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FISHER HOUSE FACTS

Overview: A Fisher House is “a home away from home” for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. The homes are normally located within walking distance of the treatment facility or have transportation available. There are 43 Fisher Houses located on 18 military installations and 13 VA medical centers. One more house is under construction.

Description: Typically, the houses are 5,000 to 16,000 square foot homes donated by Fisher House Foundation. Each house is designed to provide eight to 21 suites. All are professionally furnished and decorated in the tone and style of the local region. The houses can accommodate 16 to 42 family members. They feature a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room and an inviting living room with library, and toys for children. Newest houses are 100% handicap accessible and include elevators. A Fisher House is a temporary residence and is not a treatment facility, hospice or counseling center. The program began in 1990, and has offered more than 2-1/2 million days of lodging to more than 120,000 families.

Responsibilities: Fisher Houses are given to the U. S. Government as gifts. Military service secretaries and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the homes. The Fisher House Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, builds new houses, and assists in the coordination of private support and encourages public support for the homes.

Eligibility and Cost: Criteria established locally by hospital or installation commanders. Families do not pay to stay at a Fisher House. Fees at Army, Navy, and Air Force Fisher Houses are underwritten by Fisher House Foundation.

Volunteers: Fisher Houses have full-time salaried managers, but depend on volunteers and voluntary support to enhance daily operations and program expansion. The Fisher House Foundation, Inc., and many individual Fisher Houses receive support through the Combined Federal Campaign.

Major Programs: Fisher House Foundation facilitates several other major programs that help improve the lives of military families, including:

- ♥ Hero Miles Program
- ♥ Newman’s Own Award
- ♥ Scholarships for Military Children