



The Friends Focus! Spring 2022 Newsletter



Helping Heroes Heal... Our Guest Terry Wilson Shares Her Story

In September of 2021, my husband was again hospitalized at the Pittsburgh VA. It has been six months now and my husband remains in the hospital waiting for a transplant.

We live in a small town 181 miles north of Pittsburgh, a four-hour ride, so driving back and forth to be with my husband is not physically or financially feasible.

Being a guest at the Fisher House has made all the difference. I no longer need to worry about where I will stay, if I will be safe, or if I have enough money. I feel blessed to have such beautiful accommodations at no cost. My room is warm and comfortable,

there is food available, and laundry facilities. It is like a home away from home. After a long day at the hospital, I can return to my room and relax and regroup for another day. Here I have met other guests who are experiencing similar situations and have been encouraged by their stories. The managers and staff are so wonderful. They are both knowledgeable and helpful. This is a great relief for someone who doesn't know the city or the intricacies of the hospital.

I will be forever thankful for the Fisher House and for those who make such a place possible. Their generosity has allowed me to concentrate on what is most important to me – the care of my husband.

Helping Heroes Heal... We've Got Your Back at the Pittsburgh Fisher House

Imagine that a veteran you know and love has to travel to an unfamiliar city to the VA medical center for healthcare treatment. *Imagine* you are the care giver who needs to make all the arrangements and travel plans. *Imagine* your stress. Google may be a lifeline in this scenario, but the **Pittsburgh Fisher House becomes your friend, your stability, your comfort, and it literally becomes your *home away from home!***

The Pittsburgh Fisher House is a **free place for veteran families** to stay with all the creature comforts you might need. The House is **staffed with real people** who help you navigate logistics. Whether you are at the House overnight or for a stay of a week or more, you will find **we've got your back!**

We know that a well-stocked fridge and handy snacks will **sustain** you when you need nourishment. We know that a gift card may be a **lifesaver** if you've forgotten something. We know that a complimentary Uber or Lyft ride will get you where you need to go. We know that when you talk to others in similar circumstances you can **find comfort**. You know that you can **focus on your veteran** who needs support throughout their medical care. That's why you know the words we hear most are **"Thank You"** and **"The Fisher House is a blessing."**

[Read More from Our Guests](#) • [Help Heroes Heal at the Fisher House](#)

Helping Heroes Heal... Building a Second Fisher House in Pittsburgh



Imagine adding an extra 5,840 nights of stay annually for veteran families who travel to Pittsburgh for healthcare at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare Center! **Imagine** more than doubling Pittsburgh's lodging capacity for veteran families to stay in a Fisher House. **Imagine** two Pittsburgh Fisher Houses instead of one! This is how the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House will **Help Heroes Heal!**

We are currently in a multi-year **Capital Campaign** to raise \$3 Million locally to build a 16-suite Fisher House on the H.J. Heinz III campus of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in Aspinwall (O'Hara Township). The new house will feature all the amenities of a comfort suites hotel with well-appointed rooms, welcoming interior common spaces, an open plan kitchen, modern laundry facilities, beautifully landscaped grounds and so much more. An average stay of 6 days saves a veteran family \$1,900 and eases the financial, logistical, and emotional burdens associated with travel for healthcare.

To date, \$850,000 has been raised from local sources including individuals, foundations, corporations and veteran service organizations. You can join our growing list of partners with your support. You have a choice when it comes to giving. We accept checks, credit cards, stock, and multi-year pledges.

[Get Involved](#) • [Contribute to Help Build the 2nd House](#)

Helping Heroes Heal... Meet Deb Walton, Capital Campaign Committee Member

Imagine yourself helping a veteran and their family through a tough time. **Imagine** yourself being part of the solution to create more free housing for families when they travel with their veteran to Pittsburgh for healthcare. **Imagine** yourself being part of

the team that builds a second Fisher House in our great city of Pittsburgh! The Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House are fortunate to have a committed group of individuals serving as Capital Campaign Committee members. These individuals give their time, energy, and brain-space to help us achieve our goal to build the 2nd Pittsburgh Fisher House.

Take for example, Deb Walton. She works every day in the real estate market for Coldwell Banker Realty where she specializes in assisting veterans, active duty, and military families buy and sell their homes. Deb, a Cranberry Township resident, is the wife of a retired PA State Trooper and a mother of three. Her big heart for veteran causes comes from having family and friends serving in law enforcement and the military. In her spare time, Deb networks among her peers and talks about her role supporting veteran families as a member of the *Helping Heroes Heal* campaign committee. She was key in getting an article placed in *Northern Connection Magazine* to bring awareness to our program. If you'd like to join Deb as a member of the capital campaign committee, your involvement is welcome! You can read the job description and let us know your interest! [Click here!](#)



Read about the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House in [Northern Connection Magazine](#)



Deb shares her expertise with veterans and with the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House! [Read More](#)



[Read more](#) about Deb's Five Star rating and her career serving veterans

THANK YOU for HELPING HEROES HEAL!

Thank you to all our annual appeal donors this holiday season! Your gifts will go directly to helping guests like Terry feel supported and comfortable in their Fisher House stay. Remember we have online giving and convenient monthly giving options for you!

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 Go to Our Giving Page!



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