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MISSION STATEMENT
The Fisher House Inc. mission is to support military members, veterans, and their families staying at Fisher Houses and those who are eligible to utilize Fisher Houses but are staying at other appropriate points of care venues while they receive medical treatment, care or support.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

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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.
From Our CEO/Executive Director

Fisher House, Inc. continues to focus on the Fisher House mission for military families. As COVID continues all around the world the staff and Board of Directors remain steadfast in providing services to all three Fisher House locations (BAMC, Lackland and South Texas Veterans Health Care System) in San Antonio, Texas. We are happy to provide those services knowing how much is needed at the Fisher Houses. Of course, those services are not possible without our donors. Thank you to all who make our mission at Fisher House, Inc. possible.

With a very sad heart, Fisher House, Inc. and the community mourn the loss of Colonel John J. Franco (USAF Retired). Colonel Franco contributed immensely to the Board of Directors as Nominating Committee Chairmen, Personnel Committee member, and legal advisor for 14 years. Please see comments on Colonel Franco on page three of this newsletter.

One of the most joyful things that I get a chance to experience is the amazing stories from families who stayed at the Fisher Houses. Mrs. Hardy provides a birds-eye view of her family’s experience in this newsletter. This is a must read in this newsletter.

The November golf tournament at Fair Oaks Ranch Golf and Country Club was a great success. This of course was largely due to our amazing sponsors who reached out to us (see page 8-9). In addition to the sponsors, our volunteers played a major role with keeping registration and the entire tournament on schedule. This year’s tournament was absolutely the best ever with 180 golf players. We look forward to the next golf tournament in November 2022.

This past year, Fisher House, Inc. partnered with the Fisher House Foundation in providing 16 $2,000 Scholarships to high school students at Lackland Air Base, Fort Sam Houston, and Randolph Air Force Base. The names of these amazing military family students who received the scholarships are listed in this newsletter on page 10.

Once again, thank you to all the donors and volunteers who continue to support the military members, veterans and their families staying at the Fisher Houses in San Antonio. While this has been a very difficult year with COVID, the staff and I still stay focused on military families now and in the new year. I wish everyone a happy New Year with great health, happiness, and joy.
IN LOVING MEMORY, JOHN J. FRANCO
Fisher House, Inc. Board of Directors Member 2007-2021

John Joseph Franco, Jr. was born on January 12, 1938, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. John passed away on Friday, August 27, 2021. He graduated from St. Aloysius High School in Vicksburg in 1955. He received his undergraduate degree (1959) and his law degree (1960) from The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). Later, he earned a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in Labor Law (1971) from The George Washington University National Law Center. While at Ole Miss John met and married the former Martha Ann White of Blytheville, Arkansas. John's military service began when he joined the enlisted Naval Reserve while still in High School. After joining the Air Force ROTC at Ole Miss, he transferred to the enlisted Air Force Reserve from which he was honorably discharged upon being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and entering active duty with the United States Air Force as an attorney in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps. There he served as counsel and occasional Military Judge in Courts-Martial, and later as the Chief Labor Counsel of the Air Force heading a team of litigation attorneys defending the Air Force in labor and employment cases. He was a distinguished graduate of the Air War College and a graduate of the Air Command and Staff college. He served both in Germany and the Philippines. Among the awards he received were the Legion of Merit, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Defense Meritorious Medal. He retired from the Air Force in 1981 in the rank of Colonel.

He entered the private practice of law in San Antonio with the prestigious firm of Groce, Locke and Hebdon of which he later became President. While practicing in the field of Labor and Employment Law he was Board Certified in that field by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He was a member of the State Bar of Texas (former Chair of what is now the Military and Veterans Law Section) and the Mississippi Bar. In addition to the courts of those States, John was licensed to practice, among other courts, before the United States Supreme Court, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States District Courts for the Western, Southern, Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas. He was a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, a Life Fellow of the Texas State Bar Foundation, and a Life Fellow of the San Antonio Bar Foundation. He was an active member of the Federal Bar Association and served as President of the Local Chapter. He was a member of the national and local Attorney-Mediator Association and the Alamo Area Mediators Association and served on and was former Chair of the Advisory Board of the Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center. He was a founding member and longtime Director and Officer of the Air Force Retired Judge Advocates Association. For many years, John was a member of the Board of Directors of Fisher House, Inc. Fisher Houses provide no cost lodging for military personnel, veterans and their families while receiving medical care.
HELPING HANDS AWARD 2021

The recipient of the Fisher House, Inc. 2021 Helping Hands award is Ms. Inge Godfrey. Ms. Godfrey has been the Manager at the BAMC Fisher House since 1992 and retired December 2021. During her tenure as a manager she has made a tremendous impact on so many people, from guests coming through the doors of the Fisher House, volunteers, sponsors and even celebrities. Her kind heart and dedication to the Fisher House mission is what makes her so special and her leadership and guidance will be missed dearly. Ms. Godfrey hopes to continue being involved with the Fisher House as a volunteer for many years to come.

A Family’s love is good medicine.....

DINNER AT THE FISHER HOUSES.....

Coming together at the Fisher House for dinner or lunch has always been an important time for the guests to get together and share stories, lend a listening ear and simply be there for each other during difficult times. While away from family, getting together during these times is so important and improves the healing process for many guests at the Fisher House. This is the true meaning of a home-away-from-home during their stay. The Fisher Houses rely heavily on the kind heart and generosity of volunteers to provide meals, whether prepared and cooked at the Fisher House Kitchen or catered. During COVID this task became very difficult and the houses had to shut down for volunteers. Fisher House, Inc. has been able to help fill this void during this time, by providing meals to the guests at the Fisher Houses in San Antonio and will continue to do so. Volunteers are always needed at the Fisher Houses. If you would like to provide a meal for the guests, please contact the Manager at the house you would like to volunteer at. (see back of the newsletter for more information)

VA Fisher House guests enjoying meals, provided by Fisher House, Inc.
CHAMPIONS FORE CHARITY

Fisher House, Inc. invites you to support us through Champions fore Charity, an exciting fundraising program linked to the 2022 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 Fisher Houses in San Antonio where military members, veterans 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 2022 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 25. Donors will have until Wednesday, March 30 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!
“On June 14 of 2019 our lives changed forever. That was the day our son went into respiratory failure and suffered a cardiac arrest. He was traveling with a friend to a reunion with his buddies from the Marine Corp. He had flown in on the red eye to Washington DC and they were driving through the night to South Carolina. His buddy said Lane was snoring loudly in the back seat and then stopped, he assumed he was sleeping soundly, when they reached their first destination Lane was unresponsive. He drove him to the nearest ER in Columbia, South Carolina and that is where our journey began.

Lane’s prognosis was very grim. He had suffered a hypoxic/anoxic brain injury. Global damage, irreversible, vent dependent, vegetable, no hope….these were the words we heard daily. However, we are his parents, our son is a Marine, he fights and so we fought for him. We wanted to be sure we gave him every opportunity to survive so against doctors advice we did all that we could to prolong his life and he started to improve!

Friends and family provided for our needs and we were able to bring Lane home on an angel flight. He had to be in a respiratory rehab facility for a year. They said it might take years to wean him off the trach. He did it in eight months. He started to smile. He started laughing at our jokes. This caught the eye of a speak therapist and he facilitated for the therapies we had been begging for for months. We started making arrangements to bring Lane home through the Veterans Directed Care program then COVID hit. We were locked away from him everything came to a screeching halt.

Finally in August of 2020 we were able to get Lane home through the Veterans Directed Care program and with the help of an amazing team we were able to bring him from our home in Colorado to the Audie Murphy Poly Trauma Rehab in San Antonio. It was a godsend! We were welcomed at the Fisher House and ended up staying six weeks. It was my home away from home. Meals were provided, transportation was figured out and although there were cautions in place for COVID safety I truly felt like I was welcomed with open arms. I met so many beautiful people during my stay and no matter how long my day was I could come “ home” and get refreshed and renewed.

After our initial stay it was decided our son needed surgery to correct the contracture in his feet and we would need to return to have it done. It would require a two to six week stay and our son would have to stay with me during recovery…this would be impossible. He is nonverbal and wheelchair bound. At home we have all kinds of special equipment to help with his care. How would I do this? Mr. Zielinski and his team at the Fisher House jumped into action. They set us up in a hotel and procured all of the necessary equipment to safely care for our son. They made the impossible possible for us and there would have been no way we could have done any of this without them. This surgery will allow our son to stand!

Our journey has been long and sometimes very hard but the kindness shown to us through people like those at the VA Fisher House in San Antonio have made it bearable and honestly blessed. Without the support we received from the Fisher House this step in our son’s healing would not have been possible we are forever grateful.” - Trudy Hardy
HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE HELPING FISHER HOUSE..

Fisher House, Inc. relies on sponsors to continue our mission, which is to support military members, veterans and their families while they stay at Fisher Houses in San Antonio. Without your help and support, this would not be possible.

In 2021 Fisher House, Inc. supported the Fisher Houses with water deliveries, Internet services, meals and wishlist items on a regular basis. In addition to this, the following items were received by the Fisher Houses: smart TVs for all the guest rooms; washer and dryer sets; guest bedroom furniture and linens; computers and printers, just to name a few. Our mission will continue with your help!

THANKS TO YOU...

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Finck Cigars has been a major sponsor of Fisher House, Inc. in support of our mission. Since 2012 they organized several fundraisers and donated more than $289,000.00 to support the Fisher House! Finck Cigars has been San Antonio’s #1 cigar source since 1893. For over 120 years their family has been the largest supplier of fine cigars in Texas. Their donations have helped so many military members, veterans and their families, who stayed at the Fisher House over the years.

Thank You USAA for Supporting Fisher House, Inc.
On Monday, November 8, 2021, 180 players came out to the Fair Oaks Ranch Golf and Country Club in Boerne, TX to play in our biggest fundraiser event of the year. It was a beautiful day and thanks to all the sponsors and players, almost $90,000 was raised to support the Fisher Houses in San Antonio, Texas. With the help of all the amazing volunteers, this day could not have been more successful! Fisher House, Inc. would like to thank the following sponsors for their generosity and kind hearts to support our mission.

**Platinum Sponsor $15,000**
Fisher House Foundation

**Gold Sponsors $10,000**
J&J Worldwide Services
Security Service Federal Credit Union

**Silver Sponsor $5,000**
NIKA

**Bronze Sponsors $2,500**
USAMM Armed Forces Super Store
Laurel Ridge Treatment Center
Circle K
Blue Skies of Texas
Air Force Federal Credit Union

**Half Hole Sponsors $500**
Cavender Auto Family
Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union

**In-Kind Sponsors**
Fair Oaks Ranch Golf & Country Club
Jewish War Veterans Post 753
Armed Forces Financial Network
Kel-Lac Uniforms Inc.
Fast Signs San Antonio NW
Bexar Printing
USAMM
Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 1836
Chicken N Pickle
Kendra Scott
Hyatt Place North Stone Oak
Trader Joe's
Magnolia Pancake Haus
Maggiano's Restaurant
BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
La Cantera Resort & Spa
Mrs. Joyce Brown

A very special thank you to Ancira for sponsoring the hole-in-one contest!

Our amazing volunteers, helped make this event a huge success. We could not have done this without you!
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY CHILDREN AND HEROES

In collaboration with Fisher House Foundation, we started sponsoring a university/college scholarship program for students of military families at Lackland Air Force Base, Fort Sam Houston and Randolph Air Force Base. 16 students have been awarded a $2,000 scholarship in 2021. We are excited to continue this program and look forward to see the 2022 Scholarships for Military Children and Heroes’ Legacy Scholarships recipients.

The following students received a scholarship sponsored by Fisher House, Inc. in 2021:

**Lackland AFB**
- Gabriella C Arredondo
- Andrew T Gaedecke
- Elise A Salmans
- Jennifer M Tharp
- Karagan G Weld

**Randolph AFB**
- Nicole Englin
- Lindsey A Forschner
- Jamie C Gallagher
- Joseph D Gonzales
- Emma E Jachimowicz
- Abigail G Miller
- Kate E Whyte

**Fort Sam Houston**
- Peter I Chacko
- Isabel L McKinlay
- Emma C Swofford
- Megan V Thelen

“As the second youngest of seven children (all of whom graduated or plan to attend college), my father often tells me that “I have a bad case of maltuition”. I am incredibly honored to be a 2021-2022 Scholarships for Military Children (SFMC) Scholarship recipient and am very grateful to the Fisher House for sponsoring my scholarship to study computer science at the University of Texas at Austin. Not only is it a burden lifted off my shoulders and my family’s shoulders, but an enormous source of encouragement that helps me persevere through the challenging parts of my classes because I know there are people who believe in me and are invested in my future. Thank you so much for your support of military children like me through SFMC.” - Peter Chacko

Online applications for Scholarships for Military Children and Heroes’ Legacy Scholarships are now open and will be accepted through February 16, 2022. The application process is entirely online, making it easy to create an account, save work, and submit applications. All rules and requirements for the program, as well as links to frequently asked questions, are available at www.militaryscholar.org
# FISHER HOUSE WISHLIST

Anything your house needs, our houses need

## Paper Products
*(No Styrofoam Products Please)*
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Plastic Utensils
- Cups (Hot and Cold 12-16oz)

## Food Products
- Ready to Go Meals
- Snacks
- Baking supplies (mixes)
- Sugar
- Canned Fruit/Meats/Vegetables
- Pasta Dishes
- Individual juices (orange/apple)

## Kitchen Supplies
- Dish Soap
- Glad/Zip Lock Disposable Storage Containers (large and medium)
- Zip-Lock Food Storage Bags (1 gallon & quart)
- 33 Gallon Black Trash Bags
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- Aluminum Foil

## Resident Needs
- Gift Cards
  (Walmart, Amazon, HEB and Restaurants)

## Hygiene Products
- Hand Sanitizer
- Disposable Face Masks
- Disposable gloves
- Hand Soap

## Cleaning Products
- Furniture Wax for Dusting
- Bleach
- Fabric Softener Sheets
- HE Laundry Detergent
- Laundry Stain Remover
- Dishwasher Detergent (tablets)
- Bathroom Cleaner: Lysol Disinfectant 4 in 1
- 409 Cleaner
- Clorox/Lysol Disinfecting Spray
- Clorox/Lysol Disinfectant Wipes
- Toilet Bowl cleaner
- Toilet Brush
- Swiffer duster and refills
- AA-batteries

## Miscellaneous
- Copier/printer paper
- Large emergency size Flashlights
- White Standard Pillow Cases
- White Towels
- White Wash Cloths

You can also send Wishlist items directly from Amazon to Fisher House, Inc. to benefit the guests staying at the Fisher Houses in San Antonio. Scan the code above to view our current Wishlist on Amazon.
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 Fisher Houses. We appreciate your encouragement for our continued success in service to support the military men and women, and their families who will benefit from the services of the Fisher House. The following “Friends of Fisher House, Inc.” have provided financial support between May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021. You’ll see an (*) beside the names In Memory of those donors who have preceded us in death.

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<td>Edwin Rodriguez Robert and Martha Sherwood Kym E Schumacher</td>
<td>All Families of Wounded Warrriors Dr. and Mrs. David J Friedman Maj. Derek Smith and Family</td>
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MEMORIUMS

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<td>Don and Lorraine Beere</td>
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<td>Diana Berger</td>
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<td>Steve and Nancy Bodman</td>
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<td>Marden and June Boyd</td>
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<td>CPS Energy Family</td>
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MILITARY CHAPELS

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<td>American Legion Aux Post 489 Knights of Columbus #6858 San Antonio Defense Gang</td>
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<td>Friends of the Westbank Community Library Oak Hills Foundation West Fork Community Church</td>
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SPOUSES CLUB

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<td>Dyess Spouses’ Club Mountain Home Officers’ Spouses’ Club Yokota Spouses’ Club</td>
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David Abati
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Edward Addison
Michael Addison
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William Sternhagen
Charles Stidham
Robert Stone
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Mark Stout
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Robert Sutton
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Wayne Symons
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John Tully
Melvin Utley
Kevin Vaille
Vincent Valdespino
Larry and Melissa Van Buren
Richard and Kelly VanderWeele
Michael Visconage
Mark Vlahos
Michael Vlk
Louis Vogler
Arthur Wachdorf
Darrell and Debra Wagner
Mark Waite
Michael Walker
Fred Wall
Paul Walski
Doug and Georgie Walters
Mark Ward
Mark Ware
Warne Family
Barbara Watkins
James Weimer
Robert West
Jerry and Cynthia Wiens
Bruce Willett
Robert D Williams
George Wills
Leif Wilson
Lisa Wilson
Richard Wilson
Travis Wilson
Fred Witter
Michael Wright
Stephen Wright
Stew Wyland
Wendy Yeldell
Bonnie Yoakum
Vance Zider
John Zielinski
Patrick Zimlich

BUSINESSES AND CORPORATIONS

AIG
Amazon Smile
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Champions Fore Charity
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Cybergrants, LLC.
Facebook Payments
Fink’s Cigar Factory
Hagaman-Daugherty Foundation
Lockheed Martin Employee’s Political Action Committee
Navy Federal Credit Union
Northrup Grumman Corporation
PayPal Giving Fund
PenFed Credit Union
Sentar Inc
SRC SYR Research Group
Synchrony
UK Foundation
Walmart #5226
SAN ANTONIO FISHER HOUSES

South Texas Veterans VA Fisher House
7485 Wurzbach Rd
San Antonio, TX 78229
(210) 617-5542
Manager: Erik Zielinski
erik.zielinski@va.gov
House I total guest rooms 16

Lackland Fisher House
1445 Foster Ave Bldg 3865
Lackland AFB, TX 78236
(210) 671-6037
Manager: Philip Harralson
philip.harralson@us.af.mil
House I, II, III total guest rooms 26

Brooke Army Medical Medical Center Fisher House
3623 George C. Beach Rd
JBSA Ft. Sam Houston, TX 78234
(210) 916-6458
Manager: Robyn Stewart
robyn.m.stewart.naf@mail.mil
House I, II, III, IV total guest rooms 57
FISHER HOUSE, INC.
7323 W. US Hwy 90, Suite 107
San Antonio, Texas 78227-3562

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY.
Be honest with ourselves and with whom we deal; building a foundation of trust and confidence through the organization and with our clients, stakeholders, and the community.

CARING.
Sensitive to the needs of our clients, always ready to go the extra mile to provide responsive, compassionate support.

SERVICE.
Give freely to others in need. Willing to donate time, energy and resources.

EXCELLENCE.
Continually strive to excel, to be the best in our field, and to maintain the highest standards of quality and service.

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Ferguson, Mark                 Laffoon, Jim
                               McAlum, Gary

STAFF
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Andrea Desbien, Office Manager
Irma Robinson, Program Manager

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