

Because of You

Making a Home

If you ever need a reminder of how good people are, think of Fisher House. In seven years this place has been home to folks from walks of life. They have been every race, creed, and color. They have ranged in age from one day old to ninety-eight. They have been from every level of income, represented every notch on the political spectrum, and been members of every major religious group (and some of the minor ones) or had no religious affiliation at all. They've been city folk, country folk, citizens of small towns from all over the United States and the world. They arrive as total strangers, far from home and burdened with worry about an ill or injured loved one. Given those differences, given the understandable stress these people are under, you would be within your rights to imagine that life in Fisher House is fraught and uncomfortable. But you'd be wrong. All those differences, all the things that our society tells us divide us, don't matter inside Fisher House. No one cares who you voted for when your husband is recovering from heart surgery. No one notices skin color when a tired wife needs a hug. Whether or not you have a college education doesn't factor when your son is learning to operate a wheelchair after a spinal cord injury. Astonishingly, miraculously, the strangers who check into the House become a family, focused only on how they can best support each other through a difficult time.

Community and family are the watchwords of the Fisher House program. Because you offer this program your time, treasure, and talent you too are a very important part of that family. The guests may not have met you but they know you exist. They know that all the comforts and conveniences they experience, from ample food in the kitchen to WiFi and cable TV in the rooms comes from you. They know the Friday Donuts, stress-relieving massages, silly celebrations (Banana Cream Pie Day, anyone?), and monthly Guests Night Out are possible because you decided to make Fisher House a priority.



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By the Numbers

- 68% of 2015 donations came from individuals.
- Annual donut consumption: 104 dozen
- 152 hours of massage offered per year
- It takes 3 briskets and 4 cabbages to make a St. Patrick's Day dinner for the guests



You make incredible things happen in the lives of our Veteran and military families!

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:

Pat Norikane Logerwell, President

Mike Winkler, Vice President

Cathy Dickson, Secretary

Directors:

Chris Blackman

Gail Eck

Melanie Kreizis

Holly Krejci

Victoria Roberts

Roxane Rousch

Lorraine Thomas, Development Director

Keep in touch. Stay informed.
Follow our digital footprint!



And we're always on the web
@ www.fisherhousevaps.org

Friends Talk

1996 was not an incredibly stable year in my life. I was twenty-one years old, my mother had just gone to prison, and I dropped out of college. I worked a day job as a process server in Maricopa County and at night waited tables at an Applebee's to make ends meet. Basically, I was headed nowhere in a hurry. Looking back it is easy for me to see that I lacked some of the basic skills and discipline needed to better myself and set my life on a good track. I was directionless, irresponsible, and I had an annoying (to those around me) habit of blaming my lot in life on everyone but myself. Not going anywhere and wondering where I was going to live, I did what I thought the logical thing at the time and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. To this day, that was the single best decision I have made in my life. The Navy gave me some badly needed structure and discipline, taught me how to work in a team, and did not allow me to quit. I also earned GI Bill benefits, which I ultimately used to obtain undergraduate and graduate degrees in accountancy. I started volunteering at the VA Puget Sound Fisher House back in 2011 by bringing in people from my firm to prepare meals for the guests on a quarterly basis. Through these dinners I got to know the House Manager and Board members, and was invited to join the Board in 2013. I have

been very lucky to provide over three years of service to this fantastic organization which does such a wonderful job supporting Veteran and military families and I continue to be grateful for the opportunity.



Chris Blackman, Director

Some Delicious News

What could be better than beer and sausage? Perhaps beer *in* sausage?

That's what the folks at Uli's Famous Sausage (1511 Pike Place, in the Market) thought. They have partnered with Elysian Brewing to create the Men's Room Original Red Sausage and, like our friends at Elysian, Uli's will donate a portion of the proceeds to the VA Puget Sound Fisher House and the Fisher House at JBLM. We are so grateful to partners like Uli's Famous Sausage and Elysian Brewing, local companies committed to caring for the Veteran and military families in our community.

Par for the Course

Two golf tournaments will be held this year to benefit the programs of the VA Puget Sound Fisher House.

Mill Creek Country Club Association, Women's Golf Division

July 12, 2016 This women-only event includes a no pressure competition with payout prizes. Breakfast-to-go is included and a plated lunch will be served at the clubhouse following the tournament. \$20 of each entry fee will be donated to Fisher House. Event includes a raffle and silent auction, with proceeds from those also designated to Fisher House.

15500 Country Club Dr., Mill Creek, WA 98012

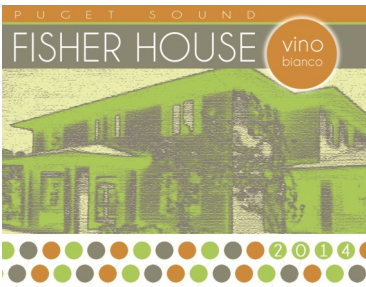
Proliance Surgeons Foundation

Date to be announced. For the second year in a row the Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House will be the beneficiaries of this golf invitational. Last year's event netted \$25,000 in support of the programs of Fisher House. We are very excited to partner again with the fine folks at Proliance.

Both these events are still in the early planning stages so keep an eye on our website's Events page. Be the first to know when registration opens!



Save the Date - Veterans Day Weekend Wine Tasting



Back by popular demand, the Friends will be holding a wine tasting to benefit the programs of Fisher House. The afternoon event will be held November 12, 2016 from 1-4pm at Northwest Cellars in Kirkland. (Totem Square, 11909 124th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98034) The ticket price includes a flight of five wines and delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Signature Fisher House wines will also be available for purchase. (The label was designed by a former guest of the House!) Tickets will be available in advance online (\$20) and at the door (\$25). Watch the Events page on our website and follow our Facebook and Twitter accounts for more details and live links as the event gets closer. We'd love to have you come and raise a glass to celebrate our Veterans and support Fisher House!



Board Blurbs

Board Recruitment

Are you interested in giving your time to the Fisher House? Consider joining the Board. The Board meets monthly, organizes dinners at the House, plans gardening parties and much more. This group of volunteers is dedicated to maintaining the VA Puget Sound Fisher House as the national standard of excellence. The average time commitment is ten hours a month. Board meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of the month. If you would like to learn more please email a letter of interest to friends@fisherhouseva.org

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. Please come see firsthand what you make possible!

From a Guest

"Fisher House is the most beautiful place of peace and comfort. The people are so thoughtful and caring during a time that is difficult. We have stayed at the Fisher House many times during our father's illness and every time we are so thankful for the security Fisher House brings. From our whole hearts thank you, thank you, thank you."

-Misty, Katherine, & David
Ellensburg, WA

Zachary's Corner



Fun Bear Fact: Zachary enjoys a nice cup of Earl Grey in the late afternoon. No sugar. Just a splash of milk, thank you.

Manager's Musings

Op-por-tu-ni-ty: A favorable or advantageous circumstance or combination of circumstances.

Opportunity is a fitting word for this time of year. Spring is springing, daffodils are daffodilling, and tulips are tulipping. (Yes, I'm taking an *opportunity* to create some verbs.) As of late, I have had the "favorable circumstance" to find myself wearing another hat in addition to my (very stylish) Fisher House hat. Since January, I have been the Acting Chief of Voluntary Services. I work with volunteers regularly at Fisher House but this has been a truly eye opening experience as to the benefits volunteers provide. The proof is in the numbers. Check this out:

The VA Puget Sound Volunteer program has more than 900 (NINE HUNDRED!) regularly scheduled volunteers.

These volunteers provided 121,000 volunteer hours to the facility in Fiscal Year 2015. That equates to nearly 60 (SIXTY!) additional full-time employees.

More than 67 Veteran Service Organizations and civic groups are affiliated with the VA Puget Sound volunteer program.

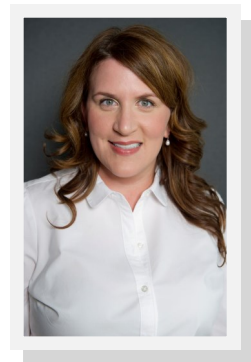
Gifts and donations to the facility in Fiscal Year 2015

were nearly \$1.5 million.

WOW. Just. WOW.

These volunteers do everything from driving vans long distances to bring Veterans to their appointments to wearing sharp green NaVAgator vests as they escort Veterans and their families around the hospital. And they do it because they *want* to. Because it is fulfilling. I've been very humbled by their commitment, spirit, and willingness to help. These generous folks make the hospital tick.

My tenure as Acting Chief will be over soon, probably by the end of April. And I'll happily go back to wearing my one (very stylish) Fisher House hat, all the while having a renewed appreciation for **all** volunteers, and **all** of you. Thank *you* for making Fisher House tick.



Stephanie Toepp
Fisher House Manager

House Scrapbook:



National Chocolate Cake Day!



Volunteers from glassybaby helped with some New Year cleaning and prepared a delicious lunch for the guests.

...“we are so thankful for the security Fisher House brings”...



Reading about Fisher House in Fisher House. That’s meta.



A father & son take time for a little lunch.

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

Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House

PO Box 18253
Seattle, Washington 98118

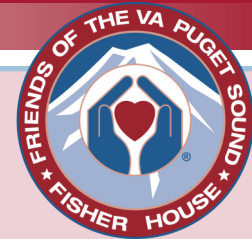
(206) 501-8860

Website: www.fisherhousevaps.org

Email: friends@fisherhousevaps.org

Contact Lorraine Thomas:
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.