

FISHER/NIGHTINGALE HOUSES, INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2023

PREPARED BY  
KIMBERLY LUSE





**Kimberly Luse**  
**Ed.D; RT(R)**  
**Executive Director**  
**Fisher/Nightingale**  
**Houses, Inc.**

## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This letter is one that I am honored to write. For those of you that I have not had a chance to meet yet, I am the new Executive Director of the Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc. (FNHI). In the Spring of 2023, a colleague shared a job posting with me, and told me that it appeared to him that the universe had created an opportunity to serve in a role that blended three areas that I value deeply. It was a turning point for me, as I began to learn about the compassionate care that is provided by The Fisher Houses to our military and veteran families during time of medical treatment. I am a medical professional by training and have found very meaningful work throughout my career supporting non-profit organizations. And my deep respect and affection for those who have served and are serving our country is a core value that I hold dear. Upon joining the FNHI team, I found a very supportive Board of Trustees and Advisors, a strong foundation of support from the partners and stakeholders in the region, and a deep commitment to this organization demonstrated by The Fisher House Foundation.

The Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world. The Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc. is a 501(c)3 that supports the three Greater-Dayton area Fisher Houses. There are two houses located on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and one located at the Dayton VA Medical Center. Collectively, they house 37-bedroom suites, which provides a total of 13,505 nights of lodging for their guests annually. The monies raised by the Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc. directly support the guests and operations of the three Greater-Dayton area houses.

As you peruse this report, your heart will be touched by the stories of the guests highlighted within these pages. Through their own words, these families describe the profound impact the support and care afforded to them through the Fisher Houses. There is a common phrase that is often seen in connection with Fisher Houses: "Because a family's love is good medicine." Having a support system while undergoing medical treatment has been proven to promote healing and recovery. At times, the patient may not recover. To quote a family member of one of the guests of the Fisher Houses in Greater Dayton in 2023 upon the passing of their son: "He may not have healed the way we had hoped he would, but we began to, as a family, because we were able to be here together." To highlight the positive contribution of our Greater-Dayton area Fisher Houses, we have chosen the theme, "Compassionate Care Heals" for our annual gala, this year being held on May 18th at Sinclair Conference Center. (<https://www.fnhi.org/cch2024/>)

This annual report demonstrates a robust financial picture for Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc. This is directly due to the generous support that we receive from individuals, organizations, and corporations alike. Donations come in monetary form, as well as in-kind from partners throughout 2023 that found us accepting shampoo, water, cookware, pillows and sheets, mops and vacuums, and everything in-between. Regional partners named us as a charity to donate round-up to the nearest dollar programs, and grants were given to support projects like the whole-house generator that is being installed at the Dayton VA Fisher House. Volunteers came by with hand-made afghans. Churches, AmVets posts, and other organizations named us as a recipient of activities to raise funds through auction items, golf outings, poker runs, the list goes on and on. The generosity for FNHI that helps us to continue to serve those who have served us all is in a word, overwhelming. We are grateful. We are also committed to being good stewards of all these gifts, and once again have earned a four-star rating with Charity Navigator, and a Platinum Transparency rating with Candid.

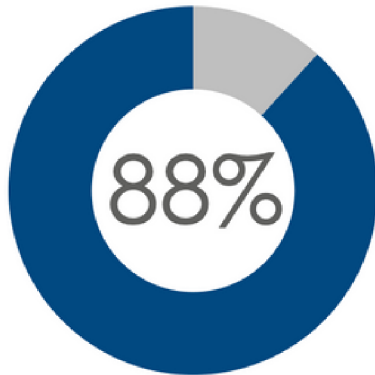
Enjoy the stories within this report. To learn more about the work that is supported by the gifts we receive, visit our website at [www.FNHI.Org](http://www.FNHI.Org). All the contact information you need is also located there. If I can be of any assistance as you explore all that Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc. is, let me know. I would welcome the chance to share all the blessings that, when combined, produce this amazing organization.

With sincere appreciation, Dr. Kimberly A. Luse

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHT

## Financial Statement Snapshot

Percentage of income spent

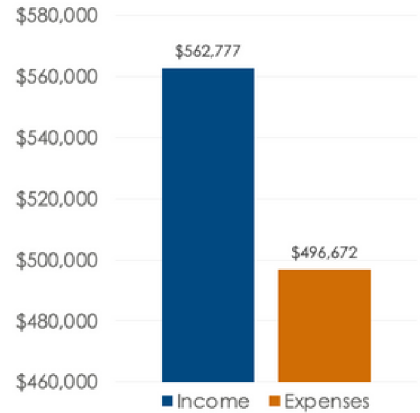


Summary

TOTAL 2023 INCOME  
\$562,777

TOTAL 2023 EXPENSES  
\$496,672

TOTAL 2023 Surplus  
\$66,105



### Net Assets

Beginning of last reported period \$3,583,668  
End of 1st reported period \$4,074,425

In-Kind Donations \$17,500  
Grants \$35,000

“If God made the people and things here at the Fisher House any better, he must have kept them for himself.”

“Fisher House is a real blessing. Everyone here is so pleasant and helpful. So grateful for everyone and everything.”

“The compassionate and caring staff reached out to us shortly after we were scheduled here, explaining things and answering questions. God bless them.”

Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc has been nationally recognized as a premier nonprofit with a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, and a Platinum Transparency from Candid.

We're rated by  
Charity Navigator!



Platinum  
Transparency  
2024

Candid.



**Isfandiyor (Diyor) Nishanov, NF-IV, CIV**  
*House Manager  
Fisher House I & II  
Wright-Patterson  
AFB, Dayton OH*

# Fisher House I & II Wright-Patterson AFB

— “ —  
I am proud to say I work at the Fisher House. Supporting our military and their families during the challenging times is an honorable duty for all of us here at Wright-Patterson AFB. We are always full of excitement and hope that the time here provides a sense of “home away from home”, filled with love and compassion.

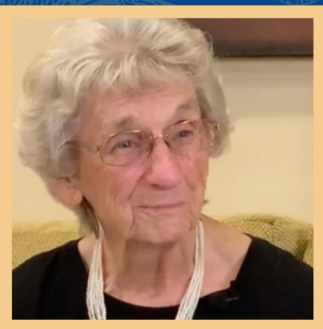
— ” —

**179**  
NEW  
FAMILIES

**297**  
TOTAL  
FAMILIES

**1796**  
OCCUPIED  
NIGHTS

**4.9**  
NIGHTS  
AVERAGE  
STAY



**Betty Franklin**  
*Fisher House Guest  
Wright-Patterson  
AFB*

In the middle of 2023, one of the two Fisher Houses at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was taken off-line for scheduled updates to the kitchen and all bathroom units. Under the direction of House Manager, Diyor Nishanov, the second Fisher House there continued to serve the guests, and the construction for the first house is right on track. They served 179 new families and had a total of 297 families accommodated in 2023. There were 1,796 occupied guest nights for the year with an average stay of 4.9 days. One particular guest stays less than the average number of days per visit, but has the distinction of being the only guest at the base that has stayed in the original Nightingale House, which was housing available prior to the construction of the Fisher Houses, and then at both Fisher House I and Fisher House II. Betty Franklin has been coming to the hospital on the base for nearly three decades after a diagnosis in the early 1990s. Often, Mrs. Franklin comes on a monthly basis, coming now from several hundred miles away to continue her care with her medical team, driven by her husband Herbert, a retired Air Force Veteran. The Fisher Houses share a goal, which is to be a “Home Away From Home.” Betty describes her time at the compassionate care houses as one where you are part of the family. She states, “The Nightingale House, the Fisher Houses, and the care of the team at the hospital have made my cancer journey much more bearable. I simply couldn’t have asked for anything better.” She and her husband enjoy their family, which now is five generations strong.

# Fisher House Dayton VA Medical Center



**Betsey Stribel**  
*House Manager*  
**Fisher House Dayton  
VA Medical Center**

— “ —

Being a Fisher House manager is a dream position to have. I am honored every single day to support our nation’s heroes and their loved ones. Fisher House is such a special place. I am approaching my 10 year anniversary of managing a Fisher House and I cannot imagine doing anything else. We want our community of veterans to know that we are here to support their loved ones, to make their journey in the hospital a little bit easier.

— ” —

**420**

NEW  
FAMILIES

**590**

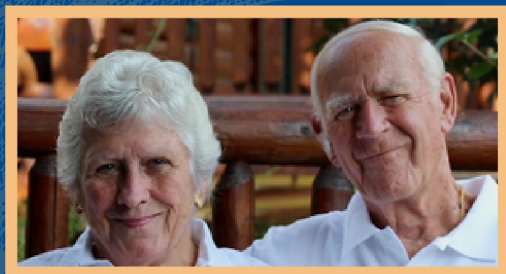
NEW  
INDIVIDUAL  
GUESTS

**1999**

OCCUPIED  
NIGHTS

**3.6**

NIGHTS  
AVERAGE  
STAY



**FAYE AND LEO HEATLEY**  
*Fisher House Guests*  
**Dayton VA Medical Center**

“It’s been a godsend. I don’t know what I would’ve done.” – Faye Heatley

Leo Heatley is an 88 year-old Navy veteran who lives in Osprey, Florida. He and his wife, Faye, were travelling from their home to their cabin in Michigan in early September, 2023. Leo was driving, and they decided to stop in Tipp City for the evening to rest. After checking into the hotel, Leo went out to take a walk. When he didn’t return, and didn’t answer Faye’s phone calls, she panicked. Her fears were realized when the Tipp City Police knocked on the door. Leo had been struck by a car in a crosswalk, and was seriously injured. Faye reported that she didn’t even recognize him at the hospital and was in a state of shock, unsure what to do or where to go. To quote Faye, “And then this angel appeared—a social worker—and she told us about the Fisher House. And it’s been a godsend. I don’t know what I would’ve done.” Leo had to remain in the hospital for weeks, and had intensive physical therapy. During that time, Faye and Leo’s children came to visit and stayed as guests as well. Because of the support of the Fisher House, Faye was with her husband every step of the way. They were able to return home a few days before Thanksgiving, and Leo is expected to make a full recovery. Quoting Faye once again, “If I couldn’t have stayed here, I don’t think he would have made it.”

# 2023 Donation and Fundraising Highlights



Fisher-Nightingale Houses, Inc. extends heartfelt gratitude to our generous community for their invaluable donations. Your unwavering support ensures that we can continue providing a home away from home for military families during their time of need. Your contributions directly impact the lives of those who sacrifice so much for our country, offering comfort, support, and a sense of belonging when it's needed most. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of our service members and their loved ones, and we are deeply thankful for your kindness and generosity.

# A Special Thank You



**Chris Stanley**  
*Executive Director*  
**2001-2023**

2023 marked the departure of FNHI's long time Executive Director Christopher P. Z. Stanley who retired after 22 years of outstanding service in that role. After retiring from the Air Force as a Senior Master Sergeant, Chris began his work with FNHI in 2001 as its part-time Executive Director. He assumed the position full-time on November 1, 2016. During his leadership, Chris was responsible for raising nearly \$12 million, which included over \$1 million for the construction of Fisher House II at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and \$1.5 million for construction of the Fisher House at the Dayton VA Medical Center. In recognition of his extraordinary efforts supporting the quality of life of military service men, women, and their families, the Fisher House Foundation presented Chris with its Patriot Award at his retirement dinner. He will spend his retirement enjoying time with his wife, 4 children and 16 grandchildren.

## OVER 12 MILLION DOLLARS

RAISED FOR OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT OF THE DAYTON  
AREA FISHER HOUSES  
PATRIOT AWARD WINNER

**FNHI extends its sincere appreciation to Chris for everything he did for the Fisher Houses and every life he touched in the process.**



# FISHER/NIGHTINGALE HOUSES, INC. EXECUTIVE BOARD

The first volunteer Board was formed shortly after opening the Nightingale House. It provided financial support and insured the future of the founders' dream for an affordable on base home-away-from-home for military families in medical crisis. In 1990 these dedicated founders, led by Captain Gretchen Lizza, established and became the first members of the Nightingale House Support Association, a private, non-profit charitable organization. This Board assisted in fundraising, staffing the house with volunteers and made all financial decisions.

The Board's sole mission is to raise funds to support compassionate care lodging for patients and their families receiving critical medical treatment at the Wright-Patterson Medical Center and the Dayton VA Medical Center. The Fisher Houses are owned, managed, and supported financially by the Air Force/Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc. donates funds to the Air Force/DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs to support the guests and operations of the three Greater-Dayton areas Fisher Houses.

The partnership between the Board, the House managers, the volunteers and the Air Force/DOD and Department of Veterans Affairs has been essential to the success of the Wright-Patterson AFB and Dayton VA Fisher Houses. Together, we have accomplished great things – together, we are making a difference!

## 2023 Executive Board Members

President	Jeffrey (Jeff) Owens
Vice President	Michael (Mike) Beauchamp
Secretary	Pamela Piccoli
Treasurer	Patrick (Pat) Fillingim
Legal Council	Anthony (Tony) Dattilo
1st Trustee-at-Large	Larry Johnson
2nd Trustee-at-Large	John Taffany
3rd Trustee-at-Large	William (Bill) Records
4th Trustee-at-Large	Joani Reynolds
5th Trustee-at-Large	Dan Sagraves
Media Relations Trustee	Kim Frisco

## 2023 Executive Board Liaisons & Contributors

Dayton VA Medical Center Director's Liaison	Bobette Hart-Nelms
88th Force Support Squadron Liaisons	Audric Bills & Nancy Adams
Executive Director	Kimberly Luse



**FISHER~NIGHTINGALE HOUSES**  
Touching Lives with Compassion at Wright-Patterson Medical Center & the VA Medical Center, Dayton, Ohio