

Because of You

The Gratitude Report - Fiscal Year 2014



“Fisher House allows one to be able to visit their loved one without the burden of driving to and from hotels. And what a blessing to not have to be burdened with costs of hotel stays”.

(Estimated cost savings to families this year: over \$1 million).

“The use of the kitchen is such a wonderful asset; saves eating out every meal”.

(Your donations purchased over \$21,000 worth of groceries for the House).

“What you all do makes a difference, body & soul, for us”.

(More than \$23,000 funded hundreds of guest programs, including events, holiday celebrations, massage therapy and classes).

“Having other families to talk with helps each of us relieve our stresses of the day”.

(This year 572 families called the VA Puget Sound Fisher House “home”).

“The Fisher House is awesome and such a blessing. Its worth can’t be priced”.

The same is true of YOU, the donors and volunteers who are truly the heart and soul of this program. Thank you for your commitment to VA Puget Sound Fisher House! Thank you for being part of this family!



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By the Numbers

- 516 volunteers offered over 1,600 hours of service
- Over \$17,000 met needs of the House that would otherwise come out of the VA budget
- 5,382 occupied guest nights provided

Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House

Our mission is to ease the burden on our Veterans and their families during difficult times. The Friends, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, work to raise funds and awareness in support of our local Fisher House. We are grateful for your partnership with us!

Officers:

Pat Norikane Logerwell, President

Mike Winkler, Vice President

Chris Blackman, Treasurer

Cathy Dickson, Secretary

Directors:

Patrice Brower

Melanie Kreizis

Holly Krejci

Roxane Rousch

Lorraine Thomas, Development Director

Semper Fi! Celebrating the Tun Tavern Grub Club

Since 2008 a group of Marine wives and moms have been coming to Fisher House to prepare a delicious meal for guests. Even while their loved ones were deployed, these spirited, creative women have set aside their own cares and concerns to show their support for Fisher House families. The Tun Tavern Grub Club (named for the spot where the first Marines were recruited) have prepared over 60 meals and offered many hours of caring, compassion and deliciousness. We salute them.

Board Talk

The VA Puget Sound Fisher House is a gold standard HOME because of YOU and is surrounded by a National award winning healing garden you helped to build (along with our affiliation with the UW Landscape Architecture Department). Programs and goods help provide love and care during stressful times. The Veteran families who make the Fisher House their "home away from home" thank you for investing your time, services and monetary donations; making a difference in their daily lives. They are far away from home and from their normal support systems. They spend long, emotional days at the hospital caring for their loved ones. Because of you, they are able to return to a warm and safe home where they are supported by staff, volunteers, and other guests. Some days they are greeted by the aroma of dinner being made by a volunteer group or a planned activity that will lighten their spirits. The Fisher House allows them to relax, rejuvenate, and share camaraderie with fellow caregivers.



I have many Fisher House memories and one always brings a smile to me. I met a three year old with her mother and grandma who were grateful to be able to be close to grandpa in the hospital. She greeted me with handfuls of green beans, a hoody filled with strawberries and cherry tomatoes and a smile that

would light up the room. "Welcome to my garden!" she said. The Fisher House was her home away from home.

The voices of other Veteran families can be heard through their heartfelt messages:

"My family is so grateful for the support we received while our newborn daughter underwent multiple surgeries".

"What a special place; a haven for those of us who are in the midst of storms."

"Thank you. Thank you. Thank you".

"We are forever in debt to those who make this happen. What you do does make a difference, body and soul, for us."

This is a small window on the "difference" that your generous donations provide. We invite you to consider a year-end gift to the Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House 501(c)(3) for continued support of our Veteran families. We are grateful to all of you in our "Fisher House Family". We cannot thank you enough for the comfort and joy you bring to the hearts of so many.



Happy Holidays!
Pat Norikane Logerwell
President, Friends of VA Puget Sound
Fisher House

Simplify Your Giving

If simplifying your life is on the list of resolutions for 2015, we'd like to help. We are now able to accept recurring gifts securely online without the "middle man" of PayPal. You select the amount, frequency and the date you prefer to have your donation credited. The bank does the rest.

If you wish to make a regular gift on a Visa or Mastercard, please fill out this form and return it to The Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House, PO Box 18253, Seattle, WA, 98118.

Please print:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Phone # (in case we need to verify any information) _____

Circle one: Visa MC Card number _____

Expiration Date _____

Amount of donation _____

Please have this gift recur (circle one) : Monthly Quarterly Annually

Date you'd like first donation to be made: _____

If you prefer, we are happy to take this information over the phone: 206-501-8860.

Event Round Up

2014 was a busy year for the Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House. In addition to working at the House tending gardens, making meals and helping with other projects we also put on three successful fundraising events:

The first ever Dine Out for Fisher House had seven South Sound restaurants donating a portion of sales to the cause. It was a wonderful way to engage our local community with the House. Next year's event is scheduled for August 1-7.

Fall Fest was a celebration of gardens, wine and wonderful friends. Old and new supporters joined us at the Edgewood Gardens to taste wine, eat delicious food and learn more about Fisher House. Watch our website for details about the 2015 event. It's going to be awesome!

Finally, the annual wine tasting at Northwest Cellars kicked off our Veterans Day celebrations in great style. Dozens of friends joined us for an afternoon of wine tasting, food nibbling and live music.

Thank you for celebrating Fisher House with us and for generously supporting these events!



Board Blurbs

Changing the Guard

At the October board meeting we said farewell to Vice President Debbie Skow. She has been (and continues to be) a long time supporter of Fisher House and one of our best advocates. We are grateful for her leadership as chair of the Development Committee and her hard work on Fall Fest.

Director Mike Winkler was elected as Vice President.

At that same meeting we voted Roxane Rousch as a Director. Roxane is an Air Force Veteran and brings with her over 20 years of experience with the Veterans Administration. We welcome her energy and knowledge to the Board.

Tour Fisher House

If you would like to visit Fisher House to see how your donations are put to work please call 206-501-8860 to schedule a tour. Come see what you make possible!

2014 Tax Receipts

Donors who gave in the 2014 calendar year will be mailed tax receipts by January 31. If you do not receive one or information is in error contact us immediately so that a new receipt can be issued. If you donated online the confirmation email you received serves as your donation receipt.

From a Guest

"It's such a blessing to be in such a safe and comfortable place while my husband is being cared for medically. It's a refreshing breath to be able to retreat after the chaos and busy-ness of the hospital. I'm so grateful for Fisher House".

-Dara C.

Zachary's Corner



Fun Bear Fact: Zachary knows our donors are the most generous, caring and attractive people on Earth.

Manager's Musings

As an Alaskan, I've been relishing this cooler weather. Fall in Seattle is lovely, and who doesn't like a good wind storm for excitement? And as autumn moves through, the holiday season is close behind.

Ahh...Sounds of the Season...

"Turkey, ham or tofu?"

"Aunt's house or Grandma's house or your house?"

"Wii or Xbox or just a box?"

"Done shopping?"

(Answer should always be: "I have to get something for Stephanie".)

"Who's bringing dessert?" (Answer should always be: "Everyone".)

"Have you decorated?" (Answer should always be: "Yes, but I need more reindeer".)

All kidding aside, and despite what or how you celebrate, this can be a rough, trying or otherwise stressful time of year for a number of reasons. One of those is the rapid pace of the season and trying to squeeze, pack and stuff everything into a short period of time. Here at Fisher House, we can get into that zone quicker than Rudolph in a Red Nose contest. But if you're moving at the speed of Red Nose Light, you'll miss the little things. My

mantra right now? Slow. Down. You'll get to hear from the family who had some good news to share, find that someone who needed just a tad bit more of your time, or thoroughly enjoy the conversation and belly laughs you had because you sat down to chat with someone while you warmed up your lunch. These things boost your immunity from recklessly hurtling through a moment, the day or the season.

So. Whatever you are celebrating this season (even if it's the countdown to Spring)... Slow. Down. Take in your surroundings, sip that peppermint mocha slowly and take pleasure in your loved ones.

And, always more reindeer.

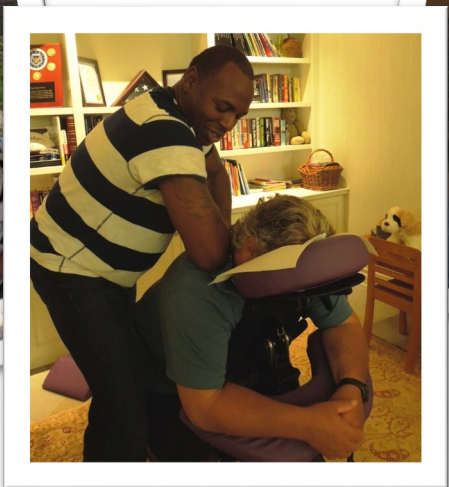
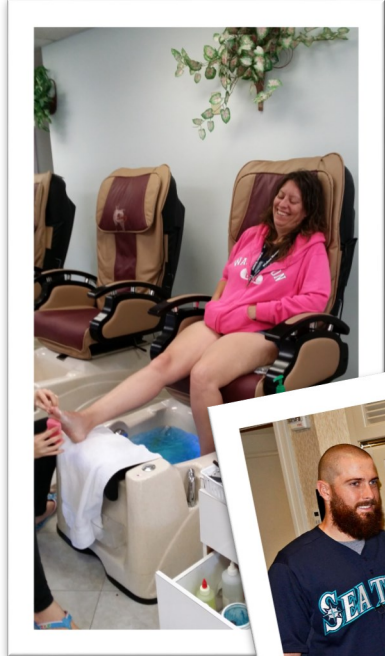


Stephanie Toepp, Manager

Why Do You Give? Tell Your Story!

Talking with our donors and hearing their stories is always amazing: the woman who honors the service of her children, the gentleman who is grateful to the VA for saving his life decades ago, the retired service member who wants his comrades-in-arms to know that someone cares. We would love to hear your story! Mail a note (PO Box 18253, Seattle, 98118) or send an email (friends@fisherhousevaps.org) and tell us why you support the Fisher House. You inspire us every day with your passion and commitment. Thank you!

House Scrapbook: Days of Auld Lang Syne



Donor Acknowledgements—Fiscal Year 2014

Gifts received from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014

Individual Donors

Joyce Alexander
Tim & Susan Allen
Susan Allen
Scott & Ferm Ames
Ryan & Colleen Anderson
Mary Aoki
Maureen Arroyo
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Donor Acknowledgements—Fiscal Year 2014

Gifts received from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014

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Individual Donors

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”

- Charles Dickens

ElizaBeth Morris
Shelia Morrison
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Kris Ripley

Individual Donors

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

- Winston Churchill

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Lindsey Staruch
Petie Strang

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Individual Donors

“You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.”

— Robert Louis Stevenson

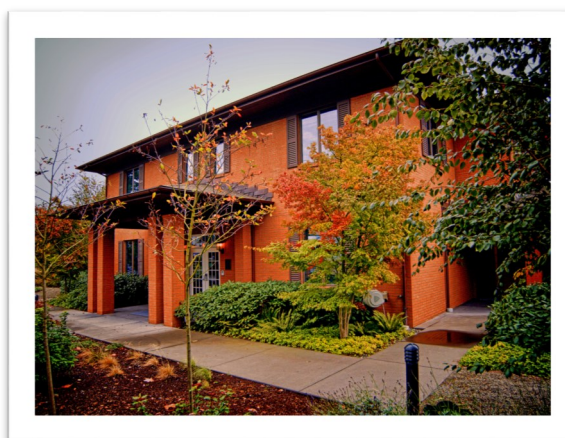
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“What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?”

- George Eliot

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Richard & Helen Zwaller



*Thank you for making Fisher
House a home!*

Donor Acknowledgements—Fiscal Year 2014

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Alliance Nursing
American Endowment Foundation
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American Legion Auxiliary, Post 214
American Legion, Post 235
American Legion, Post 239, Bellevue
Amvet Auxiliary, Post #2
Azalea Charities, Inc.
Ballard Elks Lodge #327 BPOE
Ballard Emblem Club, #216
Aetna Foundation
Alliance Nursing
American Endowment Foundation
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Washington
American Legion Auxiliary, Post 214
American Legion, Post 235
American Legion, Post 239, Bellevue
Amvet Auxiliary, Post #2
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Ballard Elks Lodge #327 BPOE
Ballard Emblem Club, #216
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Blue Mountain Good Sams
Boeing Employee Designated Giving Program
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CFC, Greater Olympic Peninsula/North Puget Sound
CFC. King County
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Champagne Fund of the Whatcom County Foundation

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Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Military Sams of Washington
Mission Creek Coffee
Northshore United Church of Christ
Northwest Cellars
Order of the Eastern Star, Bethel Chapter 146

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Park City American Legion, Post 100
PeaceTags
Pepe's AR No. 1, Inc.
Pete & Wilma Olsen Foundation
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Renton Firefighters Benevolent Association
Reserve Officer Association League (ROAL)
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(206) 501-8860

Website: www.fisherhousevaps.org

Email: friends@fisherhousevaps.org

Contact Lorraine Thomas:
development.director@fisherhousevaps.org

Combined Fund Drive# 1480897
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Happy holidays!

VA Puget Sound Fisher House—because a family’s love is good medicine

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Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email: _____

Enclosed is my donation for \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House

This gift is in honor of : _____

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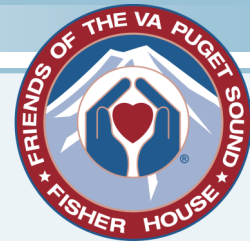
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My employer will match my donation. Company _____

I was a guest of VA Puget Sound Fisher House.

I would like to make a recurring gift using a Visa or Mastercard. Please call me at _____.

Please mail checks to Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House, PO Box 18253, Seattle, Washington, 98118.



If you would like us to notify someone that you have made an honorary or memorial gift, please provide the name(s) and address(es) so we can send them a note:

You may also give online. Visit www.fisherhousevaps.org and click on the “Donate” button.