



# Because of *Friends* Like You!



## Message From the President, Rocco Bagala

Memorial Day is a day set aside to remember and honor the U.S. Military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. We, at Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound, dedicate this newsletter to honor our donors and community partners. We thank you for your heartfelt support of the mission of the Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound. Your generous contributions provide our four Washington State Fisher Houses with the necessary resources to care for the families and loved ones of hospitalized Service members and Veterans.

This past year, we celebrated Vancouver’s many years of service with a celebratory open house, a Dancing With Our Heroes event, and welcomed new assistant house manager Christine Morgan. Our Seattle Fisher House continues to work on restoring the outdoor guest area, making much-needed repairs and preparing for indoor refurbishment. JBLM completed bathroom tiling and welcomed new operations assistants, Emily Bonilla and Jennifer Hembrador. A busy 2024 year!

With great appreciation, we thank you for your continued commitment, partnership, and contributions to Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound. It is your support that creates 'a home away from home' for our active Military and Veteran families, their loved ones, and caregivers.

Memorial Day May 27, 2024

We Honor and Celebrate Our Heroes

### Board of Directors

- Rocco Bagala - President
- John Park - Treasurer
- Joel Wirasnik - Secretary
- Gail Eck and Alan Myers - Directors
- Viviana Davis - Advisory
- Melanie Simmons - Advisory
- Elizabeth Wirasnik - Executive Director

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Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound because a family’s love is good medicine!



## Special Thanks to Aly Teeter, Ballard-Eagleson, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3068

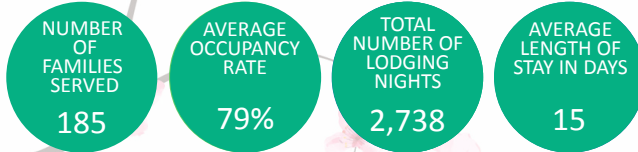
Ballard Eagleson, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3063, under the direction of esteemed and gracious Commander Alyson Teeter, is a service-oriented organization that supports its membership, Veterans, their families, and the community. The post’s mission is to foster camaraderie among United States Veterans of overseas conflicts from all service eras—the Military, our communities—and to provide support through advocacy. During 2022-2024, Post 3068 participated in over 20 community events, helping to bridge the Civilian-Veteran divide.

Examples include: partnering with BloodWorksNW to host quarterly blood drives; participating in the 17th of May Parade Fremont Solstice, Ballard SeafoodFest, Daybreak Star Veterans Powwow, UW ROTC, Fremont Rotary, and Mayor Community Connection events; sponsoring the Post Open House; organizing two community mural events with the Mayor, Seahawks; supporting Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound with donations; and rolling up their sleeves to assist with the Seattle Fisher House outdoor guest area project.

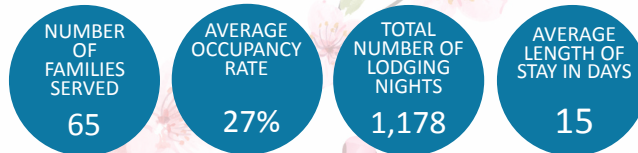


# Because of Friends Like You Donor Impact 2024

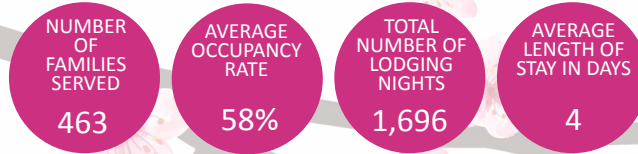
## SEATTLE



## JBLM



## PORTLAND



## Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound

### Our priorities for guest programs and services:

- Provide a well-stocked kitchen with groceries, food & beverages for everyday meals & snacks, holidays & special events, cookware, dishes, utensils, paper products, and cleaning supplies
- Provide the basic comforts of home: a private bedroom with linens, private bathroom and supplies, personal care items, laundry room
- Provide clean, safe, and healing indoor and outdoor spaces
- Access to transportation to accompany hospitalized loved ones
- Access to technology similar to home: internet, satellite TV, computer
- Provide a sense of camaraderie, family, and normalcy; compassionate care

## Here is How You Can Help!

Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound is solely reliant on YOUR donations. Thank you! Your contributions support Military and Veteran families today and will continue to do so in the future.

### Here is how you can help:

- Donate by mail, at a local Fisher House, or online: [fisherhousevaps.org/donation-form](http://fisherhousevaps.org/donation-form)
- Employee giving, matching gifts, workplace fundraisers, combined federal & cause marketing campaigns, business % retail sales.
- Memorials: Honor the life of a loved one by making a donation in their memory or creating a memory page for others to donate to.

### Contact your financial advisor if you are interested in donating in one of the ways below:

- Donor Advised Fund (DAF), required minimum distribution, tribute gift, or family foundation.
- Estate Planning: Include a gift in your estate to Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound.

## Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound

Our mission is to ease the burden on our active Military, Veterans, and their families during difficult times.

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in Washington State, Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound, works to raise funds and awareness in support of the four Fisher Houses in the Puget Sound region. We are grateful for your partnership with us!

Charity Navigator 100% Candid



-Charity Navigator, a charity assessment organization, has certified Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound highly impactful with a perfect score of 100% in the following categories: fiscal responsibility, financial efficiency, sustainability, trustworthiness, and best practices for accountability and transparency.

-Candid is a public charity that collects, organizes, and presents information on non-profits. Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound has earned a 'Gold Transparency Seal' for its mission, legitimacy, impact, reputation, finances, programs, transparency, and governance.



# Our Friends of Fisher House Family Tree



**VA Puget Sound  
Health Care System  
Seattle, Washington**



**Glen Boje  
Seattle VA**

Assistant Manager  
"I appreciate the chance to reciprocate and gift back the incredible acts of kindness I received."



**Mark Debenport  
Seattle VA**

House Manager  
"I enjoy speaking with Veterans and their families about their Military experiences and places they have lived around the world."

**VA Portland  
Health Care System  
Vancouver, Washington**



**James Dorce'  
Portland VA**

House Manager  
"The courage displayed by our Veterans and family members always amazes me. Each family is unique, with its own struggles and heartache. I am proud and honored to know that our team at the VA Portland Fisher House makes an impactful difference in their lives."



**Christine Morgan  
Portland VA**

New Assistant Manager  
"The Fisher House is rewarding work. It is important to provide comfort to a Veteran by taking care of his or her family, during their medical stay."

**Joint Base Lewis-McChord  
Fisher Houses I & II  
Washington**



**Vattana Garcia  
JBLM**

Business Manager  
"This position is much more than a job. I am committed to provide compassionate support for our Military families."



**Emily Bonilla  
JBLM**

New Operations Asst.  
"I pride myself in serving and helping families in our Military community as they are going through a difficult situation."

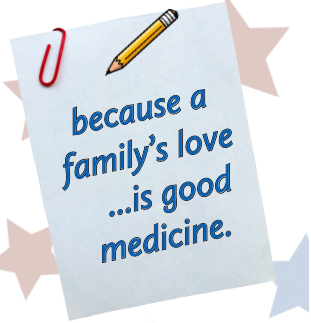


**Jennifer Hembrador  
JBLM**

New Operations Asst.  
"My commitment is aiding & understanding families in our Military community."

# Words of Appreciation from Our Guest Families

## Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound



- "Thank you for taking care of us so we can take care of our loved ones."

- "There are not enough words to explain the blessing that Fisher House Puget Sound has been for our family. We all know that we could not have spent time by my son's side through this unexpected, unwanted detour in his life without this support. All the team members at the Fisher House are kind, compassionate individuals. The Lockhart family will never forget and never stop talking about the Fisher House, and we will remind everyone we know to make donations. We pray that God sends angels to surround the Fisher House and all those inside. ~ From the bottom of our hearts, we humbly thank all of you, Rich (my son), Richard (husband), and Mary."

- "Thank you for the hospitality and ease of being able to visit my mother during her hospitalization and treatment. A true blessing."

- "I love staying here at the Fisher House. Everyone is so nice and helpful. It is wonderful to be so well taken care of when your loved one is going through so much. Thank you for this warm, caring, supportive community house. Staying here lifts many worries off my mind—a tremendous gift, so I can concentrate on caring for my husband."

- "Thank you so much for your gracious and hospitable furnishings and incredible free meals at the Fisher House and on the hospital campus. A beautiful place to stay free of charge, at absolutely no cost to us. This allowed easy access to hospital visits. Thank you to those who support us during our time of need. Such a beautiful and comfy place!"



- "Thanks again for being here when I needed you. We are deeply grateful."

- "Thank you to Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound for caring for Veterans and their loved ones. For saying to us, thank you for your service; welcome home."



### Seattle Fisher House, JBLM Fisher Houses I & II, Vancouver Fisher House

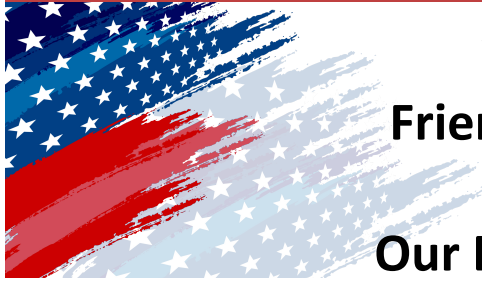


### Because a family's love is good medicine!

"The Seattle Fisher House was a tremendous blessing to myself and my family. Everyone was extremely helpful and caring during my brother's illness. We were able to visit, encourage, advocate, pray, and support Stanley. We were able to concentrate on providing comfort to our brother. We became friends with other Military families in the house; this was helpful to us during our journey. Following his unexpected passing, the Seattle Fisher House continued to provide support and comfort. My family is grateful and blessed for the service provided by the VA Puget Sound Health Care System Fisher House located in Seattle, and Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound." ~ Cynthia Kendrick

Above top left: Samuel Kendrick holding his brother Stanley Kendrick's Memorial Flag, with Cynthia Kendrick





# With Heartfelt Appreciation, Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound Proudly Honors YOU- Our Donors and Community Partners!



Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound extends its sincere thanks for your commitment to support a 'home away from home' for the families and loved ones of our hospitalized service members—active Military and Veterans, those receiving necessary medical care. It is your tremendous generosity, gifts of love and compassion, and the sharing of your time and talents that create, build, and nurture our Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound family. We do not have room to honor all of our donors by name in our newsletters, but we have highlighted a few of our benevolent business community partners.



**"We would love to tackle this project. It is important to Veteran families & the community."**

~Wesley King, Regional Operations Manager

The Mission Continues is a national non-profit that empowers Veterans to continue serving in our nation's under-resourced communities, giving Veterans the opportunity to keep serving even after the uniform comes off, right here at home. Our programs deploy Veterans and volunteers to work alongside nonprofit partners and community leaders to improve educational resources, tackle food insecurity, foster neighborhood identity, and more.

## Burien Bark LLC

**"Happy to support the work you do; happy to support the community!"**

Landscape Material, Retail and Seed, Recycling & Delivery Services  
13258 1st Ave S, Unit E; Burien, WA 98168  
burienbark.com (206) 242-6567



**Lowe's, Issaquah "We'll take care of you!"**  
**Home Depot, Issaquah "We are here for you!"**

## Black Raven Brewing Co.



Black Raven Brewery picks up the mantle and is now the producer of the new KISW 99.9

"The Rock" Men's Room IPA beer.

**"This charity is near to my heart. The beer is different, but the mission is the same to: raise funds and support Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound."**

~Kathryn "Kat" Gillespie, Founder/Co-Owner  
Woodinville, WA & Redmond, WA Tap Rooms  
blackravenbrewing.com (425) 881-3020



**"We are passionate about we do to support active Military and Veteran families, and Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound!"**

Jessi Aillon, Owner, Area Director  
6520 SE Rosewood Street  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
lakeoswego@fredastaire.com  
(971) 255-1918



**The Renton Printery, Thanks Rich!**  
info@rentonprintery.com (425) 235-1776

# Because a family's love is good medicine!

## Uli's Famous Sausage

"Thank you...

Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound!"

"There are thousands of ways to cook with Uli's Famous Sausage but only one requirement - cook with your heart. Uli gives back to the community.

ulifamoussausage.com (206)-839-1000



## San Juan Salsa Company

"Thank you for the opportunity to support!"

Chip, Salsa, Repeat!

6015 192nd Street Northeast

Arlington, Washington 98223

Sandy Albright, Owner

sanjuansalsa.com (360) 435-2100



## Grit Concrete Design

"We want to help! This is important."

Hand-crafted countertops, sinks, fire features, furniture, for inside and outside your home.

info@GritConcreteDesign.com (206) 409-6786



Grit Concrete Design

## Limback Lumber

85th Birthday! 3rd Gen Family Owned

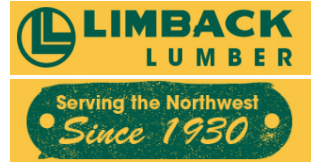
"We will take care of you!"

You can count on us."

2600 N.W. Market St.

Seattle, WA 98107

limbacklumber.com (206) 782-3487



## PAVINGSTONE SUPPLY

4401 11th Ave NW

Seattle, WA 98107

info@pavingstonesupply.com (206) 783-2811 or toll free (1-866) 888-2811

"Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound is involved and supportive of the community. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service and participate!"



## Moreno's Landscaping Services

"Your home is my home. I make sure everything is taken care of and properly cared for. I will make everything beautiful!"

(206) 551-4706

morenoslandscaping4706@gmail.com



## Domino's Pizza

"We would love to help!!"

4436 Rainier Ave S.

Seattle, WA 98118

www.dominos.com

(206) 721-5596



"We exist to improve our customers' business and the community around us."

valoremreply.com (855) 864-9929



**PepsiCo** beverage donation to JBLM, Seattle, and soon Vancouver!

**Sealy** mattress donation good night's sleep!

## Tacoma Tool Library

"Do it yourself...together!"

facebook.com/tacomatoolibrary/

(954) 866-5253 (954-TOOL-253)



## Shout Out to Elysian!

Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound is deeply grateful to Elysian.

Elysian Brewing Company has worked in partnership with our organization for over 10 years to support our 'home away from home' mission for active Military and Veteran families. We sincerely appreciate their years of tremendous generosity, from 2013 to 2023. We wish Elysian continued success.

**Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound**

PO Box 18253

Seattle, Washington 98118

(206) 501 - 8860

Webstie: [www.fisherhousevaps.org](http://www.fisherhousevaps.org)

Email: [friends@fisherhousevaps.org](mailto:friends@fisherhousevaps.org)

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**FRIENDS OF FISHER HOUSE PUGET SOUND a 501(c)(3)**



**Friends of Flisher House Puget Sound**  
**Because a family's love is good medicine!**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone if you want to be called: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound

( ) This gift is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) This gift is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) If you would like to notify someone that you have made an honorary or memorial gift, please provide the name(s) and address(es) so we can send a note on your behalf.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

( ) This gift is anonymous. Please do not list my name in any published texts.

( ) I was a guest of Fisher House.

( ) I would like to make a recurring gift using a VISA or MASTERCARD.

**Please mail checks payable to:**  
**Friends of Fisher House**  
**Puget Sound**  
**PO Box 18253**  
**Seattle, Washington 98118**

**You may also give online at:**  
**[fisherhousevaps.org/donation-form](http://fisherhousevaps.org/donation-form)**  
**Click on the "Donate" button.**

*Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound is a 501 (c) (3) duly registered in Washington State.  
Federal Tax Identification #86-1175590*

