



# 2020 IMPACT REPORT

## OUR MISSION

To provide stability, shelter and support for families seeking cancer care in the Texas Medical Center.



### Cancer stops for nothing, nor do the dedicated staff and volunteers at A Shelter for Cancer Families (ASCF).

Seven months before COVID began impacting the Houston area, ASCF welcomed the first cancer family to its newly acquired 15-unit apartment complex near the Texas Medical Center (TMC). The pandemic did affect day-to-day operations and required ASCF to halt in-person events and pivot on fundraising efforts, but managing the unexpected that comes with providing services to cancer families is in our playbook.

The living environment at ASCF is perfectly curated to suit immunocompromised patients who often need to limit or refrain from contact with others. Our Housing is equipped with all the amenities one would need if they were only able to go between ASCF and the TMC. Our Navigators, who help cancer families prepare, advocate, facilitate communications, and provide access to much-needed resources, made the shift to remote and telecommunications support.

When it came to Celebrations, we channeled our creativity to recognize the moments that matter without directly interacting with our vulnerable population.

Despite all the uncertainty that 2020 imposed, the doors at ASCF remained open to welcome more families than have been served in ASCF history. While travel was restricted by some states, 60% of our cancer families came from outside Texas, making it imperative to have a safe, private place to call home.

Ensuring that our cancer families had access to lifesaving treatment without increasing their risks was truly the highlight of the year.

HOUSING

3,541  
Nights provided

128  
Families housed

582  
Housing requests received

\$531,150  
Savings for our cancer families



97 Families celebrated with parties, special events, memorials and seasonal celebrations for cancer families

56 Navigation encounters

2020 healthcare restrictions required most of our navigation assistance to be done remotely and via teleconferencing.



“ASCF was a Godsend for our family this year. After a ton of research, our family decided to temporarily relocate to Houston, TX to receive treatment at MD Anderson. When we made the decision to come to Houston, we did not expect to stay for an extended period, but treatment would prove that was necessary. After exhausting stressful options for housing and finding that there were not any family-friendly options to accommodate our toddler, especially due to COVID restrictions, our social worker help set us up with ASCF and a huge weight was lifted off of our shoulders. We always felt welcome and safe. Since ASCF was able to be so helpful, we were able to focus on fighting Nathan’s cancer and not continuously worrying about how we were going to pay rent in two places.”

