



The Friends Focus! Fall 2023 Newsletter

Meet **HEATHER FRANTZ**, **Pittsburgh Fisher House Manager**



Heather Frantz would be hard pressed to describe her typical day as the Manager of the Pittsburgh Fisher House, but it would be super easy to identify her top priority – hands down, it would be making sure Fisher House families are comfortable and have what they need! When family members and caregivers walk through the doors into the Pittsburgh Fisher House, Heather and her team are there to greet them, hug them if they need it, and get them settled. Most families travel from out of town and are focused on helping their loved ones in the VA hospital. The warm welcome, friendly faces, and caring temperament set the tone for each guest's stay at the house.

Given this family first attitude, Heather spends her time overseeing the day-to-day actions, both large and small, that make the Fisher House a “home away from home” for the guests. She works with Fisher House Foundation, the VA staff, and the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House to make sure that the big items are taken care of – things like keeping food and supplies stocked, scheduling renovations and interior updates, coordinating with staff for maintenance needs and facility upkeep, and ensuring the common areas, room suites and facilities remain at the highest standards of comfort. Heather also ensures many of the personal touches for guests – like decorating for the holidays, celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and catering special occasions, or working with the wonderful volunteers who come to Fisher House to bake, clean, and keep the landscaping in bloom. When you stay at the Pittsburgh Fisher House, you can be sure Heather has seen to it that you are supported with thoughtful, caring gestures that will make your stay a little easier.



Pictured left to right: Terry Sanders, Mary Ellen Austin, Alejandro Villanueva, Heather Frantz & Tessa Paivanas.

Heather summarizes it best...

"Managing the Pittsburgh Fisher House has been an incredible experience for me and one that I have truly loved. I have shared laughter, tears, grief, happiness, and celebrations with so many guests who have walked through our doors and I have seen some of our guests through the worst and best days of their lives and these families have most definitely had a lasting impact on me and our staff. I am so grateful to our full team – we all work together to make the Fisher House a wonderful experience."

Heather makes a difference in the lives of all who walk through the doors of the Pittsburgh Fisher House!

THE SECRET INGREDIENT IS LOVE!

[Pittsburgh Fisher House](#)
[See How Fisher Houses Help Heroes Heal](#)



PA VFW and VFW AUXILIARY PITCH IN FOR FOPFH!

"Nobody does more for veterans than VFW!" That's the slogan of the VFW and the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House know this all too well! Since FOPFH opened in 2012, the PA VFW and PA VFW Auxiliary Posts have been steadfast in their support of our mission to ease the burden of veterans and their families. Most recently, the PA VFW and VFW Auxiliary rallied their members to donate to the capital campaign to build a second Fisher House in Pennsylvania. This second house will potentially add 5,840 room nights per year for families and caregivers of veterans who travel to receive healthcare at one of the two VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's campuses in Pittsburgh. We are thankful to Henry Mannella and Sandra Wilder, who during their terms leading the VFW and VFW Aux respectively, designated the Fisher House capital campaign, *Helping Heroes Heal*, as their special projects. Since beginning the capital campaign in 2020, the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House has received nearly \$150,000 in donations from VFW and VFW Auxiliary Posts across the state.



THANK YOU, PA VFW and VFW AUXILIARY for all you do for veterans and their families and THANK YOU for all you do for the Pittsburgh Fisher House!

[Learn more about the Capital Campaign, "Helping Heroes Heal"](#)



"THANK YOU! THANK YOU FOR THIS WONDERFUL PLACE!"

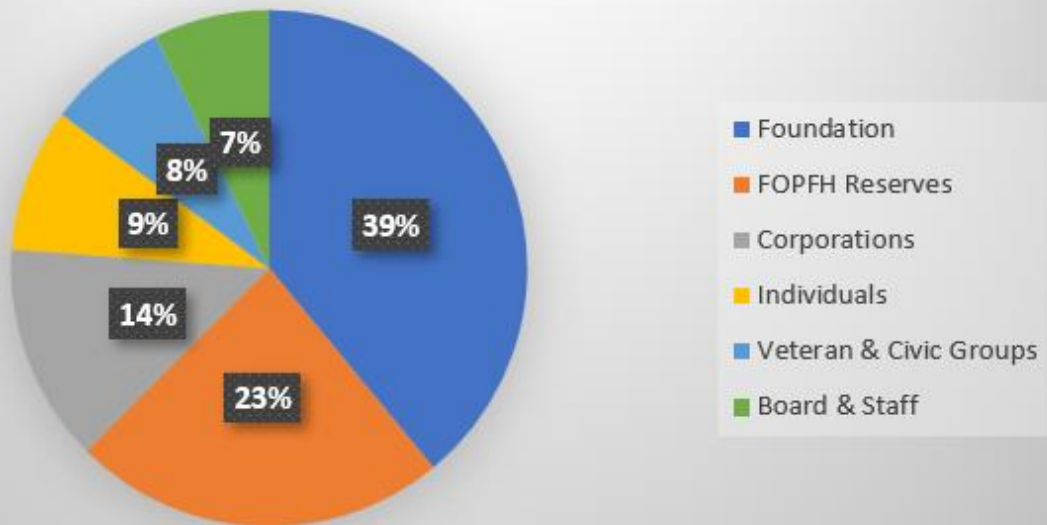
"Guestimonials!" We receive them regularly at the Pittsburgh Fisher House. But when you think about who stays at the Pittsburgh Fisher House, you may not know them personally. You don't know their names or see their faces. What you do know is that they are families and caregivers of veterans who served our country. You know they are people who made sacrifices along the way to support a loved one in the military. They are spouses, siblings, sons, daughters, caregivers, neighbors, and friends. You know Fisher House guests might be experiencing a difficult situation with a veteran in hospice, recovery, long-term care, or traveling with a loved one for an important medical procedure. At the Pittsburgh Fisher House, the guests are comforted, respected, and supported. They meet others who might be experiencing similar difficulties. They can rely on staff and meet other guests to help get through the hard times. The Fisher House considers it a privilege to provide families with a free home away from home. You make our work possible!

[Read Our Guestimonials](#) ** [See Our Friends in Action](#)



What a Year We've Had So Far in Fundraising for the 2nd House!
As of September 1, FOPFH has raised \$1.7M toward its \$3M local goal!
THANK YOU!

\$1.7 Million Raised by FOPFH for Second Pittsburgh Fisher House



SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28!

GIVING TUESDAY and **GIVE BIG PITTSBURGH** are just around the corner! Be sure to add these special days of giving to your end-of-year calendar for charitable giving! It's a good time to create a recurring gift and show your support for the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House!

[Click Here to Add Giving Tuesday to Your Calendar](#)



Ways You Can Help Heroes Heal....

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Host a Meal](#)

[Wish List](#)

Give Through United Way #12839585

Give Through CFC Payroll Donations #52712

Workplace Giving - Does Your Employer Match Gifts?

Tell Your Friends About Us!

Email for More Information: friends@fopfh.org

[You Can CLICK HERE to Learn More!](#)



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