

FISHER HOUSE PROJECT – MILWAUKEE

NEED FOR PROJECT

Military and veterans, and their families, have no home/lodging facility at the local Veterans Administration Medical Center.

If a family member would like to be bed side during a lengthy hospitalization they must pay out of pocket for a hotel. There is no reimbursement for this from the VA for long-term lodging. Many families cannot afford hotels so many opt not to accompany their loved one.

The Milwaukee Fisher House will serve families of veteran's seeking medical care at the VA hospital. The hospital offers services to thousands of veterans as well as active duty members.

FISHER HOUSE HISTORY

On June 24, 1991, the doors of the very first Fisher House opened to serve the families of patients receiving treatment at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. That first Fisher House was a model for the network of 43 Fisher Houses currently in operation across the United States and overseas. Originally built during peace-time to serve the loved ones of service members and veterans facing medical crises due to illness, disease, or injury, these vital sanctuaries have now expanded their mission to provide a safe haven for nearly 7,500 families of heroes wounded or injured while serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, that number grows every day.

The Fisher House program was established in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher. Though he was prevented from joining active service during World War II due to a construction accident, Mr. Fisher drew on his building experience to assist the U.S. Coastal Service in constructing coastal fortifications. Elizabeth traveled in Europe as a member of the USO to entertain military troops. As steadfast supporters of the men and women serving this country, they asked what mission they might undertake to benefit personnel of all military services. Pauline Trost, wife of Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Carlisle Trost, alerted Mr. and Mrs. Fisher of the need for temporary lodging facilities for families at major military medical centers. Today, Zachary's grandnephew Ken Fisher is the Chairman of Fisher House Foundation, and he continues the family legacy of reuniting military and veterans families in a time of need.

Located in close proximity to the medical center or hospital it serves, each Fisher House consists of between 8 and 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room and an inviting living room with a library and toys for children. The home creates an instant community for its residents, united by their common mission of supporting a sick or injured loved one, but also provides each individual with a secure and private refuge after a long day at the hospital to rest and recharge.

There is no fee to stay at a Fisher House. Since inception, the program has saved military and veteran families an estimated \$120 million in out of pocket costs for lodging and transportation. It is estimated that each 20-suite home added to the Fisher House network provides the capacity to serve 1,000 families per year. In the past few years we have made remarkable achievements in the expansion of the Fisher House network, with new homes at the Richmond VA Medical Center in Virginia; the VA Puget Sound in Washington; the VA North Texas Medical Center; a second Fisher House at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego; and the VA Medical Center in West Los

Angeles, California. We have now completed our highest priority by placing a Fisher House at all four of the level-one poly-trauma VA Medical Centers in the United States.

Fisher House Foundation continues to look forward to the largest expansion in its history, with a goal of completing an additional 16 homes in the coming years.

At Fisher House Foundation, we believe that it is important to show those who have dedicated their lives through service in our Armed Forces that we recognize and appreciate their significant contributions and sacrifices, and care about them, particularly in their time of need. The Fisher House program was established out of this deep respect and admiration, and depends upon our donors and their dedication to *“our greatest national treasure...our military service men and women and their loved ones.”*

HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS

Success is measured by completion and subsequent occupancy rates. We currently have a near 100% occupancy rate at our 43 houses. The average house serves approximately 1,000 families per year.

RATINGS

Fisher House Foundation is a well established not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we are nationally recognized as a premier non-profit with a four star Charity Navigator rating and an A+ from the American Institute of Philanthropy; of the 39 military/veterans charities rated in the December 2009 report, only four received an A+.

BOARD MEMBERS, IRS, TAX INFO

List of board members can be found at: www.fisherhouse.org/aboutUS/board
IRS letter can be found at: www.fisherhouse.org/aboutUS/irs
Our most recent tax return can be found at:
www.fisherhouse.org/aboutUs/FisherHouseTaxReturn_2007.pdf

FUNDING SUMMARY

Amount requested: \$5,000 to \$100,000

Proposed budget plan: Budget for the project is \$5,700,000, most of which is currently funded by the Fisher House Foundation although we request that the local community fund half the project cost.

CONTACT INFO

Fisher House Foundation, Inc, 111 Rockville Pike Suite 420, Rockville, MD 20850
Cindy Campbell, Community Liaison, 301-294-8560, ccampbell@fisherhouse.org
Web site: www.fisherhouse.org