



VA Ann Arbor Fisher House

What is a Fisher House?

The VA Ann Arbor Fisher House is a 16-suite “home away from home” for families of Veterans and active duty military personnel receiving care from the VA Ann Arbor Medical Center and VA-paid community care at area hospitals. The house provides free, temporary lodging so military and Veteran families who live at least 50 miles or further from the treating facility can be close to their hospitalized loved one during a medical crisis. A family's love is always the best medicine. When a loved one is injured or ill, Fisher House unites families and relieves the financial and emotional strain of being away from home.

The Fisher House provides a comforting, first-class experience while their loved one is receiving care in an unfamiliar environment. This special support relieves the stress of locating a place to stay in an unfamiliar city so the family can focus on supporting their loved one. All the comforts of home are provided to allow families to retreat and rejuvenate after a stressful day at the hospital. While the road to recovery is different for every family, one thing remains the same, the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House is there to provide comfort and compassion.

The Fisher House program was established in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher to provide free, temporary lodging to military families, allowing them to be close to their loved one during a medical crisis and focus on what's important – the healing process.

Fisher House guest suites each have a private bedroom and bath. Common areas include a spacious kitchen, large communal living, dining, and family rooms, laundry room and patio. All homes are professionally furnished and decorated and are wheelchair accessible.



The VA Ann Arbor Fisher House is the first Fisher House to be built in the state of Michigan and has benefited from the tireless efforts of Fisher House Michigan, a non-profit organization, that has raised more than \$7 million of their \$20 million goal to support the construction of any Fisher House built in Michigan and to support the families utilizing the houses once completed. Fisher House Foundation constructed the house and upon completion, they gifted it to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to support the need in Michigan. The groundbreaking ceremony took place June 14, 2019, and the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House opened its doors to its first guests on June 1, 2020.

The VA Ann Arbor Fisher House is part of the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Since 1953, the healthcare system, including the VA Ann Arbor Medical Center, Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) located in Toledo, Ohio, Jackson and Flint, MI, community clinics at Packard and Green Roads in Ann Arbor, MI, as well as the VA Center for Clinical Management Research, an HSR&D Center of Excellence, has provided state-of-the-art healthcare services to Veterans residing in Southeastern Michigan and Northwestern Ohio.

If you would like to volunteer at the Fisher House, please contact Voluntary Service at 734-845-3467. For operations, please contact the Fisher House Manager at 734-845-3055. For media inquiries, contact the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System Public Affairs Officer at 734-845-5043.



VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health
Administration
VA Ann Arbor
Healthcare System

VA Ann Arbor Fisher House Needs List

- **Gift Cards**
 - Kroger Cards
 - Visa, Amazon, Walmart, Target, etc.
 - Local Restaurants
 - Gas Cards (\$20 - \$50)
 - Uber/Lyft / Taxi Vouchers
- **Paper Products**
 - Tissues (travel packets)
 - Paper Towels
- **Kitchen Essentials**
 - Paper Plates
 - Paper Cups
 - Plastic Silverware
 - Plastic Cups
 - Saran Wrap
 - Aluminum Foil
 - Parchment Paper
 - Plastic Baggies (sandwich, quart, gallon – freezer & storage--Ziploc brand only)
- **Beverages**
 - Tea Bags (assorted)
 - Coffee Creamer (plain & flavored – single serve, non-refrigerated)
 - Cans of Soda (name brand only)
 - Flavored Sparkling Water
 - Sports Drinks (Gatorade/Powerade)
- **Pantry & Freezer Items** (name brand only)
 - Sugar Packets
 - Assorted Spices
 - Granulated Sugar
 - Baking Flour
 - Cereal (individual servings)
 - Maple Syrup
 - Pancake Mix
 - Oatmeal (individual servings)
 - Pasta
 - Pasta Sauce
 - Peanut Butter
 - Jelly (squeezable)
 - Condiments
 - Cooking Oil
 - Crisco Shortening Sticks
 - Microwaveable Meals (frozen & shelf-stable)
- **Snacks**
 - Granola Bars
 - Grab & Go Snacks (single pack items)
 - Cereal Bars
 - Chips (individual packages)
 - Fruit Snacks
 - Mixed Nuts (individual packages)
- **Cleaning Products**
 - Trash Bags (kitchen & small size)
 - Dishwasher Soap (Cascade pods only)
 - Liquid Dish Soap (Dawn or Method brands)
 - Kitchen Sponges
 - Hand Soap & Refills (pump style)
 - Microfiber Cleaning Towels
 - Windex
- **Laundry Items**
 - Tide Laundry Detergent Pods (High Efficiency Safe)
 - Oxi Clean Stain Remover
 - Bounce Fabric Softener/Dryer Sheets (High Efficiency Safe)
- **Personal Care Items**
 - Mouthwash (small/travel size)
 - Toothpaste (small/travel size)
 - Toothbrushes
 - Lotions (small/travel size)
 - Sewing Kits (small)
 - Nail Kits (small/no nail polish & no nail polish remover)
 - Cotton Swabs (i.e. small packs of Q-tips)
 - Cotton Balls (small packs)
- **Entertainment, Events & Donations**
 - Attraction Park Tickets
 - Zoo & Museum Tickets
 - Movie Passes
 - Tickets to local Sporting Events

****If interested donors have a **Shipt** or **InstaCart** account and would like to have grocery items delivered to the Fisher House to support our families, please call us at (734) 845-3000 or email VHAANNFisherHouse@va.gov to discuss up to date needs prior to making a purchase and to coordinate a delivery date/time.**

Please call the Fisher House (734) 845-3000 or email VHAANNFisherHouse@va.gov to discuss up to date needs prior to making a purchase and to coordinate a donation drop off date/time. Thank you for your support!