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HELPING HANDS

Fisher House... Home Style Care & Comfort... One Family at a Time.

Helping Hands is published by Fisher House, Inc., a non-profit Texas corporation operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Helping Hands is sent to guests, donors, and supporters of Fisher House, Incorporated. Complimentary issues are available for the asking.

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MISSION STATEMENT

To support military members, veterans, and their families staying at Fisher Houses and those who are eligible to utilize Fisher Houses at no cost while they receive medical treatment, care or support.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

SCAN ME

From Our Executive Director

Dwayne F. Hopkins, Executive Director

Welcome to our Fall/Winter edition of the Helping Hands Newsletter. It was our goal to continue with two publications of our newsletter annually. This Helping Hands edition will focus on mission, volunteers and donors.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has affected our military families, who serve all over the world in many different countries. Here in San Antonio, Texas, the Fisher Houses experienced a decrease in the occupancy rate several times during the pandemic. This is understandable as the local commanders and community leaders made determinations on policies based on the spreading and severity of the virus to protect the community. In addition, the Fisher House, Inc. mission capabilities, operations and personnel are affected daily by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to provide as much service to the Fisher House military families as possible during these very difficult times while maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Every guest coming through the Fisher House has their own story. Being able to provide a home away from home during a time of healing has never been so significant as during these challenging times.On page five of this newsletter, one of our regular guests at the Lackland Fisher House, the Martin family share their heartfelt journey over the past few years and how the Fisher House made an impact on their lives. These stories is what makes our mission so rewarding.

We have been blessed with the continued support of our donors, who have made the Fisher House, Inc's. mission possible. Fisher House, Inc. continues to provide services for the Lackland Fisher Houses, like new computers, printers, bottled water, Internet service, pest control and Taxi services to benefit military families staying at the Fisher House. There are still challenges ahead in fundraising during and after this pandemic. However, if all goes well with the COVID-19 recovery, we will have our famous golf tournament on November 5, 2021 at the Golf Club of Texas.

Fisher House, Inc. remains totally focused on the continued success of the Fisher Houses. In the months ahead we will approach our mission with the same degree of excellence that the community has grown to expect. You can be assured that the entire staff and Board of Directors of the Fisher House, Inc. is committed to do all that we can to provide first class service to the Fisher House.

From the cover page

Photo's of Zanayah and Jaxx visiting the Memorial Park, in LaVernia Texas. The twins enjoyed sitting on the Fisher House truck and walk around the park.

2021 GOLF TOURNAMENT

The date has been set! Please mark your calendars for this amazing event, our annual Golf Tournament. Each year the Golf Tournament has been a huge success, accommodating up to 144 players. With the cancellation of our 2020 event we are so excited and are looking forward to be back this year. Keep an eye out for any updates on our web page (www.fisherhouseinc.org) and social media account (www.facebook.com/FisherHouseWH) We are extremely thankful to all of our sponsors, players and volunteers.

Prize Winners at the previous Golf Tournament

Our Amazing Volunteers

amazonsmile

Have you heard about Amazon Smile? It's a really easy way to help support our non-profit organization every time you order something with Amazon. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile purchases. You pay the same price either way. You are also able to purchase wishlist items that will be send directly to the Lackland Fisher House.

Please use the link below or follow the instructions, Happy shopping!

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2603325

1. Go to smile.amazon.com, and sign in using your usual Amazon username/password.
2. Go to Your Account > Other Programs> Change your charity.
3. In the search box type: "Fisher House Inc" Then select button for Fisher House.
4. Bookmark smile.amazon.com so that you can benefit Fisher House Inc. every time you shop.

VOLUNTEERS

Taco Tuesday with the Dirner Family and MSgt. Joseph

Some prepared the meals from scratch while others brought catered meals. Either way our guests were extremely grateful. Coming together and sharing stories has always been a great part of the healing process. Because after all, a family's love is great medicine.

Being away from home, a lot of our guests were missing that....

San Antonio Northside Lions Club

Dinners at the Lackland Fisher House were always something to look forward to. A way for families to come together and enjoy a homecooked or catered meal by our volunteers. This has been a highlight for many guests staying at the Lackland Fisher House. Every Tuesday and Thursday a different organization or family would sign up to provide an amazing meal.

Members of AFLCMC/HNCO providing dinner

The Fisher House provides that home away from home and our volunteers are playing a big part in this.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 this year the volunteer dinners had to be cancelled and guests were not able to come together in the common areas of the houses. Here is a look back at the wonderful dinners that our volunteers put together and we hope to be able to welcome each and every one of them back soon!

GUESTS IN THE HOUSE

Mike and Carla Martin have been regular guests at the Lackland Fisher House for the past few years. Please read in their own words about their heartfelt journey and how the Lackland Fisher House was able to provide a home away from home for them.

“Life can be unpredictable as 2020 has shown us all. Receiving a diagnosis of Leukemia was a major life event that was unexpected and scary. In early 2018, our lives changed forever with so many unknowns and doctors telling us to move very quickly with treatment. We were living in Corpus Christi, Texas and commuting to San Antonio, a two and half hour drive each way to to see the cancer team of doctors. We contacted Fisher House at Lackland AFB and they were able to accommodate us with very short notice.

An instant rapport was made with the amazing team, who not only professionally coordinated accommodations for us, but made the effort to get to know us and more specifically learned and understood the specific requirements about having someone with a highly compromised immune system staying in the house. The staff was always respectful and displayed genuine concern for the health of not only my husband Mike, but for how I was managing as well.

Over an almost three year period, we went through many highs and lows. A successful bone marrow transplant, remission, multiple hospitalizations for infections, relapse, and multiple rounds of chemo-therapy in between. During all of this, Lackland Fisher House was only a call away. The compassion and care we received from everyone on staff was something you would expect from a family member or loved one. Often it felt like they were doing much more than their position required.

There were times during the hospitalizations that family from out of state flew in to show their sup-port and were accommodated at Fisher House. This meant the world to us and made a huge difference in our mental and physical well-being.

Mike and Carla Martin

Additionally, pre-Covid the staff held family dinner events twice weekly for guests staying in all three houses. Volunteers would prepare meals and everyone would enjoy meeting and sharing stories about their military service, places where they were or had been stationed and share why they were staying at Fisher House. We met people with similar diagnosis and others who were going through very different medical issues. This opportunity enhanced the feeling of being a part of something meaningful and bigger than just what we were going through.

We both agree that we feel blessed and fortunate for our experience with Fisher House and know the significant impact it has had in our lives. For individuals and families who have to experience a medical diagnosis, Fisher House is a silver lining in a dark cloud. We cannot say enough about what Fisher House has meant to us. Thank you to all the people who support Fisher House and those who staff their facilities.”

CHAMPIONS *FORE* CHARITY

Fisher House, Inc. invites you to support us through Champions fore Charity, an exciting fundraising program linked to the 2021 Valero Texas Open, the 3rd oldest tournament on the PGA TOUR schedule.

We will receive 100% of every penny we raise through Champions fore Charity. Valero Texas Open and Champions fore Charity pays all the costs to run the program. Fisher House, Inc. will use the proceeds from this fundraiser to support the Lackland Fisher House where military members and their family can stay for free while receiving medical treatment in the San Antonio area.

You also have a chance to guess who the 2021 Valero Texas Open Champion will be for a chance to win a Stay & Play Gift Package to TPC San Antonio and the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa. Participating donors who have provided an email address will receive an email from tournament officials after the player field is announced on Friday, March 26. Donors will have until Wednesday, March 31 to select from the player field who they believe will win the tournament.

The winner will be drawn from those who correctly guessed the tournament champion and receive the grand prize, along with earning us a donation of $5,000! If more than one person correctly guesses, a drawing amongst those who guessed correctly will be conducted. If no one correctly guesses, a drawing among all donors will take place… and you may just win!

DONATION COMMITMENT FORM

$_____ one-time donation

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Reference Line (optional): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail:* _____

☐ Check #: _____ Please make checks payable to: **Champions *fore* Charity** ☐ Cash ☐ Bill Me

☐ Credit Card: Mastercard Visa American Express Discover Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____CSV / Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

How would you like to be recognized on the charity's digital Top 10 leaderboard? ☐ Company Name ☐ First Initial Last Name ☐ Anonymous

If you want to include a matching gift form, please contact Stephanie Sage at Stephanie@ValeroTexasOpen.com or (210) 345-3839 or visit www.championsforecharity.com.
If the charity mailing address is not listed above, mail your form to: Valero Texas Open, Attn: Champions fore Charity, PO Box 690330, San Antonio, TX 78269.

BENEFITTING CHARITY

Fisher House Inc.
7323 Hwy 90 West, Suite 107
San Antonio, Texas 78227
P: (210) 673-7500
www.fisherhouseinc.org

Scan here to donate online

Donations can also be made at:
www.championsforecharity.com

AFFCU GIFT CARD PRESENTATION

Armed Forces Financial Network and AFFCU donated “Thank You” Gift Cards to San Antonio Fisher Houses.

The Armed Forces Financial Network (AFFN), along with on-base financial institutions at JBSA-Lackland, presented 100 “Thank You” gift cards valued at $50 each to the JBSA-Lackland Fisher House and the South Texas VA Fisher House. These gift cards presented by AFFN are a token of appreciation to the men and women in our military and their families for their service and sacrifice.

The partnership with AFFN, which includes the Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC) and the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA), has proudly supported the Fisher House Foundation and individual Fisher Houses in Germany and across the United States for the last 17 years through the Matching Grant program. It has provided over $3,905,400.00 in direct support during that period. Every dollar distributed has assisted military service members, veterans and their families for care, comfort, and food while staying at a Fisher House.

Air Force Federal Credit Union (AFFCU) representatives made the presentation of the gift cards, which totaled $5,000.00, to Dwayne Hopkins (Executive Director, JBSA-Lackland Fisher House) and Erik Zielinski (Manager, South Texas VA Fisher House) on behalf of the financial institutions on JBSA-Lackland AFB.

“The gift cards are a welcome support in assisting our residents at the Fisher House, especially in this time of need,” Dwayne Hopkins said. “We are very grateful to the JBSA-Lackland community, AFFN and the financial institutions who all support this program and thank them for their generosity.”

The cards can be used at any of the 1.3 million locations worldwide accepting AFFN payments including Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES). The cards function the same as debit or ATM cards, and will be distributed to military personnel by Fisher House management.

Since 2005, 20,192 military families staying at Fisher Houses worldwide have received $1,009,600.00 in DeCA Certichecks (2005, 2006) and AFFN Thank You Cards (2007-2020) from AFFN military community support programs.

AFFCU
A FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

(L-R) Devin Washington, Business Development Officer, AFFCU
Danny Sanchez, VP Marketing, AFFCU
Dwayne Hopkins, Executive Director, Fisher House, Inc.

DONATIONS

The Fisher House Family would like to offer their sincerest thanks and appreciation to all of those who have generously and thoughtfully provided their time, talents and treasures to support the guest residents of the Lackland Fisher Houses. We appreciate your encouragement for our continued success in service of our military families with medical crises. The following "Friends of Fisher House" have provided financial support between May 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020

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Lockheed Martin AERO Club
NSDAR Jacob's Well
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Returning Heroes Home, Inc.
San Antonio Defense Gang
VFW Lackland Post 9174
West Fork Community Church

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17 TRW/HC
30 SW/HC
19 AW/HC
78 ABW/HC

SPOUSES CLUB

Holloman Spouses' Organization
Kadena Officers' Spouses Club
Luke Spouses' Club
Yokota Spouses' Club

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Thank You USAA for Supporting Fisher House, Inc.

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JBER Hospital
4943 Zeamer Ave.
JBER, AK 99506
(907) 222-1673
Manager: Jenny Hall
jennifer.hall.24@us.af.mil

ARIZONA

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
3601 S. 6th Ave. (9-135FH)
Tucson, AZ 85723
(520) 838-3680
Manager: Kelly Laurich
arizona.fisherhouse@va.gov

CALIFORNIA

Camp Pendleton
MCI WEST – Fisher House
BLDG 2014 San Jacinto Rd.
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055
(760) 763-5308
Manager: Vicky Powell-Johnson
victoria.powell-john@usmc.mil

VA Long Beach Healthcare System
5901 East 7th St.
Long Beach, CA 90822
(562) 826-5905
Manager: Eddie Gibbs
eddie.gibbs@va.gov

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
11301 Wilshire Blvd (10AF), Bldg 523
Los Angeles, CA 90073
(310) 268-4457 fax (310) 268-3499
Manager: Erma Mickens
erma.mickens@va.gov

VA Palo Alto Health Care System
3801 Miranda Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94304
(650) 493-5000 x.60384
fax: (650) 849-1269
Manager: Tracy Marino
tracy.marino@va.gov

Naval Medical Center San Diego
34800 Bob Wilson Dr., Bldg 46
San Diego, CA 92134-5000
(619) 532-9055 fax: (619) 532-5216
Manager: Lori Erickson
lorene.l.erickson.naf@mail.mil

David Grant USAF Medical Center
100 Bodin Circle, Bldg 792
Travis AFB, CA 94535-1804
(707) 423-7550 fax: (707) 423-7552
Manager: Ivana Jordovic
ivana.jordovic@us.af.mil

COLORADO

VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System
Rocky Mountain Regional VA Fisher House
1700 N. Wheeling St. (R-1-00FH)
Aurora, CO 80045
(720) 723-7683
Manager: Khristie Barker
VHAECHFisherHouse@va.gov

CONNECTICUT

VA Connecticut Healthcare System
950 Campbell Avenue, Mail Code 135F
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 937-3438
Manager: Amanda Salthouse
amanda.salthouse@va.gov

DELAWARE

Fisher House for Families of the Fallen
116 Purple Heart Dr.
Dover AFB, DE 19902
(302) 922-1900
Manager: TSgt Michelle Johnson
michelle.johnson.15@us.af.mil

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington DC VA Medical Center
50 Irving St. NW
Washington, DC 20422
(202) 745-2482
Manager: Stacey Childs
stacey.childs@va.gov

FLORIDA

Bay Pines VA Healthcare System
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bay Pines, FL 33744
(727) 398-6661 x.11350
fax: (727) 319-1106
Manager: Shentrela Diggins
shentrela.diggins@va.gov

Eglin Air Force Base Hospital
350 Boatner Rd.
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(850) 883-2865
Manager: Marc Ambrose
marc.ambrose@us.af.mil

North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System
1601 SW Archer Rd.
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 548-6492
Manager: Michelle Howard
kimberly.howard@va.gov

Miami VA Healthcare System
1201 NW 16th St.
Miami, FL 33125
(305) 575-7260 fax: (305) 575-7261
Manager: Richie Sanchez
lerrichiad.sanchez@va.gov

Orlando VA Medical Center
13800 Veterans Way
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 631-9800
Manager: Terri Turner
teresa.turner2@va.gov

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 910-3000 fax: (813) 910-3088
Manager: Sean Kelly
sean.kelly2@va.gov

West Palm Beach VA Medical Center
7305 N. Military Trail
W. Palm Beach, FL 33410
(561) 422-5554 fax: (561) 442-8793
Manager: Shelley Prickett
shelley.prickett2@va.gov

GEORGIA

Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center
One Freedom Way
Augusta, GA 30904
(706) 729-5773
Manager: Courtney Deese
courtney.deese@va.gov

FISHER HOUSE

Fort Gordon Fisher House at Eisenhower Army Medical Center
Fisher House Rd. – Bldg 280
Ft. Gordon, GA 30905-5650
(706) 787-7100 fax: (706) 787-5106
Manager: Francisco Cruz
francisco.cruz10.naf@mail.mil

HAWAII

Tripler Fisher House at Tripler Army Medical Center
317 Krukowski Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808) 433-1291 x 28
fax: (808) 433-3619
Manager: Misty Hironaka
misty.n.hironaka.naf@mail.mil

ILLINOIS

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital
5000 S 5th Ave.
Hines, IL 60141
(708) 202-7154 fax: (708) 202-7155
Manager: Holly Wright
holly.wright@va.gov

KENTUCKY

Fort Campbell Fisher House at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital
652 Joel Dr.
Fort Campbell, KY 42223
(270) 798-8330 fax: (270) 798-8804
Manager: Wendy Carlston
wendy.j.carlston.naf@mail.mil

MAINE

VA Maine Healthcare System
1 VA Center (Fisher House)
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 623-8411
Manager: Patrick Crowley
patrick.crowley@va.gov

MARYLAND

Malcolm Grow Clinics & Surgery Center
1076 West Perimeter Rd.
Andrews AFB, MD 20762
(301) 981-1243 fax: (301) 981-7629
Manager: Veronica Harris
jbafhmanager@gmail.com

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
24 Stokes Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20814-5002
(301) 295-5334 fax: (301) 295-5632
Manager: Michael Ybarra
mybarra@fisherhousebethesda.org

Walter Reed Fisher House at Forest Glen
2460 Linden Ln., Bldg 173
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 319-5442 fax: (301) 328-5618
Manager: Maurice Borde
wrafh.fg1@gmail.com

MASSACHUSETTS

VA Boston Healthcare System
1400 VFW Pkwy.
West Roxbury, MA 02132
(857) 203-4000
Manager: Elizabeth St. Pierre
elizabeth.stpierre@va.gov

MICHIGAN

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
2215 Fuller Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 845-3000
Acting Manager: Kimo Ortiz
VHAANNFisherHouse@va.gov

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis VA Health Care System
1 Veterans Dr.
Minneapolis, MN 55417
(612) 467-5602 fax: (612) 970-5864
Manager: David Mason
david.mason@va.gov

MISSISSIPPI

Keesler Medical Center
509 Fisher St.
Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2599
(228) 377-8264 fax: (228) 377-7691
Manager: Larry Vetter
larry.vetter.1@us.af.mil

MISSOURI

VA St. Louis Health Care System
1 Jefferson Barracks Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125
(314) 894-6145 fax: (314) 894-6147
Manager: Vanniecia Brown
vanniecia.brown@va.gov

NEBRASKA

VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System
4101 Woolworth Ave.
Omaha, NE 68105
(402) 930-7116
Manager: Colleen Vonderhaar
colleen.vonderhaar@va.gov

NEVADA

VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System
6900 N. Pecos Rd.
North Las Vegas, NV 89086
(702) 224-6789
Manager: Cadie Franco
cadie.franco@va.gov

NEW MEXICO

Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center
1501 San Pedro Dr. SE, Bldg 85
Albuquerque, NM 87108
(505) 265-1711 x 3180
Manager: Christina Ramirez
christina.ramirez2@va.gov

NEW YORK

Albany Stratton VA Medical Center
113 Holland Ave.
Albany, NY 12208
(518) 626-6919 fax: (518) 626-5452
Manager: Michael Fitzpatrick
michael.fitzpatrick3@va.gov

James J. Peters VA Medical Center
130 West Kingsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10468
(718) 584-9000 x 2037 or x 2039
Manager: Ellen Trbovich
ellen.trbovich@va.gov

NORTH CAROLINA

Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune
4 Recovery Way
Camp Lejeune, NC 28547
(910) 450-3885 fax: (910) 450-3887
Manager: Josie Cotton
josephine.cotton@usmc.mil

FISHER HOUSE

Fort Bragg Fisher House at Womack Army Medical Center
3120 Loop Rd., PO Box 70006
Ft. Bragg, NC 28307-5000
(910) 849-3466
Manager: Vivian Wilson
vivian.l.wilson.naf@mail.mil

OHIO

Cincinnati VA Medical Center
3200 Vine St.
Cincinnati, OH 45220
(513) 475-6571 fax: (513) 487-6661
Manager: Karrie Hagan
karrie.hagan@va.gov

Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center
10521 Lee Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106
(216) 707-4800 x 67705
Manager: Tyler Estell
tyler.estell@va.gov

Dayton VA Medical Center
Fisher House, Bldg. 425
Dayton, OH 45428
(937) 268-6511 x 2887
Manager: Betsey Striebel
betsey.striebel@va.gov

Wright-Patterson Medical Center
417 Schlatter Dr.
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433
(937) 257-0855 fax: (937) 656-2150
Manager: Karen Healea
karen.s.healea.naf@mail.mil

OREGON

VA Portland Health Care System
1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 567-4647
Manager: Kelly Konikow
kelly.konikow@va.gov

PENNSYLVANIA

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
University Drive C, Bldg 33
Pittsburgh, PA 15240
(412) 360-2030
Manager: Heather Frantz
heather.frantz@va.gov

SOUTH CAROLINA

Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center
150 Wentworth Street
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 805-8200
Acting Manager: Chris Jackson
Christopher.Jackson7@va.gov

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Valley Healthcare System
3400 Lebanon Pike
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
(615) 225-5758
Manager: Becky Wood
rebecca.wood4@va.gov

TEXAS

VA North Texas Health Care System
4500 S. Lancaster Rd., Bldg 79
Dallas, TX 75216
(214) 857-4400 fax: (214) 462-4923
Manager: Lydia Henderson
lydia.henderson1@va.gov

Fort Bliss Fisher House at William Beaumont Army Medical Center
Bldg 7360 Rodriguez St.
El Paso, TX 79930
(915) 742-1860 fax: (915) 569-1862
Manager: Alice Coleman
alice.m.coleman2.naf@mail.mil

Fort Hood Fisher House at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center
36065 Santa Fe Ave.
Ft. Hood, TX 76544
(254) 220-6985 fax: (254) 286-7929
Manager: Steve Wakefield
steven.h.wakefield.naf@mail.mil

Joint Base San Antonio Fisher House at Brooke Army Medical Center
3623 George C. Beach Rd.
JBSA Ft. Sam Houston, TX 78234
(210) 916-6000 fax: (210) 916-6488
Manager: Inge Godfrey
inge.k.godfrey.naf@mail.mil

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
2002 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, TX 77030
(713) 794-7766 fax: (713) 794-7194
Manager: Frank Kelley
frank.kelley@va.gov

Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center - San Antonio Military Medical Center
1445 Foster Ave. Bldg 3865
Lackland AFB, TX 78236
(210) 671-6037 fax: (210) 671-6020
Manager: Brittany Strout
brittany.strout@us.af.mil

South Texas Veterans Health Care System
7485 Wurzbach Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78229
(210) 617-5542 fax: (210) 593-0902
Manager: Erik Zielinski
erik.zielinski@va.gov

UTAH

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
690 S. Valdez Dr.
Salt Lake City, UT 84148
(801) 588-5900
Manager: Quinn Kiger-Good
quinn.kiger@va.gov

VIRGINIA

Fort Belvoir Fisher House at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital
9201 Woodbury Rd.
Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060
(703) 805 5203
Manager: Roxannamaria Calderon
dha.belvoir.fbch.mbx.fisher-house@mail.mil

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth
853 Fisher Dr., Bldg 287
Portsmouth, VA 23708
(757) 953-6889 fax: (757) 953-7174
Manager: Jill Thompson
jill.Thompson@portsmouthfisherhouse.org

Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center
1201 Broad Rock Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23249
(804) 675-6639 fax: (804) 675-5979
Manager: Wayne Walker
wayne.walker@va.gov

FISHER HOUSE

WASHINGTON
Joint Base Lewis-McChord at Madigan Army Medical Center
90700 Gardener Loop
Tacoma, WA 98431
(253) 964-9283 x 11
fax: (253) 968-3619
Acting Manager: Meilyn Diaz (Ruff)
manager@fisherhouse-jblm.org

VA Puget Sound Health Care System
1660 South Columbian Way
Seattle, WA 98108
(206) 768-5353 fax: (206) 277-1415
Manager: Christopher Spaulding
Christopher.Spaulding@va.gov

WISCONSIN
Zablocki VA Medical Center
5000 W. National Ave., Bldg. 150
Milwaukee, WI 53295
(414) 384-2000 x 45005 or 45006
Manager: Jennifer Kiefer
jennifer.kiefer@va.gov

GERMANY
Landstuhl Fisher House at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center
Unit 33100
Attn: Fisher House
APO AE
09180
011-49-6371-9464-7430
fax: 011-49-6371-866679
Manager: Sarafina Buchanan
sarafina.n.buchanan.naf@mail.mil

UNITED KINGDOM
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
Mindelsohn Way
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Birmingham
B15 2TH
0121-472-6217 Fax: 0121-41306897
Manager: Patrick Hogan
fisherhouse@uhb.nhs.uk

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Please direct all correspondence to ATTN: Fisher House, along with the address.

Please contact the Fisher House manager directly with any questions.

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Kansas City VA Medical Center - MO

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7323 W. US Hwy 90 West, Suite 107
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as of September 2020

www.fisherhouseinc.org

Fisher House, Inc., 7323 W. US Hwy 90, Suite 107, San Antonio, Texas 78227
210-673-7500, Fax 210-673-7579