



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center

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News Release

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## **DAYTON VA TO HOST “FISHER HOUSE” PRESS CONFERENCE**

The Dayton VA will host a press conference announcing their desire to become the home of a new Fisher House for Veterans and their family members on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1 PM. The press conference will take place in the lobby of the Dayton VA Medical Center’s main medical tower.

The press conference will feature Dayton VA Medical Center Glenn Costie, Chris Stanley from the Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc., and Randy and Vicki Gunlock. The Gunlock family, through their Greener Pastures Foundation, has committed to donate more than \$1 million towards the creation of a Fisher House at the Dayton VA Medical Center. The Gunlocks stated “We feel a tremendous sense of gratitude to the men and women who have risked their lives and in many cases given their lives to defend our liberties and given us the opportunity to pursue our dreams. We don’t in any way look at what we are doing as a gift but rather a small way to pay back what we owe.”

The Dayton VA has submitted an application to become the site of a new Fisher House. This application will need to be approved by the Secretary of the VA and the Fisher House Foundation before it is officially approved.

There’s nothing more powerful than a family’s love and support to speed the healing process. When our servicemen and servicewomen need medical care, their families undergo tremendous stress, and most often seek to be close by to support their loved ones on their physical and emotional journey. However, costs for lodging, food and transportation make it difficult for family members to stay close by for extended periods, while care is being provided.

Since 1990, Fisher Houses have answered this critical need, by giving great comfort and support to our service members, veterans, and their families—enabling them to be together while undergoing treatment and recovery. A Fisher House is truly a **home away from home**, providing the right healing environment for patients and their families.

The Fisher House Foundation is known worldwide for building a network of compassionate care facilities where active duty and retired military and veterans can stay at no cost while receiving outpatient treatment. Their families can also stay at no cost while a loved one is undergoing medical care. These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers, in close proximity to the hospital they serve. Each house is configured with up to 21 suites, each with a private bathroom, a shared common kitchen, laundry facilities, dining room, and an inviting living room with a library and toys for children.

Fisher Houses typically cost \$4-6 million to build, and today, there are 65 located in the United States and Germany, with several more under construction. Since inception, the program has served more than 250,000 families, with a savings in out-of-pocket transportation and lodging expenses of over \$282 million. In 2014 alone, 25,000 families were served, with \$47 million saved.

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