

The Arizona Transplant House – Village at Mayo Clinic



This is an inspirational story of the Weaver Family and their heart transplant journey the last three years.

Dale & Ruth Weaver became part of the AZTH Family when Dale (age 48 at the time) was diagnosed with heart failure and the need for a heart transplant. Here is a letter Ruth recently shared with us.

I was looking through pictures the other day and realized what a difference the last 3 years have made in our lives. Thank Goodness for the Mayo Clinic Hospital and the Arizona Transplant House for making this journey possible.



It all started in early October 2007; and quickly everything spun into chaos at hyper speed. Upon the recommendation of our cardiac specialist in New Mexico, we had just visited the Mayo Hospital for the first time and met with Dr. Steidley to begin the heart transplant process. After the exams, the Doctor informed us we would need to move to Arizona immediately and would be there for a minimum of several months to potentially a year or more. Our heads were spinning with all of the news, updates, and things we needed to do. How on earth we were going to find a place to stay, let alone pay for it; and keep our sanity? We returned home to make the preparations, and as we sat at home feeling almost completely overwhelmed, the phone rang and it was Tom Davie, Executive Director at the Arizona Transplant House. He told us about this amazing non-profit homelike facility that had been created for transplant patients and family members that had to relocate to the area while being treated and recovering at Mayo. We breathed a sigh of relief that we were over the first huge hurdle; we had a place to stay while being treated! And so the AZ Transplant House became our home for the next 6 months.

This was amazing enough, but what we didn't expect was all of the hidden blessings that the Arizona Transplant House, and the staff, would reveal to us throughout our stay and even now. We met many other families and through our shared experiences have become a kind of extended family; and as another patient stated "each others angels". I, in particular appreciated my "extended family" support because Dale was in hospital for the majority of the time. Our immediate family was super supportive of me but when they had to leave it was wonderful to be around other people that understood if you needed quiet time, or a hug or space or a morale boost. We visited each other in the hospital and kept track of each other so that we didn't have to carry the burden alone. It was the little things like someone popping in with a tube of toothpaste or just to say "hello; need anything?", or seeing a familiar face across the cafeteria. Those are the intangible things AZTH provided for all of us who have stayed there, or will in the future.

The Arizona Transplant House is certainly a place of shelter, and life's basic needs, but more importantly it is a place that provides a respite for souls needing hope and healing.

We treasure our time and experiences with all of the patients, families, staff and volunteers. Thank you all for the honor of sharing "a bit of life" with you!

A special thanks to Tom and Dana and all the staff for all you did for us and continue to do!!!!



As you can probably tell, Ruth & Dale feel immensely grateful for AZTH support during their challenging time. They have given back to AZTH in so many ways from fundraising to providing auction items which have been used to raise much needed funds. Please join us in wishing continued good health to the Weaver family in the coming years.

Your support of our non profit 501 C3 organizations allows us to continue the AZTH mission: Provide low-cost housing and emotional support for patients and their families who travel from all over the world to Arizona for solid organ and blood/marrow transplants and follow up care.

Best of health,
Tom Davie
Executive Director