

Because of You

A Profile of Our Donors

We've never polled or surveyed our donors (you're welcome) but even without data and metrics there are a few facts we've collected:

You are compassionate. You know that Fisher House is more than a free billet and you care that the families we serve are supported at the highest possible level. The patient should be their only concern and through your time and treasure you extend caring and support to them.

You are faithful. One third of you have donated to VA Puget Sound Fisher House more than once and a whopping 45% of *those* donors give regularly. We are humbled and amazed by your generosity toward the families who come to stay with us.

You are committed. Our Fisher House opened in 2008, just before the start of the Great Recession; *not* a great time to start a program dependent on private support! But even in the downturn you gave generously and we were able to establish a solid program that supports the basic needs of our families. Now that the economy is improving we've seen an increase in donations that is inspiring. Whether it has been a bump in the amount or frequency of gifts from regular donors or adding new friends and partners to the family, your kindness has enabled us to expand our programs and services to the families in the House and pay it forward to the Fisher House Foundation to help build more of these wonderful homes.

We know there are plenty of deserving charities out there. That you have made VA Puget Sound Fisher House one of yours is something we don't take for granted. Thank you for engaging in this mission to provide for Veteran and military families in a difficult time. *Thank you* for being part of the Fisher House family.

New Manager Quest

The search for a new House manager is moving along. Three strong candidates will be going into the second round of interviews with hospital leadership, the final selection should be made soon and the new Manager should be hired and in place by the end of July. Many thanks to Michelle Power for her terrific leadership during the transition. Meanwhile, we'll announce/celebrate the hiring of the new manager on the website, Facebook and Twitter so stay tuned!



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By the Numbers

- Families served: Over 3,800
- Estimated savings to families: over \$6.7 million
- Average length of stay: 10 days
- Loaves of bread consumed in a week: 4
- Number of strawberries in the garden: 412 bazillion

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 & Ellen Martin,
Co-Presidents

Debbie Skow, Vice President

Chris Blackman, Treasurer

Cathy Dickson, Secretary

Directors:

Melanie Kreis

Holly Krejci

Ron Thomas

Mike Winkler

Lorraine Thomas, Development Director

Board Talk

“Fund raising” isn’t my favorite phrase in the world. In my role as Development Director for the Friends, I think of my job more in terms of community development and storytelling. The latter is easy...the story of Fisher House and the remarkable things that happen there every day is an easy one to tell. And community building? A big part of that is staying in touch with you, our donors. It’s my job to report on how we are spending your money, making sure that you know that we honor the trust you place in us to care for the families. I work to engage you and to broaden our base of support so that the Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House will be able to continue our mission of service for years to come, despite the ups and downs of the economy or political fortunes. We need to be here to take care of the families we serve. I’ve heard the stories from families who came to the VA before there was a Fisher House...the wives sleeping in cars, the savings accounts drained by the cost of hotels. We are dedicated to making sure *no one* ever has a story like that again.

The Friends are deeply committed to making sure that the vast majority of

your donations go to what you intend—the families. We run a bare bones shop around here. We look for in-kind donations to offset the costs of fundraisers and keep our overhead to a minimum. (Full disclosure: I work out of my kitchen!) Fancy offices and “training conferences” to far flung locations will never be a part of “doing business” for the Friends. When we do spend money it is to strengthen our ability to fulfill our mission and further engage the Puget Sound community (and beyond) in that mission. That’s a promise.

I’ve been at this job for a year now and it has been a pure joy. You, our donors, inspire me every day with your compassion and commitment.

Thank you for being you!

Lorraine



Share Your Talents

Accounting—Seeking accountants or finance people to serve on our Finance committee and support our board Treasurer. Volunteers would assist with entering data into Quickbooks, helping prepare for our annual audit and other financial housework. Volunteers to the Finance Committee do not need to be members of the Board.



Graphic Arts— If you are a graphic artist and have a little time to spare we would love to add you to our list of “go to” professionals for the occasional graphic arts project.

For more information or to volunteer please email friends@fisherhousevaps.org and put “Volunteering” in the subject line.

THANK YOU!

Growing the Fisher House Family

UBS Financial Services understands the value of community partnerships. The Seattle office was interested in volunteer opportunities at Fisher House so they came for a tour. By the time it was over they said they wanted to adopt us! Groups have already come to make dinner for the families and work in the gardens. More work parties are planned for the future. And they gave us a donation of \$2,500! We’re delighted to have UBS Financial join the Fisher House family.



Dine Out for Fisher House

During the week of August 4—10 Puget Sound area restaurants will be participating in our first ever “Dine Out for Fisher House” event. Restaurants will be donating a portion of proceeds from that evening’s sales to support our Fisher House. The list is growing so watch the Events page on the website throughout the summer as restaurants are added. Participating restaurants thus far are:

Seattle

The Spice Room (Thai) - Columbia City

Kezira Café & Restaurant (Ethiopian) - Columbia City

Burien

Good Time Ernie’s Pub

909 Coffee & Wine

Angelo’s Ristorante

Azteca (bring this newsletter)

Tukwila

Azteca (bring this newsletter)

If you have a restaurant (or know someone who does) and would like to participate please email Lorraine at development.director@fisherhousevaps.org for more information.



Board Blurb

Renewing our Vision

On June 7 the Board and staff of the Friends held an “advance” to celebrate accomplishments, strengthen our working relationships, focus on our vision for the future and lay plans for what we have to do to make that vision a reality. It was a productive and fun day that energized us for the work ahead.



Tour Fisher House

If you have never been to the Fisher House (or it’s been a while) and you would like to stop in to see how your donations are put to work please contact Lorraine at 206-501-8860 to schedule a tour. Come see what you make possible!



Supporting Our Veterans

The Veterans Administration is the largest provider of health care in the United States. The scrutiny into timely access to care has not been pleasant but it is necessary. Leadership at the highest levels are hard at work to address the problem. Our Veterans receive a high quality of care but clearly more needs to be done to improve access.

Even as the issues are being sorted out, it’s important to remember that VA hospitals and clinics are still open for business, Veterans are still receiving care and their families still need a place to stay while they are getting it. Fisher House will be there for them, thanks to you.

Fall Fest for Fisher House



Please join us on Saturday, September 13th from 2-4pm for a celebration of wine and gardens to benefit Fisher House. The exclusive Edgewood Garden will be open to our friends that day thanks to the generosity of owners Ilga Jansons & Michael Dryfoos. The estate has a gorgeous, unobstructed view of Mt. Rainier and is surrounded by a variety of gardens described as “rare in scale and ambition”. Tours will be available.

Kathy Kongelbak, noted local wine writer and educator, will be on hand to conduct tastings of Washington wines. Guests will enjoy tasty *hors d’oeuvres* and may enter a drawing for a very special wine prize.

Tickets are only \$45 and proceeds go to support the programs of VA Puget Sound Fisher House. Visit the “Events” Page at www.fisherhousevaps.org to purchase tickets. Availability is limited so act now for this unique opportunity to celebrate the beauty of the Fall season with good wine & company while supporting our wonderful House.

From a Guest

“What a special place and haven for those of us who are in the midst of storms. My husband and I are so very grateful to have been able to stay and experience how magical Fisher House is! Thank you for the shelter, the ease & comfort! We are forever in debt to those who make all we experienced at Fisher House happen. What you all do makes a difference, body and soul, for us”.

-Brenda & Tony

Zachary's Corner



Fun Bear Fact: Seahawk Jesse Williams is a close, personal friend of Zachary's.

(Acting) Manager's Musings

Each month as the Fisher House Manager I participate in the New Employee Orientation session for 40-60 new employees at VA Puget Sound Health Care System with a presentation on our Fisher House and its services to Veterans' families. This month I began my segment with a poll: "How many in this room are ready to hear a GOOD NEWS story about the VA?"

Every hand in the room shot up. Then I told them the good news story that happens every day at the VA Puget Sound Fisher House. With the recent disturbing news about access problems for our Veterans and the relentless media coverage, all the good work done by VA has been overshadowed. The truth is, thousands of VA employees provide the highest quality health care each day for our nation's Veterans, and the Fisher House continues to provide free accommodations for Veterans' families in a warm, supporting environment that allows them to help their loved ones heal.

It's so rewarding to check in guests who are visibly relieved to have

found this beautiful home away from home where they can relax between visits to their hospitalized Veteran. And when they check out to return to their own homes far away, it is truly bittersweet – we're sad to see them go but happy we could be here when they needed us.

It has been my honor to participate in the Fisher House program for these last several months, to meet the families, and work with this fine staff. When I return to my regular duties my goal will be to raise awareness of Fisher House within the clinical services at the medical center so that we don't miss a single eligible family that can benefit from our services. Special thanks to the Friends for all their support during my time here. I wish the very best to all of you!

Michelle Power



Welcome to the World!



Congratulations to Assistant Manager Carrie & her husband Dustin!

Daughters Skye Leigh and Parker Quinn arrived safely on April 9. The girls were born early but without complications and are thriving and healthy. It is not yet clear if they have inherited their daddy's musical talent but evidence already suggests that they are both Seahawk fans.

These little bundles of cute are a welcome addition to the Fisher House family. Well done, Carrie & Dustin! Now get some rest!

House Scrapbook



Guests with "Love Yourself Day" presents



The gardens are thriving!



"Thank you for the shelter, the ease & comfort!"



The Lombardi Trophy came to Fisher House!
Thank you, Seahawks!

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PERMIT #3865
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Contact Lorraine Thomas:
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CFD# 1480897
CFC# 45650



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.

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 donations to Friends of VA Puget Sound Fisher House PO Box 18253, Seattle, Washington, 98118

You may also donate online at <http://fisherhousevaps.org/donate.asp>