

HELPING HANDS

Fisher House... Home Style Care & Comfort... One Family at a Time.

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Gold
Transparency
2025

Candid.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Fisher House Inc. mission is to support military members, veterans, and their families staying at Fisher Houses and those who are eligible to utilize Fisher Houses but are staying at other appropriate points of care venues while they receive medical treatment, care or support.

CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE



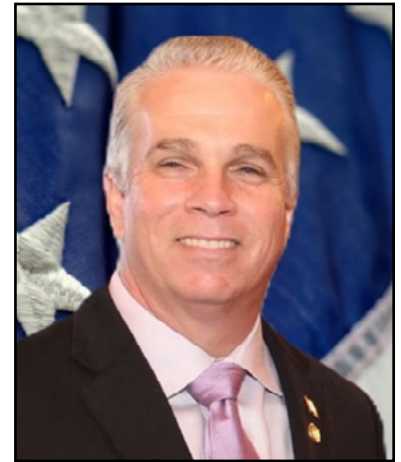


From Our CEO/Executive Director

Thank you to each and every generous donor who supported military families staying at the Fisher Houses this year. Your kindness has been felt in countless ways, helping keep the Fisher Houses in San Antonio a true haven of comfort and care for those who need it most.

If you have the chance to visit the VA Fisher Houses in San Antonio, we invite you to stop by and see the beautifully completed renovation project. The fresh paint and new flooring have truly brightened the homes, creating an even more welcoming space for our guests.

Once again, Finck Cigar Co. and their Lone Star Cigar Bash have stepped forward with an extraordinary donation that deeply strengthens our mission. Their long history of generosity continues to inspire us. Learn more about their enduring support on page 5.



*Dwayne F. Hopkins
CEO/Executive Director*

The Defense Gang also showed remarkable commitment this year, offering a record- setting contribution that truly makes a difference. You can find more details about their incredible support on page 3.

Thanks to the generosity of our incredible donors, more than \$19,830 helped provide nourishing meals for families staying at the San Antonio Fisher Houses. Additionally \$35,521 supplied essential wish-list items such as paper goods and cleaning supplies, directly supporting more than 1,800 guests throughout the year. Every contribution, no matter the amount, touches the lives of our nation’s heroes and the loved ones who stand beside them. Thank you for continuing to make such a meaningful difference.

Meet Our Newest Board Member : Col Lance Taylor USA (Ret.)



Col. Lance Taylor USA (Ret.)

Colonel Lance C. Taylor, US Army Retired, hailing from East St. Louis, Illinois, began his military journey with a four-year Army ROTC program and a wrestling scholarship at Howard University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in August 1995. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Nursing Corps, he spent his first two years as a staff emergency room nurse at Ireland Army Community Hospital, Fort Knox, Kentucky, before dedicating the next 27 years to specializing as a Perioperative Nurse.

Throughout his career, Lance earned an MSN Degree from the University of the Incarnate Word and obtained a Clinical Nurse Leader certification in 2013. He has held various positions, including Head Nurse Operating Room, Chief of Sterile Processing and Decontamination, Operations Officer S2/S3, Chief of Perioperative Nursing, and Chief of Surgical Services Service Line at the United States Army Medical Command.

Lance concluded his military career as the Chief of the Department of Operative Services at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, which marked the end of a distinguished chapter in the fall of 2024.

From our front cover... The Thache Family enjoying the patriotic rocking horse with their little one while staying at the South Texas Veterans Fisher House.





Fisher House History



On December 17, 2024, Mr. Dave Coker, President and CEO of the Fisher House Foundation, paid a visit to the Lackland AFB Fisher Houses during his historic 100 Fisher Houses tour. As he spent time with the staff and guests, Mr. Coker, alongside Fisher House manager Mr. Philip Harralson, took notice of a plaque that showcased the USS Intrepid. Upon further examination, Mr. Coker realized that the plaque itself contained an actual section of the Intrepid's flight deck. The relationship between the USS Intrepid and the Fisher House Foundation is significant. The Intrepid Museum (New York, NY) was founded in 1982 when the storied WWII aircraft carrier USS Intrepid was acquired by the Fisher Foundation. This nationally historic landmark is one part of the Fisher Family Foundations, organizations established by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher.

The flight deck section within the Lackland Fisher House gazebo was originally assembled by Andrew Olech of Boy Scout Troop 789 and dedicated on Nov 21st, 2013. As time and Texas weather conditions have taken their toll, Mr. Harralson has worked to bring the plaque back to its original state. To preserve the piece in keeping with the original USS Intrepid colors, extensive research was conducted by Mr. Harralson. Mahogany stain was the final selection used for the framing wood and inscription portion on the plaque as pre-WWII Navel Flight decks were typically mahogany, and Navy deck blue was used for the decking section in keeping with the flight decks during WWII when the Intrepid was in service.

The restoration of the flight deck was performed by a local scout troop, led by Scout Master Robert Klekar. The troop completed the renovation during a recent Scouting America, Alamo Area Council event with over 400 participants. The plaque was returned to The Lackland Fisher House and rededicated to the gazebo in April 2025. April is a special anniversary month for The Lackland Fisher Houses as Mr. & Mrs. Fisher broke ground on the first Air Force Fisher House (Fisher House I) at Lackland in April of 1991.

Inscription on plaque:

The above section of the flight deck is part of the USS Intrepid aircraft carrier built in 1943. She saw duty as an aircraft carrier during WW II and the Vietnam War, as a NASA recovery vessel for Mercury and Gemini astronauts; and as a Cold War era ASW ship. Built of yellow pine with a veneer of teak, this piece of deck is a part of American history. The 900-foot ship was retired in 1974, yet continues to serve her nation as the USS Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum. She is a lasting legacy of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher who saved her from the scrap heap and who then donated the Fisher Houses to benefit U.S. military service families experiencing medical crisis.

Article by: Philip Harrolson, JBSA Lackland Fisher House Manager

Community Support



Once again, the Defense Gang has come through with an incredible show of generosity! We are continually amazed and deeply grateful for the unwavering support of all the Defense Gang members. This year, Col Tim Strawther USAF (Ret.) proudly presented a donation check for \$97,500 in support of our mission. This remarkable contribution will make such a difference for the families we serve.

A heartfelt thank you to Tony Imondi and every member of the Defense Gang for your continued kindness, commitment, and generosity!





When Mr. Larry Briggs retired from the U.S. Navy in December 1991, he closed one chapter of service and opened another. Retiring out of Corpus Christi Texas, he soon moved to Kingsville Texas to begin the next stage of his life. Life brought new blessings in 2001 when he met his wife, Irma, and together they built a family rooted in love, resilience, and community.

Their connection to the Lackland Fisher House began in 2005, following Mr. Briggs' first medical diagnosis. At the time, the Briggs family was living full-time in Kingsville and facing the overwhelming uncertainty of a new health journey. During a conversation with his doctor about next steps, a physician visiting from Wilford Hall happened to overhear and immediately recognized how he could help.

He encouraged Mr. Briggs to continue his care in San Antonio, an idea that initially seemed impossible due to the financial strain and the challenges of caring for their young children. That's when the doctor told them about the Fisher House. Learning that the Fisher House would provide a supportive, cost-free place for the entire family made all the difference. The Briggs family made the trip to San Antonio, and from that moment on, the Lackland Fisher House became a home away from home. Mr. Briggs' first round of treatment, three months of surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy, took place in 2005. In 2007, the family returned for another six-month stay from January to May. Their third extended period at the house came in 2010, when Mr. Briggs stayed one month at a time, every three months, as part of his ongoing treatment plan.

Today, nearly two decades after their first stay, the Briggs family continues to visit the Lackland Fisher House every three to six months for follow-ups, check-ups, treatments, and additional medical services. Their story is a testament to perseverance and to the impact of a compassionate community offering comfort exactly when it's needed most.

The Lackland Fisher House is honored to have walked alongside the Briggs family throughout their journey, providing not just a place to stay, but a place to belong.

Meet the Manager : Candice Ualesi, BAMC Fisher House



My journey with Fisher House began in 2005 when I stayed at the Tripler Army Fisher House while my mother received medical care. The comfort and support our family experienced during that time left a lasting impact.

In 2012, I once again became my mother's caregiver and returned to the Fisher House, deepening my appreciation to the organization. During my stay, I began volunteering. It was the best way I knew how to give back to a program that took such great care of our family. After relocating to Texas in 2014, I continued my volunteer work at the Fisher House.

I officially joined the Fort Hood Army Fisher House staff in 2015 as a custodial worker. Through dedication and love for the Fisher House mission, I now get to lead the JBSA Army Fisher House team. As I welcome my new role as Manager of the Joint Base San Antonio Army Fisher House, I remain committed to providing exceptional comfort and care to military families, above and beyond the call of duty.



Founders Day Celebrations



The South Texas Veterans and JBSA Lackland Fisher Houses proudly celebrated Founders Day with events honoring the vision, compassion, and generosity of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, whose remarkable legacy continues to uplift military and veteran families across the nation. Since the first Fisher House opened its doors, their mission has remained strong.

Each celebration was filled with warmth, gratitude, and community spirit. Guests enjoyed delicious food, lively Mariachi music, and wonderful conversation, all of which created a joyful and welcoming atmosphere that perfectly reflected the values of the Fisher House mission. Laughter and stories echoed throughout the event as attendees shared moments of connection and appreciation for the comfort and care the Fisher House provides every day.

Veterans, families, volunteers, and community partners came together to honor the Fishers' enduring commitment to service and philanthropy. Founders Day serves as more than just a commemoration, it's a celebration of community, unity, and the unwavering gratitude that defines the Fisher House family. Through continued support and generosity, the San Antonio Fisher Houses are shining example of what can be achieved when people come together to care for those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Finck Cigar Bash 2025



On Saturday, September 20, 2025, the 13th Annual Finck's Lone Star Cigar Bash took place at the Freeman Coliseum Expo Hall. Finck's Cigar Bash 2025 was an incredible celebration of community and generosity, and Fisher House Inc. is honored once again to be the beneficiary of this amazing event.

What began in 2012 as a small festival has grown into the premier cigar event in Texas. This year, 750 amazing guests, along with dedicated staff, volunteers, and vendors, helped make it the biggest Bash yet. Staff and volunteers from Fisher House Inc. assisted with setup and event check-in and had an absolute blast.

We are deeply grateful for Finck Cigar's continued support. Their commitment, combined with the generosity of their community, resulted in a record-breaking \$80,395.61 donation to support military and veteran families. This incredible contribution will go a long way in helping us continue our mission of supporting the San Antonio-area Fisher Houses and the families they serve.

Thank you, Finck Cigar Company, for standing with our nation's heroes and helping us keep families together when it matters most!!

Pictured : Brig. Gen James Dienst USAF (Ret.) Fisher House Inc. Board member and Madeline Finck working hard.



19th ANNUAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT
NOVEMBER 3, 2025

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On Monday, November 3rd, 160 golfers joined us at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa Golf Course for a fantastic day on the greens!

Fisher House, Inc. extends a heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors, golfers, and volunteers for your kindness, enthusiasm, and support of our mission. We couldn't have done it without you!

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Pluckers

A special thank you to Northpark Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram for sponsoring the hole-in-one contest.



Pictured above: 2025 Golf Tournament Volunteers



2025 Golf Tournament





DONATIONS

The Fisher House Family would like to offer their sincerest thanks and appreciation to all of those who have generously and thoughtfully provided their time, talents and treasures to support the guest residents of the Fisher Houses. We appreciate your encouragement for our continued success in service to support the military men and women, and their families who will benefit from the services of the Fisher House. The following "Friends of Fisher House, Inc." have provided financial support between May 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025.

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Thank You USAA
for Supporting Fisher House, Inc.





WISH LIST ITEMS

The Fisher houses are always in need of wish list items. If you are looking for a great way to support the Fisher Houses you can scan the QR code or visit the website below, for a list of wishlist items. whether you want to plan a donation drive or just grab a few things on your weekly shopping trip.



SCAN ME

www.fisherhouseinc.org/wish-list



FISHER HOUSE LOCATIONS SAN ANTONIO

The Fisher Houses in San Antonio provide service members, veterans and their families with comfortable lodging, food, and other services in their time of need....at no cost! These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times – during hospitalization or healthcare for illness, disease, or injury. Believing that

“a family’s love is the best medicine,” we want the patients and their families to focus on what’s most important: the healing process.

Our commitment to military and veteran families has never been stronger and we will continue to support the guests staying at the Fisher Houses whenever we are needed.



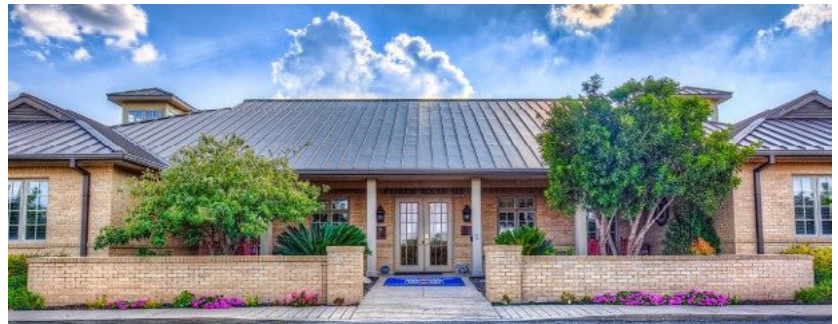
Brooke Army Medical Center Fisher House

Manager: Candice Ualesi (210) 916-6458/candice.t.ualesi.naf@health.mil



South Texas Veterans VA Fisher House

Manager: Doug Dickson (210) 617-5542/douglas.dickson@va.gov



JBSA Lackland Fisher House

Manager: Philip Harralson (210) 671-6037/philip.harralson@us.af.mil





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Be honest with ourselves and with whom we deal, building a foundation of trust and confidence through the organization and with our clients, stakeholders, and the community

CARING.

Sensitive to the needs of our clients, always ready to go the extra mile to provide responsive, compassionate support

SERVICE.

Give freely to others in need. Willing to donate time, energy and resources

EXCELLENCE.

Continually strive to excel, to be the best in our field, and to maintain the highest standards of quality and service

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as of November 1, 2025

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