

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Fisher House Friends of Houston is Established as the Official Charity Supporting Military and Veterans' Families Staying at Fisher Houses located in Houston

The New Not-For-Profit Organization Provides Funding and Services for Fisher Houses of Houston and the Military and Veterans' Families that Stay There While Loved Ones are Receiving Medical Treatment

HOUSTON, TX (05/01/17) – Fisher House Friends of Houston (FHFOH) has just announced its establishment as the new 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization supporting the needs of Fisher Houses of Houston. The Houses provide free, temporary accommodations for military and veterans' families while their loved ones (active-duty service members and veterans) are undergoing treatment at Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) and other neighboring medical facilities.

The all-volunteer charity will seek donations and provide services specifically for the three Fisher Houses of Houston, located on the VA campus (the third home opens this month). FHFOH's first major in-kind donation is from <u>Texas Mattress Makers</u>. This Houston-based company is donating high quality mattresses and box springs to all of the suites in Fisher House I, as part of the House's complete refurnishing program.

FHFOH goals for 2017 include the purchase of a new six-passenger, climate-controlled, electric shuttle to transport guests from Fisher Houses I, II and III to the MEDVAMC. Future projections include the financing and construction of supply-storage facilities, the underwriting of a maintenance service for the on-site Business Center, and a food coordinator for the House kitchens. FHFOH is also working to enhance the food contribution sources for Fisher House guests by reaching out to the many restaurant groups in Houston that support the military community. Throughout May, Fisher House Friends of Houston will also be featured on KPRC-TV, Houston's NBC affiliate, as part of their Military Appreciation Month promotion.

"We look forward to working with Houstonians, local businesses and organizations to build increased awareness of Fisher House Houston," said Robert Scruggs, President of Fisher House Friends of Houston. "When military families are most in need, Fisher House plays a vital role in their care and we invite the Houston community to join us in supporting those contributions."

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About Fisher House Foundation

Fisher House Foundation is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide, and in Europe, close to the medical center or hospital it serves. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room and an inviting living room. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$360+ million in out of pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

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