

FISHER-NIGHTINGALE HOUSES, INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2024

PREPARED BY  
KIMBERLY LUSE

# Message from the Executive Director



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

Dear Friends,

It has been another remarkable year for Fisher-Nightingale Houses, Inc. (FNHI), a year of robust growth and renewed commitment towards our vital mission - providing support to the Greater-Dayton Area Fisher Houses. With the unwavering dedication of supporters like you, we have made some tremendous strides.

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. FNHI 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 provide a total of 13,505 nights of lodging for their guests annually. The monies and gifts received by FNHI directly support the three Greater-Dayton area houses.

In 2024, FNHI moved forward with several initiatives that have improved our ability to continue to be good stewards of our gifts and to more effectively share our story. A visit to [www.FNHI.org](http://www.FNHI.org) will reveal a new website that is interactive and full of the latest activities for FNHI. Our logo has been updated to proudly display the Wright B Flyer, which is instantly recognizable as a symbol of Dayton, Ohio. We launched our first ever Young Professionals Group. The dynamic men and women who have stepped forward to join the group and support FNHI have brought new ideas and approaches that have quickly become a vital resource for our organization.

Our financial picture continues to be an industry-leader. We have once again earned a four-star rating with Charity Navigator and a Platinum Transparency rating with Candid. Additionally, we have been honored to be nominated for The Torch Award for Ethics by the Better Business Bureau serving Dayton and the Miami Valley. Being good stewards of the gifts given to us is our highest priority. It is those very gifts that allow us to continue to support those who have served us all.

I know you will enjoy the passages in this report. Beyond the statistics you will find personal stories that demonstrate exactly how meaningful the Fisher Houses are to Greater Dayton, and why the work that FNHI is doing remains so vital. Please accept my personal invitation to join us at our annual gala, Compassionate Care Heals, on April 26th, 2025, at The Sinclair Conference Center where you can experience all things FNHI in person. Information regarding the gala can be found at [www.fnhi.org/cchgala25/](http://www.fnhi.org/cchgala25/).

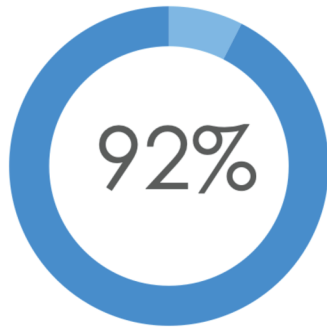
If I can be of service to you, please reach out. It is my greatest honor to share all there is to learn about FNHI, and how you can participate in our collective journey.

With sincere appreciation, Dr. Kimberly A. Luse



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHT

## Financial Statement Snapshot



### Net Assets

Beginning of last reported period: \$4,074,425  
End of current reported period: \$4,454,716

### Summary

TOTAL 2024 FUNDRAISING INCOME

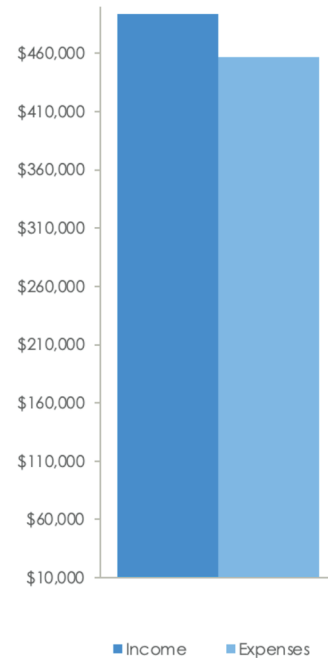
\$493,572

Total 2024 Dayton Houses Expenses

\$456,541

Total 2024 Surplus

\$37,031



"I was completely surprised by how wonderful this place is. Staff here are super nice and helpful to me and my family. I am so grateful I can do my surgery here. Thank you!"

"Thank you for such a wonderful stay. We arrived Sunday and I had surgery Tuesday. I was given the gift of sight via implanted contact lenses! We are very grateful to the Fisher House!"

"Thank you for allowing our family to stay during our service member's surgery. Everything was nice and the staff was so friendly... This was truly a blessing."

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**  
*House Manager*  
*Fisher House I & II*  
*Wright-Patterson*  
*AFB*

## 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.



220

NEW  
FAMILIES

339

TOTAL  
FAMILIES

1821

OCCUPIED  
NIGHTS

5.5

NIGHTS  
AVERAGE  
STAY

## Fisher House Dayton VA Medical Center



I am honored to be a part of the Fisher House mission at the Dayton VA Medical Center. It is such a privilege to be able to support the loved one’s of our Veterans. With the help of FNHI, we are able to take extra special care of each Fisher House guest during some of life’s most challenging times. Fisher House is such a special place, not only a home with beautiful accommodations, but a place that also takes care of the heart, providing comfort, compassion and support.



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

511

NEW  
FAMILIES

680

NEW  
INDIVIDUAL  
GUESTS

2518

OCCUPIED  
NIGHTS

3.6

NIGHTS  
AVERAGE  
STAY

# Guest Stories

## Karen Gannon

In the Spring of 2020, Karen Gannon experienced extreme difficulty breathing leading to a medical crisis that would require extensive and ongoing medical intervention. With monthly treatments taking more than one day to administer, and the WPAFB Medical Center more than an hour from their home, Karen and Chris found themselves either checking into a hotel at a significant expense, or driving back and forth for two days, increasing the stress and toll of each treatment.



That was when Chris learned about the Fisher House. To quote Karen, "We were welcomed with open arms at the Fisher House. My goodness, they found out I drink a lot of water, and every time I show up, they tell me that they even have my water bottles ready for me." Because of the comfort provided by the Fisher House, Karen and Chris no longer worry about accommodations each month, allowing them to remain focused solely on healing, with a positive outlook for the future.

Day 1

Apr 24'

Hello! It's my first time here in Ohio. (I mean I've passed through but never really stayed. I'm coming Chicago. Came to this very Sunny State to get Lasik and my HMI told me about the Fisher House. God bless the people who came up w/ the idea, the people who built it, and the people that work here. I'm so very grateful that a place like this exist!

I'm staying w/ my Parents so I'm just waiting for Surgery day. YAY! no more glasses! I'll make sure to write my whole process here : but I think I'm gonna explode :)

August 6, 2024

Checked in with my mom for surgery at Wright-Patterson Hospital. This place is awesome. That we had a safe, very comfortable place to stay was enough, but the EXTRAS! The well stocked kitchen & laundry room, the very pleasant staff. Thank you for everything!

P.S. Also thank you to the people who support this facility, the woman who brings homemade muffins on Tuesdays, the fresh produce that shows up. Kind & Generous Americans!

31 MAR 24 - (STAYED FROM 26 MAR 24 - 01 APR 24)

THIS IS SUCH A LOVELY PLACE, I HAD A WONDERFUL STAY HERE. VERY CLEAN, KIND, GENEROUS, AND HOSPITABLE. I WILL DEFINITELY BE KEEPING FISHER HOUSE IN MIND TO STAY AT IF I HAVE ANOTHER SURGERY. THIS WAS BETTER THAN A HOTEL!! THANK YOU SO MUCH, - MARIS ARVIN YOUNG

EM2, USN ☺❤

THIS PLACE HAS FAR EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS!!

20-may-2024 — 23-may-2024

To whoever stays here and reads this,

I have had the most enjoyable time here at the Fisher House, I've been greeted everyday and have had amazing interactions with the staff here. This place does truly feel like a home away from home. I came here because I had refractive eye surgery and everything went well and the staff even gave me some tips on how to store my medicine so it was more convenient for me. This place has been an all around great experience and bitter-sweet to leave such a cozy place.

# A Special Thank You

FNHI wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to our founding and longest-serving board member, Joani Reynolds. 2024 marked the end of a tenure that lasted twenty-three years in continuous service to our non-profit. During this time Joani assisted in many fundraising events and was instrumental in the success of the annual All American Evening. She helped organize and transition that beloved event to the Compassionate Care Heals gala that debuted in her last year of service. She recruited and mentored new board members and endlessly networked to connect people and organizations to our important work.



**Joani Reynolds**  
**2001-2024**

Today Joani remains an active volunteer in the Greater Dayton area and is dedicated to promoting a healthier and more balanced lifestyle by teaching yoga classes in the community. FNHI is a better organization because of Joani's decade's-long contributions. We are grateful.

## Our Mission



Fisher-Nightingale Houses, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization established to provide financial support for the Dayton, Ohio, area Fisher House compassionate care facilities located on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and on the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus. We provide financial support to the national Fisher House Foundation which builds the comfort homes across the United States and overseas. The organization also works to educate and inform the public in the Miami Valley about the availability and benefits of the Fisher Houses.

## Our Vision

Have well-supported, Greater-Dayton area Fisher Houses that are known to the public as compassionate care homes for the military and their families during times of medical need.

# 2024 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 is 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.

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 Fisher House compassionate care lodging for patients and their families receiving critical medical treatment.

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!

## 2025 Executive Board Members

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Legal Council

1st Trustee-at-Large

2nd Trustee-at-Large

3rd Trustee-at-Large

4th Trustee-at-Large

5th Trustee-at-Large

Media Relations Trustee

Jeffrey (Jeff) Owens

Michael (Mike) Beauchamp

John Taffany

Patrick (Pat) Fillingim

Anthony (Tony) Dattilo

Larry Johnson

Micah Thompson

William (Bill) Records

Chet Cooper

Dan Sagraves

Pamela Piccoli (Appointed)

## 2025 Executive Board Liaisons & Contributors

Dayton VA Medical Center Director's Liaison

88th Force Support Squadron Liaison

Executive Director

Bobette Hart-Nelms

Audric Bills, Director

Kimberly Luse



**FISHER-NIGHTINGALE HOUSES**

Touching Lives with Compassion at Wright-Patterson Medical Center & the VA Medical Center, Dayton, Ohio