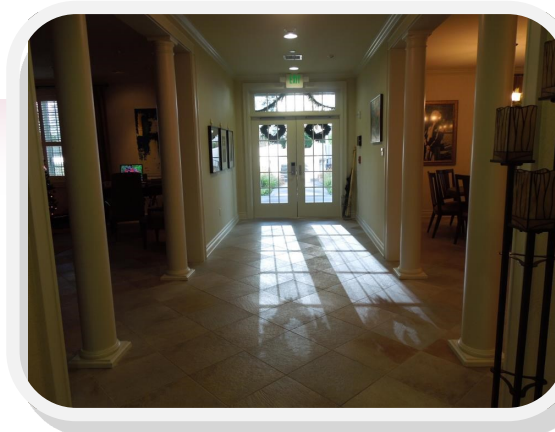


Because of You

The Gratitude Report—Fiscal Year 2016



“Fisher House is like being in a five star hotel but with a strong sense of “home.” The facilities are beautiful and peaceful and you feel like you’re being pampered during a time when you really need it.”

This year 668 families called the VA Puget Sound Fisher House “home.”

“I couldn’t believe my eyes. I had never believed there could be such a beautiful house with so much for us. We just come in, you don’t know us, and you do so much. Bless all who provide this for perfect strangers.”

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

“It was so helpful and generous to not have to worry about food and supplies.”

“The rooms are clean and airy. You provide all the necessities, a wide variety of food, and the services of professionals to give massages and haircuts. Thank you to everybody who offers this house to visiting families.”

“Volunteers cooked up a feast for Veterans Day and all were welcome to partake. Fisher House is awesome, a godsend, a safe haven, a respite in the storm.”

Over \$70,000 funded hundreds of guest programs, including groceries, events, celebrations, massage therapy, and classes.

Over \$ 17,000 went to assist the VA with upkeep of the House, to maintain the gardens, and to provide laundry service.

You are the heart and soul of VA Puget Sound Fisher House. Your gifts of time, treasure, and talent make this award winning program possible.

Inside this issue

Board Talk.....	2
We are Family.....	3
Board Blurbs.....	3
Manager’s Musings.....	4
Zachary’s Corner.....	4
House Scrapbook.....	5
Acknowledgements.....	6-9

By the Numbers since 2008

- Families served: over 5,400
- Total guest nights: 47,872
- Average length of stay: 11 days
- Guests have come from 48 states and 13 countries

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 the VA Puget Sound Fisher House. We are grateful for your partnership with us!

Officers:

Chris Blackman, President

Roxane Rusch, Secretary

Directors:

Cathy Dickson

Gail Eck

Melanie Kreizis

Holly Krejci

Lorraine Thomas, Development Director

VA Puget Sound Fisher House is all over the web!



Board Talk

The VA Puget Sound Fisher House is widely regarded as an excellent example of how a Fisher House provides top quality service and an unparalleled guest experience. My fellow board members and I are honored by the opportunity to help such a wonderful program and we are humbled and grateful for the generosity of our donors, our "Fisher House Family," who make it all possible.

On a recent visit to the House I had the opportunity to speak with one of the guests and learned that just three days before she had been sleeping in chairs at the hospital and eating dinner out of vending machines. One of the hospital staff suggested she inquire about the Fisher House and she was quickly checked in after contacting the House Manager. She was extremely grateful to the Fisher House for providing safety and comfort at such a difficult time in her life. This is just one example of the difference Fisher House makes in the daily lives of the guests, and it's all because of you!

Every day Veteran families stay at the Fisher House to help support and care for their loved ones who served in the military. Your donations help to ease the burden for them at a very difficult time in their lives. They are able to stay in a warm and safe home where staff and volunteers support them. Another benefit Fisher House provides is creating an environment where these families can

support each other. As they share their stories the families create a bond and support network that often results in lifelong friendships.

If you have not already done so I would invite you to consider a year-end gift to the Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House to help support our Veteran families during the holiday season. The difference your donations make and their impact on the families in the House cannot be overstated and we are very grateful for the support and generosity you have shown us throughout the year. You help ensure a first-class experience for all the guests at the VA Puget Sound Fisher House.

My fellow board members and I want you to know how much we appreciate you and how thankful we are for your continued support and partnership. Happy Holidays!



Chris Blackman,
Board President

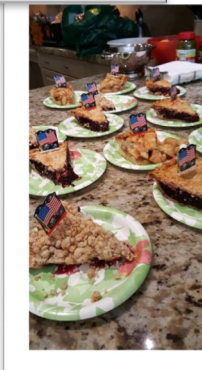
"I want to thank everyone who works here or is involved with functioning of this house. It is a godsend to Veteran families. It made an emotional and stressful situation the best it could be! Thank you! - Leilani S.

"Just thank you for all you do." - Keila G.

"This place is a blessing. Thank you!" - Deborah P.

We are Family

The Veteran is settled into the hospital. The caregiver, reluctant to leave, crosses the street to check into Fisher House. First-time guests rarely know what to expect. They enter Fisher House and are amazed to find not only beauty and comfort but cupboards full of food, quiet bedrooms appointed with everything from teddy bears to bathrobes, and an embracing garden burgeoning with produce (most of the year) and serene spaces to sit and commune with nature. Then guests discover the greatest gift: the fellowship of others in similar circumstances, the support of a caring staff, and the embrace of a generous community. Fisher House was founded on the idea that our military and their families deserve the highest and best a grateful nation can offer. Because of you VA Puget Sound Fisher House fulfills this vision every day of the year, caring for and comforting families in a difficult time. Your gifts touch lives year in and year out. Thank you!



Board Blurbs

The Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season. Thank you for all you have done for Veteran families in 2016!



For the (Tax) Record

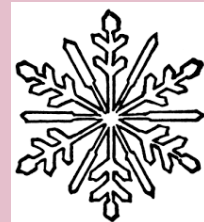
The receipt issued when you make an online gift acts as your tax receipt. If you prefer a formal tax letter please call 206-501-8860 and one can be prepared for you.

For all gifts made by check, tax letters will be prepared and mailed in January 2017.

If you have questions about your gift call 206-501-8860 or send an email to friends@fisherhousevaps.org

Tour Fisher House

To visit VAPS Fisher House and see how your donations are put to work please call 206-501-8860 to schedule a tour. Come see firsthand what you



From a Guest

"I hoped for a bed to lay my head for the night. My jaw dropped and I took a deeper breath with each amenity that was shown to me. I have never felt so blessed and cared for, especially at a time when I felt I was being sucked into a dark vortex. I cried in the shower and lush bed. (Happy tears!)"
-Lynn R.

Zachary's Corner



Fun Bear Fact: Zachary Bear loves to sneak treats from the Advent calendar.

Manager's Musings

Star. Struck.

And not just by the clear and cold skies as of late (where's my hat?!). In the twenty-eight months I've been here, we've had quite a few celebrities come through Fisher House. Some examples include Seahawk Jimmy Graham, #88 (by the way, 6'8" is TALL), Seahawk Will Tukuafu, #46 (he was quite impressed by the refrigerators), Blitz, the Seahawk Mascot, more players from the Seattle Mariners than I can count, and the Mariner Moose (he and Zachary Bear got along great.) Not too shabby, eh? And you can visit our Facebook page for proof!

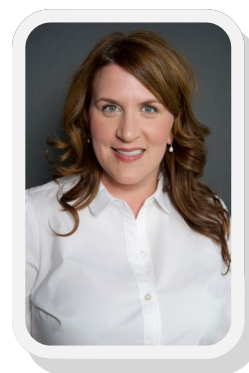
And while we do love our celebrity visits, one thing remains constant: Our donors are our true Stars. Our Stars make it possible for us to provide our guests with:

- Our 3rd Annual 12 Days of December
- Hand stuffed Christmas stockings chock full of magical goodies, yummys, and gift cards that are Elf delivered Christmas morning
- Professionally hung lights on the outside of the house and trees
- Refrigerators and freezers brimming with the standard necessities of milk, cheese, bread, eggs, and produce plus the fun stuff (current guest favorites are chicken pot pies and Drumsticks).

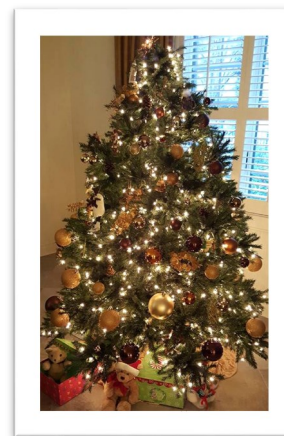
These things truly make the House a home to our guests. Guests who are looking for comfort during some of the most difficult times of their lives.

Guests who won't be able to be in their own home for the holidays but will feel loved and cared. You all are the Oscar to our movie, the winning touchdown to our Superbowl and the bases loaded homerun to our playoff game. We're truly Star Struck by you.

Merry Christmas, all the Season's Greetings, and Happy New Year!



Stephanie Toepp,
Fisher House Manager



"Thank you for sharing with us a kindness and a loving place to stay. I'm deeply touched and will never forget my experience here. Everyone was so kind and thoughtful!"

- Joan E.

**To all our donors, community partners, and volunteers:
THANK YOU!**

House Scrapbook



...I have never felt so blessed and cared for ...



Seahawk Will Tukuafa, #46

Donor Acknowledgements: Individuals-Fiscal Year 2016

Gifts received from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016

Anonymous (19)	Robert Carroll	Pete & Mary Gobby
Holly Adanti	Kathryn Cavoretto	Joie Goodman
Scott & Fern Ames	John Charles	Francis Grant
Ryan & Colleen Anderson	Sharon Chen	Sandra Gray
Karen Andrews	Richard & Lois Clark	Josephine Gunning
Arthur & Jamie Apolista	Richard Clauss	Deborah Halver-Hanson
Timothy and Patty Arnot	Jane Cloniger	Patricia Hanson
Maureen Arroyo	Walt & Billie Cothran	Peter Harader
Christopher Ashton	Christopher Curry	James & Joyce Harding
Pauline & John Bafaro	Alicia Cusack	Betty & Robert Harper
Cecile Bagrow	James Daily	Ward & Sue Harris
Fran Baker	Evelyn Daly	Jeff Harrison
William & Joyce Barber	T.M. Davies	Ardys Hauble
Randy & Betty Barcom	Eldon & Carol Davis	Tom & Roberta Hawkins
Robert Barnes	Jack & Murrel Dawson	Leslie Haynes
William & Elizabeth Barnsdale	Timothee Detwiler	Sharon Heisel
Terry Baron	Stacey Dillon	LeRoy & Ann Henning
Raymond & Kale Bassler	Ron & Rose Dunagan	Jacquelyn Herum
Joanne Bates	Diane Dundore	Jon & Charlotte Hill
Roger Bauer	David Dunn	Bob & Caroline Hoag
Gary & Marcia Beachman	Susan & Keith Ebel	Verna Hodgson
Goddard & Willanne Beck, Jr.	Donald Egan	Andrea Hokanson
Jerry Beck	Raymond & Judy Emerson	Robert Holboke
Earl Bell	Ashley & Linda Emery	Marlene Holbrook
Red & Ann Bennett	Gerald & Deanna Erickson	Raymond Holmes
Robert Bertch	Michael Falconer	Karen Hori
Matthew Bettilyon	Alan Feffer	Virginia Humling
Susan Black	Diane Fesler-Macaluso	Lonnie Huse
Barbara Blum	Patricia Fielding	Randall Ideker
Andre Bordelon	William & Alice Fitch	Lisa Ingram
Michael & Bobbi Boushey	Mary A. Fleckner	Diane Isonaka
Judy Boyd	Kathryn Fletcher	Kathleen Jackson
Rachel Brandt	Brenda & John Forcade	Lucille Jackson
Peggy Brown	Joyce Foster Keller	Georgiana Jahn
Joan Buhler	Al & Maureen Franz	Derek Jamison
Michael & Dianne Bumstead	George Freeman	Dorie Jennings
Richard Burrows	Phyllis Friedman	Calvin Johnson
Christine Bussing	Louis & Darlene Fritz	Mary Johnson
Paul & Cheri Byers	Kathy Fuller	Coleen Jones
Dennis Callaghan & Deborah	Robin Fuller	William Kaiser
Kenworthy	Anne Geer	Michael & Janet Kavanaugh
Mary Carroll	Bonnie Gemmill	Bob & Mary Kelly
	Norman & Mary Gero	Lana Kemppainen
	Joan Giusti	Keith Kepler
	Trudy Glasselt	

Donor Acknowledgements: Individuals-Fiscal Year 2016

Gifts received from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016

Shirley Keyes	Sean Nakamura	Vicki Schweickart
Katherine King	Tracy & Barbara Neighbors	Evelyn Schwerin
Daniel Kivlahan	Jeff Nickerson	JoAnne Shaw
Holly Krejci	Mary Ann Odne	Robert Sheridan
Janet Lacy	Michael & Cynthia Olin	Bill Shyne
Hayli Larsen	Lin Ostlund	Johanna Simpson
Hans & Mary Larsen	Don & Helen Owens	Dan & Dianne Simson
Yvonne Lawrence	Judith Ozuna	James & Andrea Siscel
Gary & Georgia Lett	Janet Painter	Patricia Skommesa
Blaine Ludy	Stanley & Sharon Palmer	Robert & Lynn Smith
Karen Lum	Jean Pasche-Lambert	Nancy Smith
Merilee MacLean	James Pearce	Jack & Ann Snizik
Nina Madsen	Marily Pearson	Michael Soha
Barbara Malcomb	Brent Perdue	Michelle Soltani
Robert Mallett	Ingrid Peterson	Pat & Pam Spino
William Maloney	Benjamin Pickett	Patricia Sprigg
Margaret Marasco	Sharon Pigman	Diana Stearns
Doris Marcellis	Maxine Pimm	Mark Sterk
Victor & Kathleen Marquardt	Paul Piper	Randi Sulkin
Jennifer McCarty	Karen Post	Tammy Summers
Millie & Norman McCormick	Larry Powalisz	Judith Talley
Helen McCulloch	Robert Prosser	Jay Tarlov
Carlton & Mavis McDonald	Patrick & Allene Quinn	Lorraine & Eric Thomas
Glen & Jennifer McElroy	Dorothy Rafferty	Candy Thoreson
Loren McElvain	Debbie & Frank Ramsey	Kathy Thull
Kara McKeage	Kevin Ratliff & Bradley Walker	Loretta Tinker
Marney McKee	Leslie & Eileen Reardanz	Lorraine Toly
John & Heidi McKeon	Samuel & Batia Regev	Joffre & Marjorie Tremblay
Susan McNeely	Janice & Tom Reid	Holly Van Nortwick
Cindy Meyer	Sandra & David Rensvold	Michael & Diane Varner
Jeff Meyer	Ann & Chris Rhees	Lars & Lanna Vedvick
Maggie Miller	Scott Rhodes	Michael Vogel
Capt. Thad & Barbara Mills	James Rimar	Daniel Voller
Robert Mitchell	Patricia Romel	Geraldine Voller
Lisa Monaghan	Kimberly & Rich Runkel	Denny Wagenman
Richard & Sandra Montana	Julie Saul	Alana Warren
Priscilla Moses	Marilyn Scanlon	J.R. Weil
ElizaBeth Morris	Dorothy Schenk	Judy Weitz
Shelia Morrison	Dolly Schindler	Irene Willard
Lisa Marie Mullen	Meredith Schrader	Ron Williams
Neal & Amanda Myerson		Sue & Dave Williams

Donor Acknowledgements: Individuals, Inkind, & Volunteers Fiscal Year 2016

Gifts received from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016

Individuals con't

Jack & Charlotte Wixon
Betty Wockner
Ralph & Suncha Woods
Thomas Wynne
Jason Zacher
Stanley & Nancy Zeitz
Sharon Zerr-Peltner
Richard & Helen Zwaller

In-kind Donations

Abilitynetwork.com
Cecile Bagrow
Boy Scouts of America
Colonial Dames
Daughters of the American Colonists, Washington Pilchuck Chapter
DAR, Cascade Chapter
DAR, Peter Puget Chapter
Fred Meyer, Ballard
Golden Threads
Louise Henkel
Helen Hundley
In Harmony Sustainable Landscapes
Dorie Jennings
Melanie Kriezis
KPMG
Ladies Auxiliary VFW
Melissa McClone
Seattle Accounts Management
SEAMOAA
Eric Thomas
VFW Auxiliary Post 2995
VFW Post 1040
VFW Post 1263
VFW Post 6599
Patty Schmitz
Women of Washington

Volunteers

In FY 2016 more than 370 volunteers donated over 1,260 hours of time to support the programs of Fisher House.

Blacks in Government
Boeing
Virginia Carman
Fain/Green family
Friends of VAPS Fisher House
Glassbaby
GSA
Habitat for Humanity
Amy Johnson
Kappa Sigma fraternity
Kim Family
KPMG
Lehr family
Microsoft
Nolan family
Outerwall
PEMCO
Patty Schmitz
Patty Skommesa
Slow Food Seattle
Starbucks
Swinerton-Absher
T-mobile
Tun Tavern Grub Club
UBS
VFW Post 5052
VFW Ladies Auxiliary
Laura Yocum
White River Buddhist Temple
Sue Williams



Donor Acknowledgements: Organizations, Foundations, & Trusts Fiscal Year 2016

Gifts received from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016

Aetna Foundation	FAAMA:	Tecklenburg Family Fund of the
AmazonSmile Foundation	Chapter 300	Greater Cincinnati Foundation
American Brewing Company	Chapter 301	The K Foundation
American Legion Auxiliaries:	Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	The Seattle Foundation
Department of Washington	Fisher House Foundation	Thrivent Choice
Post 150	Fleck Family Foundation	TOPS WA #21, Kent
Post 277, Starr-Sutherland, Jr.	Franklin Templeton Investments	Transfirst
American Legion:	Fraternal Order of Eagles, Skagit	Truist
Post 235	Valley Aerie 3242 Social Fund	Uli's Famous Sausage
Post 100, Park City	Good Sams Clubs:	United Way:
BECU Members Trust	Roamin Wheels	King County
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Sams of Puget Sound	Kitsap County
Boeing Employee Designated	Single Sams of Washington	Snohomish County
Giving Program	Three Rivers	Vanguard Charitable Endowment
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation	Valley Good Sam Drifters	Program
Calisle Interconnect Technologies	Washington State Good Sams	Veterans of Foreign Wars:
Canyon Sams	Good Time Ernie's	Ladies Auxiliary, Dept. of WA
Combine Federal Campaign:	Index Newspapers	Ladies Auxiliary, Post 379
Gateway	King County Employee Giving	Ladies Auxiliary, Post 2224
Greater Olympic Peninsula	Program	Post 1949
King County	KPMG	Post 5052
Midwest	Lakeside Industries Matching Gift	Post 1949
Pacific Northwest	Program	Post 3348, Blackburn Aurora
Southwest Nevada	Lane Powell Attorneys	Post 5052, Maple Valley-Black
Tacoma	Maris Farms	Diamond
Combined Fund Drive:	Mill Creek Country Club Women's	Post 8870, Edmonds
State of Washington	Golf Division	Woodinville Unitarian Universalist
COBRA	Mission Creek Coffee	Church
David Chappel Memorial Golf	Network for Good	YourCause LLC
Tournament	Oak Harbor School District #201	
DiPietro Family Foundation	Order of the Eastern Star:	
Disabled American Veterans:	Analia Chapter	
Chapter 2	Priscilla Chapter	
Chapter 47	Outerwall	
Discover	Pacific Four Sales	
Elysian Brewing Company	Proliance Surgeons Foundation	
Entercom	Renton Firefighters Benevolent	
Estate of Barbara Aya	Association	
Everett First Baptist Church Senior	SEAMOOA	
Adult Ministries	Snohomish County Republican	
Evergreen Reserve Officer	Womens Club	
Association League	Spokane Principals Association	
FAAMA		

Every effort is made to provide a correct and comprehensive list of donors and volunteers. We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that you call 206-501-8860 with corrections so that we may update our records and acknowledge you in the next issue of the newsletter.

NON-PROFIT ORG
POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #3865
SEATTLE, WA
98118

Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House

PO Box 18253
Seattle, Washington 98118

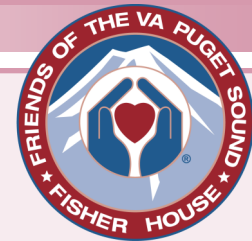
(206) 501-8860

Website: www.fisherhousevaps.org

Email: friends@fisherhousevaps.org

Development Office:
development.director@fisherhousevaps.org

Combined Fund Drive# 1480897
Combined Federal Campaign# 45650
King County Employee Giving# 9504



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

Name: _____
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 : _____

This gift is in memory of: _____

This gift is anonymous. Please do not list my name in any published texts.

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 _____.

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:

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

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