada
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Zurlo
Mr. & Mrs. Rhonda & Robert Garza
Munoz Foundation Drilling Inc.
Mutiat Adeoye
Nancy & J Craig Fratzke
Noble Texas Builders LLC
Norma Martinez
Norman L. Wessel
Norma Solis
P.A.C.E. Health Care Inc.
P.E. & J.T. McDougal FLP
Peggy James & Josie Zepeda
Pete & Jo Peters
Pete Cedillo Jr. CPA
Ranchero Village Church
Raul Cabaza
Rebecca Villanueva Hernandez
Renee Zachman
RGV ACO Health Providers LLC
Ricardo Guerra
Rio Grande Medicine Inc.
Rio Grande Valley Educational Secretary
Assoc.
Rios of Mercedes
Robert Antonacci
Robert Gallipeau
Ruben Villarreal
San Jose Hospice
San Martin De Porres Church
Scott Kimbro
Shepard & Walton Employee Benefits
Sheryl L. Henry
Shirley Knutson-Nelson
Southern Comfort Park
STX Coyote Cornhole
The Munoz Family
Trigen Construction
Troy & Cindy Collinsworth
Tu Vida Medical Transport Inc
Vantage Bank Texas
Vida De Paz LLC
Walker Realty
Weslaco Economic Development
Corporation
Weslaco Rotary Club
Weslaco Vision Source
William Gillum
Yolanda Salinas

In Memory of

Alfredo Salinas
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Zurlo
Arlys Patterson
Teresa Mize
Beverly Sue Haigh
Nancy & J Craig Fratzke
Carolyn Broshears
Johnny Broshears
Charles Roberts
Alan Hudson
Jerry & Angela Brackhahn
Tommy & Brenda DeWitt
Craig & Stan Wiegand
Marguerite Wiegand
David Castillo
Irene Castillo
Diana Gonzalez
Rio Grande Valley
Educational Secretary
Assoc.
Douglas Brundige
Mary Brundige
Greg Schmit
Patricia & Alan E. Bortnem
Gregoria Rodriguez
Dalia Carpenter
John B. Allen
Ellen Allen
Jon Schwartz
Love of Christ Lutheran
Church
Joyce Coyle
Lauren Coyle

Kenneth Hood & Marie Hulme
Janelle Hood
Leticia Anzaldua
Barry Dickerson
Linda Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Art Beckwith
Loretta Barbee
Janice L. Earl
Lyn Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Zurlo
Virginia Kathleen & Nathan
Cowden
Lynn Gallipeau
Robert Gallipeau
Maria Ebelia Figueroa
Sulema Gaughran
Maria Gomez
Jose & Hilda Gonzalez
Polly, Betty, & Bill
Elizabeth & Subram Gopal
Krishnan MD
Robert Garza
Atanacio Hinojosa Jr.
Robyn Lamb
Delores Nelson
Vangie Martinez
Javier Martinez
Vivien Vermilya
Liselotte Pinkerton



In Honor of

Agustina Quintanilla
Aracely Rodriguez
Margarita Camacho
Janie & Jorge Martinez
Margarita Camacho Family
San Juanita Martinez
Rafael Rodriguez MD
Don & Rebecca McDaniel
Reverend D.J. Tuohy
Catholic Daughters the American Court

A.G. Electric
A.N. Tony Rico Elementary
Angel Wings Hospice
Anonymous
Araceli Villarreal
Central Middle School
Christina Perez
Country Sunshine RV Park
Elara Caring
Fire Wise of South Texas LLC
First Baptist Church Weslaco
Juan Gonzalez
Juanita Espinoza
Kennedy Carillo
Liza Anzaldúa
Magic Valley Retired School
Personnel Association
Michael Carranga
Mid River Christian Centre Inc
P.E. & J.T. McDougal FLP
Rafaela Garcia
Rio Grande Valley Educational
Secretary Assoc.
Rosi Guajardo
Siesta Retirement Village
Siesta Village Worship Hour
Southern Comfort Park
South Texas College
Texas Oncology Foundation Inc.
Valley Nature Center
Weslaco Volley Ball

In Memory of

Concepcion Vallejo
Francisco Vallejo
Consuelo Mata
Nelda Mata
Darrell Lobdell
Brett Lobdell
Hector Alejandro Martinez
Anonymous
Noelia Martinez

In Honor of

Agustina Quintanilla
Aracely Rodriguez
Bertha Villarreal
Petra Zamarripa
Elda Moreno
Herman & Shirley Castillo
Fay Troppy
Anonymous
Ladislao Duran
Anonymous
Maria Duran
Lupita Cano
Fred Cano
Margarita Camacho
Janie & Jorge Martinez
Margarita Camacho Family
Maria Trevino
Anonymous
Lluvia Trevino
Patricia Grimaldo
Juan Gonzalez
Cassandra Ayala
Juan Gonzalez

Thank You!

TO ALL OUR COMPASSIONATE
GEMS

- Alexis De Sela
- ADL Services, Inc.
- Eugene Vaughan
- Hollon Oil Company
- Idalia Kimbro
- Janice Earl
- Jo Peters
- Mutiat Adeoye
- Oralia Tafolla
- Rhonda Garza
- Robert Antonacci
- Ruben Villarreal
- Ryan & Jode Vaughan
- Sheryl Henry
- Yolanda Salinas

Giving Made Easy

Your commitment through monthly or quarterly giving is vital to Aurora House's ability to continue to serve our community and ensures that our residents spend their last days surrounded by compassion, dignity, comfort, and peace.



An Easy Way to Give Your Support

You can schedule monthly or quarterly gifts through ACH (Automated Clearing House) debits.

ACH debit allows you to make your donation electronically. It is a more efficient, cost-effective program for both you and Aurora House.

For more information, please contact
Marisela Gonzalez
956-973-9690 or
aurorahousefoundation@yahoo.com

Community Kindness in Action

Thank you to our amazing community for your generous donations to the Aurora House Foundation! Your support helps us continue providing compassionate end-of-life care to those who need it most. We are deeply grateful for your kindness and commitment to our mission.



Families of Alvarado,
Farias, Lopez, Caballero,
Ramirez, Lynch, Cantu,
Martinez, Calderon & Solis



Knights of Columbus -
Council 3098



Valentine Lunch Donated
by Angel Wings Hospice &
Vida De Paz Hospice



Central Middle School's
Pumas in Action Club



A.N. Rico Elementary
& Miss Southern
Elegance 2026

Aurora House News



Aurora House Foundation

March

TUE
10 & 24

Open House/ Volunteer Orientation
11:00am-12:00pm
Tour & Presentation
2646 W. 18th St. Weslaco, Tx



SAT
21

RGV Death Cafe
11:00am- 12:30pm
Death, Donuts, and Coffee
2646 W. 18th St. Weslaco, Tx



WED
25

UTRGV Conference: Empowering Older Adults in the Digital Age
9:00am- 12:00pm
Online (Zoom)



THU
26

Adult Bereavement Support Group
6:30pm-8:00pm
"The Healing You" (Bilingual)
2646 W. 18th St. Weslaco, Tx



FRI
27

Aurora House Lunch & Learn
12:00pm-1:00pm
Topic: TBA
2646 W. 18th St. Weslaco, Tx



SAT
28

Texas Onion Fest
TBA
Outreach Team will be tabling event and have information available.
Weslaco, Tx





Established in 2007
Aurora House Foundation

 Aurora house Foundation

 aurorahousecares



Serving With Purpose at Aurora House

Volunteers are the heart of sustaining a nonprofit organization. While nonprofits exist to serve and uplift the community, we could not fulfill our mission without the incredible support of that same community. From assisting with day-to-day operations to supporting outreach and promotional efforts, volunteers play a vital role in everything we do.

We want our volunteers to grow, develop new skills, and gain meaningful experiences that help guide them toward a bright and successful future. Here are some of the ways you can do that:

Learn New Skills

Volunteering with a nonprofit can teach you a great deal about yourself. Stepping into an environment where you may not know the daily routine can feel challenging at first — but that's also how new skills are developed and confidence begins to grow. At Aurora House, we are more than a facility — we are a home. We care for our residents as if they were members of our own family. One of the most meaningful changes we see in our volunteers is a growth in confidence. Whether it's learning to speak up, putting themselves out there, developing caregiving skills they didn't know they had, or strengthening qualities like compassion and patience, these are abilities that stay with you wherever life takes you.

Meet New People

We understand that volunteering can sometimes mean stepping outside of your comfort zone. But you never know who you might meet or how you could positively impact each other's lives. The connections you build could extend far beyond your time as a volunteer, and the memories you create may stay with someone for the rest of their life.

Community Impact

We know that part of the appeal of volunteering is the meaningful impact you make. Giving your time to support others in your community is a powerful and selfless act. Volunteering isn't a transaction — it's about showing up, making a difference, and helping build a better future for those around you.

Volunteering at Aurora House offers a unique opportunity to fulfill that purpose. You have the chance to support individuals at the end of their lives, helping create moments of comfort, dignity, and meaningful memories during an incredibly important time. **If you are interested in volunteering or organizing a volunteer project with Aurora House, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Aymara Ortez at (956) 973-9690 or email aymara@aurorahouse.org.**

Wish List



Household

- Laundry Detergent
- Sippy Cups
- Pine-Sol
- Clorox
- 30 gal Trash Bags
- T-Shirt Bags
- Dryer Sheets
- Antibacterial hand Soap refills
- Paper Plates
- Disposable Utensils
- Toilet Tissue



Groceries

- Chicken
- Ground Beef
- Bacon
- Fresh Fruits
- Fresh Vegetables
- Coffee Creamers
- Coffee: regular & decaf
- Soft Drinks: all flavors
- Flour Tortillas
- Milks
- Eggs



Gift Cards to HEB, Walmart, & Home Depot Are Appreciated

2646 West 18th Street Weslaco, Tx | 956.973.9690

2646 W. 18th Street P.O.Box 976 Weslaco, Texas 956.973.9690 www.AuroraHouse.org

Aurora House Events

Administrative Professionals Day

April 22, 2026

SAVE THE
DATE!

Chinese Blessing:

“马到成功 (Mǎ dào chéng gōng)”
“May success arrive swiftly” — a
perfect Horse-year blessing for
admins.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TICKETS OR SPONSORSHIP,
PLEASE CALL (956) 973-9690 OR EMAIL
MARI@AURORAHOUSE.ORG

Thank you!
TO OUR FUNDERS

the Valley Region
LEGACY FOUNDATION™

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House & Grounds Supervisor

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Christina Perez
Clara Rangel
Juanita Espinoza
Martha Rodriguez
San Juanita Rodriguez
Tanya Mata
Yesenia Navarro
Caregivers

OUR MISSION

To provide compassionate care
for persons in the last chapter
of life, in a home-like setting, so
they can approach a peaceful
death with comfort and dignity.