

Aurora House News



The light of a new day...

Summer 2026 Newsletter Volume 19 Issue 2

Patient and families served: 1,830

Age Range: 6 wks - 103yrs

Average Length of Stay: 35 days

Students & Community #: 27,926

Planning Ahead: Understanding Advance Directives & Healthcare Decisions



Most of us plan for important milestones in life—buying a home, retirement, or our children's future—but many people never take the time to plan for healthcare decisions should they become unable to speak for themselves. While these conversations can feel uncomfortable, planning ahead is one of the greatest gifts you can give your loved ones. An advance directive is a legal document that communicates your healthcare wishes if you are ever unable to make decisions for yourself because of a serious illness or injury. It allows your voice to be heard, even when you cannot speak.

There are several types of advance directives, and while the names may vary by state, the most common include:

- **Medical Power of Attorney** – This document allows you to appoint someone you trust to make healthcare decisions on your behalf if you are unable to communicate. This person, sometimes called your healthcare agent or proxy, should understand your values and be willing to honor your wishes, even during difficult situations.
- **Directive to Physicians (Living Will)** – A living will explains the types of medical treatment you would or would not want if you have a terminal or irreversible condition and cannot communicate your decisions. It may address treatments such as mechanical ventilation, artificial nutrition and hydration, resuscitation, or other life-sustaining interventions.
- **Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) Order** – For individuals who qualify and choose this option, an Out-of-Hospital DNR tells emergency medical personnel not to attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if the person's heart or breathing stops outside of a hospital. This document should always be discussed with your healthcare provider.

Advance directives are not only for older adults or those with a serious illness. Unexpected accidents or medical emergencies can happen at any age. Every adult should consider choosing a healthcare decision-maker and discussing their wishes with family members before a crisis occurs.

Just as important as completing the paperwork is having the conversation. Sit down with your family and healthcare decision-maker to talk about what matters most to you.

Consider questions such as:

- **What gives your life meaning and quality?**
- **Under what circumstances would you want life-sustaining treatments?**
- **What are your spiritual, cultural, or personal beliefs that should guide your care?**
- **Who do you trust to speak for you if you cannot speak for yourself?**

Once your documents are completed, keep them in an easily accessible place and provide copies to your healthcare decision-maker, your physician, and close family members. Review your advance directives every few years or whenever there is a major life change, such as a marriage, divorce, diagnosis, or the loss of a loved one.

Continued on next page

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Planning ahead is not about expecting the worst—it is about ensuring that your healthcare reflects your values and wishes. It also relieves loved ones of the burden of making difficult decisions without knowing what you would have wanted. Planning for the future can also include thinking about the legacy you hope to leave. Some people choose to support causes that have touched their lives by including a charitable organization in their estate plans or requesting memorial donations in lieu of flowers. These thoughtful gifts can continue providing comfort and hope for others long into the future.

At Aurora House, we have seen how advance care planning brings peace of mind to patients and families alike. By having these conversations early, documenting your wishes, and considering the legacy you want to leave, you are giving your loved ones one of the most meaningful gifts of all—the confidence to honor your choices with love, dignity, and compassion. **Please visit our Aurora House website for links to these various documents.**



Dragon Strength & Quiet Excellence: A Celebration of Community

Aurora House Foundation extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made our Dragon Strength and Quiet Excellence Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon an incredible success. Together, we celebrated the dedication of administrative professionals while raising vital support for the compassionate care provided at Aurora House.



Guests enjoyed a beautiful afternoon inspired by Chinese culture, featuring breathtaking décor by **Vachorum Productions**, an exceptional luncheon prepared by **Chef Roberto**, and an exciting performance by the **Unity Dragon and Lion Dance Troupe** from Houston, made possible through the generous support of **Kaizen Clinical Partners**.

We are especially grateful to all of In Kind Donors for their wonderful raffle and silent auction donations, whose generosity helped make the event a tremendous success.

Most importantly, we thank our board members, sponsors, volunteers, guests, and supporters. Events like these remind us that it truly takes a village to care for our community. Every sponsorship, donation, raffle and action item, and act of kindness helps Aurora House continue providing a peaceful, home-like place where patients and families receive comfort, dignity, and compassionate care during life's most difficult journey.

Together, you are making a lasting difference. Your generosity strengthens our mission, supports our house, and ensures that no family has to face the end of life alone. Thank you for being part of the Aurora House village and for showing that a caring community can accomplish extraordinary things.

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



Andrew Levine M.D., P.A.
Board Certified Nephrologist

Specializing in Kidney Disorders & Treatment



TV
VIDA
MEDICAL TRANSPORT



You've built
Your business.

We will
help you
protect it.



**BORN HERE,
WORN HERE.**
MADE IN MERCEDES, TX / USA

AB **RIOS** **OIA THE**
ANDERSON BEAN MERCEDES
RIOSFAMILYOFBRANDS.COM

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Donations

February - June 2026

ADL Services
Advantage Healthcare Consulting
Ahmed Alareer
AllState Hospice
Anchor of Love Hospice
Andres Rios
Andrew Levine, MD, PA
Andy & Pam Scott
Anonymous
Anthony Ryan Vaughan
April Hickman
Araceli Cantu
B.J. Woodyard
Benavides Law Firm
Betty Lou Vitek
Beverly Flowers
Bloomquist Consulting, LLC
Brenda Medina
Brian Humphreys
Burton Companies, LLC
Carmen Trujillo
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Charlene Cooper
Christina Perez
Christopher & Minerva St. John
Clarice A. Fodness Nystrup
David & Virginia Bailey
Davis Equity Realty
Debby Rektorik
Dennis & Linda Linn
Dennis L. & Sharon M. Sejkora
Dennis Slavin
Development Corporation of
Mercedes
Dimas or Consuelo Martinez
Donna Medical Clinic
Donna Musolf
Dwight & Angie Lauer
Elizabeth Nava
Eloy Gonzales & Marisela Gonzalez
EPSILON PHI CHAPTER
Esteban Hernandez
Eugene R. Vaughan
First Christian Church Disciples of
Christ
Frances Tovar

Francisco Gandara
Frost Bank
Garry & Shirley Rhoades
Gastroenterology Consultants of South
Texas
Gilbert Vasquez
Henry & Barb Fisher
Henry & Susan Vanderzyden
Hollon Oil Company
Hope Insurance Agency, LLC
J & E McConnell
James & Sondra Plowman
Janet Kruse
Jean Adams
Jean M. Wilken
Jeremy & Linda Keefer
Jerry L. & Diana L. Bottomley
John & Penny Berry
Johnny Broshears
Judy Kutugata
Julieta Piando
Kaizen Clinical Partners, Inc.
Karen Schroeder
Knapp Community Care Foundation
Life Giving Outreach
Ministries/Crossroads
Linda & Dale Graham
Literary Review Club
Llano Grande Lake Park Church
Love of Christ Lutheran Church
Magda Escandon
Magic Valley Electric Coop
Magic Valley PEO Group
Magic Valley Retired School Personnel
Association
Marco Flores
Maria Vega
Martin Ziegler
Marvin & Lorna Glesne
McAfee Insurance Agency
McCaleb Funeral Home
Michelle Vargas
Mitzi & Dana Pederson
Mr. & Mrs. Alejandro L. Estrada
Mr. & Mrs. Rhonda & Robert Garza
Ms. Jeanne M. Creasy

Mutiat Adeoye
Nancy & J Craig Fratzke
Norma Martinez
P.A.C.E. Health Care, Inc.
Patricia & Alan E. Bortnem
Patricia Alexander
Pete & Jo Peters
Phillis Machen
R.S.B.& L.L.B.
Rachel Webb
Raising Cane's
Ramon Montalvo
Regency Integrated Health Services
RGV ACO Health Providers, LLC
Richard Zillman
Rio Grande Valley Philanthropic
Foundation
Rios of Mercedes
Robert Antonacci
Robert Gallipeau
Roberta Malone
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory of the
RGV
Ruben Villarreal
Sally Vela
San Martin De Porres Church
Sarah Poole
Sharon Newcomer
Shepard & Walton Employee Benefits
Sheryl L. Henry
Shirley Knutson-Nelson
Siesta Village Worship Hour
Smith Security & Fire
Snow to Sun RV Park
Sonya Garza
Southern Comfort Chapel
St. Pius X Catholic Church
Susan Lecraw
Texas Regional Bank
Tu Vida Medical Transport, Inc
Uncle Chops Food Court
Vantage Bank Texas
Violanda Cantu Abrego
Weslaco Economic Development
Corporation
Weslaco Elks Lodge
Yolanda Salinas

In Memory of

Anita Gamez & San Juana Padilla

Alfonso & Herminia Abeldano

Anthony Guajardo

Gina Saenz

Betty Jane Piper

Phyllis & Michael Stewart

Betty McCoy

Gary & Jeanne Fears

Linda Dyson

Daniel "Danny" E. Arnold

Ervin Cockrell

Diane Timperlake & Dorothy Pinkerton

Fiorenza

Liselotte Pinkerton

Doris Jacobson

John Jacobson

Duane Entinger

Leroy Entinger

Lori Gunner

Michelle Entinger

Elida Hinojosa

Carlota Reigner

Faye Troppy

Brenda Salivia Istorico

Cecilia & Joe Schulz

Danny Troppy

Debbie Waldman

Ignacio Mendez

Liz Lapidus

Larry Witt

Maria Coronado

Mary Beth Holcomb

Michael Troppy

Tamara Agarwal

Toby Stark

Umie Sutherland

Harland Watson

Cecilia & Joe Schulz

Janis Ramsey

George Ramsey

John Leggett

Fanny & Buddy Ross

Joseph Cortino

James Wilt

Joveta Davis

Mary Brundige

Judy Peabody

Mary Brundige

Kathryn Churchill

Liselotte Pinkerton

Kelly Smith

Anna Smith

Larry Wilson

Delavan Baptist Church

Lee Hyde

Barry Dickerson

Linda Jones Bearden

Liselotte Pinkerton

Linda Williams

Jodi Janik

Loanie Louella Russell

Bruce T Chemel

Karen Yaklin

Maria Gomez

Jose & Hilda Gonzalez

Pat Gaddis

Janice L. Earl

Patricio Briones

Domingo & Becky Briones

Robert Garza

Atanacio Hinojosa Jr.

Robert McAllen

Anna Smith

Roy Crooks

Anna Smith

Robert Scott

Robert David Scott

In Honor of

Alberto Fonseca

Tera Montes

Duane Entinger

Richard & Rosalind Otto

Jose Madrigal

Gloria Villarreal

Larry Wilson

Brier McCloud

Lee & Margaret Hyde

John and Patty Ellis

Maria Rosa Mujica

Rosi Guajardo

Thank You!

TO ALL OUR COMPASSIONATE
GEMS

- 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



AllState Hospice
Ann Baker
Anonymous
Bea Lobdell
Betty Lou Vitek
Clecker Elementary
Country Sunshine RV Park
Davita Mercedes Dialysis
Debora Kalata
Delta Kappa Gamma
Don Benjas Mesquite Grill
First Christian Church Disciples of Christ
Gene Canales
German Salce
Herman & Shirley Castillo
Isaac Johnson
Lana Mendez
Legacy Hospice
Magda Pena
Marisela Rosales
Michelle Entinger
OpusCare Hospice
Siesta Retirement Village
Southern Comfort Park
St. Joan of Arc Church
United Migrant Opportunity Services Inc.
Yasmin Pinon

In Honor of

Deborah Palmer
Ken Palmer
Elda Moreno
Herman & Shirley Castillo
Garry Cooper
Anonymous
Jose Madrigal
Margie Madrigal
Monique Madrigal
Odilia Madrigal
Marisela Riddle
The Riddle Family
Ramiro Peralez
Marlina Peralez
Reynaldo Herrera
Margarita Herrera
Richard Carey
Anonymous
Sarah Hartford
Clecker Elementary

In Memory of

Amanda G
Yasmin Pinon
Eli Garza
Anonymous
Elsa Methodist Church
Paula Rosen Baun
Marisela Rosales
Placida Torres
Yasmin Pinon

Your generosity helps bring
comfort, dignity, and
compassionate care to those who
need it most—thank you for
making a difference.

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.



Amazon WTX4



Cross Roads Community
Church/Snow To Sun
Christmas In July



IDEA Pharr
Youth In Philanthropy



Girl Scout
#2339



Angel Wings Hospice



KRGV
Kelwyn Tippins & Astrid
Mendez

Aurora House News

Aurora House Foundation

08/26

August



Open House 11:00am

- Aurora House Community Programs
- Virtual- Facebook Live

11
TUE

Craft & Yap - Craft Club 6:00pm- 8:00pm

- Personalize Notebook Covers
- 2646 W 18th St Weslaco Tx- Education Building

13
THU

Lunch & Learn- Nursing CEU 12:00pm- 1:00pm

- Comfort Measures During Active Dying
- Knapp Conference Center- 1401 E. 8th Weslaco, Tx

14
FRI

RGV Death Cafe 5:30pm- 6:30pm

- Group-led discussion
- 2646 W 18th st. Weslaco Tx- Education Building

19
WED

Adult Bereavement Support Group 6:30pm

- "The Healing You" (Bilingual)
- 2646 W 18th st. Weslaco Tx- Education Building

28
FRI



Aurora House Foundation

Craft & Yap

FREE EVENT! ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED!

AUG 13

6:00PM - 8:00PM



Donation Items

- fabric
- glue stick
- scissors
- buttons
- ribbon
- scrap book paper
- card stock paper
- beads
- stickers

Help Support Our Community Conversation Series

Our Community Conversation Series offers free educational programs, support groups, and wellness activities for members of our community. Through these gatherings, we provide a safe and welcoming space to learn, connect, heal, and support one another.

We are currently accepting donations of new or gently used craft supplies (see list below) for our Adult Bereavement Support Group and Craft & Yap - Craft Club. These two programs provide a safe, supportive space for those who need it most, offering a place to talk, grieve, connect, create, and support one another. Through meaningful conversations and creative activities, participants find comfort, healing, and a sense of community while reminding each other that no one has to navigate life's challenges alone.

Have other items
not listed?
Contact us!



Monalisa Gonzalez
Education &
Development Coordinator
monalisa@aurorahouse.org

Aurora House Events



Aurora House Foundation Board of Directors

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Tanya Mata

Yesenia Navarro

Isabella Agüero

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.

Thank you!
TO OUR FUNDERS

