

# Fisher House Wisconsin – Milwaukee VA Fisher House Celebrates Five Years

By Michelle M. Friedman

Five years ago, on April 23, 2016, the Milwaukee VA Fisher House officially opened its doors and became the first Fisher House in the state of Wisconsin. The home is conveniently located on the grounds of the Clement J. Zablocki Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Milwaukee. Since opening, it has been a “home away from home” to more than 3,000 families.



Families in need of lodging, can stay at the Milwaukee VA Fisher House at no cost while their veteran or active-duty service family member receives medical care at the VA. This allows families to stay close while their loved-one receives care.

**“Often family members are very stressed and there is a lot of anxiety.”**

Kathy Schroeder – house volunteer

The Fisher House 16-suite, 13,500 sq.-ft. home, which was funded via a collaboration between Fisher House Foundation and Fisher House Wisconsin (FHW), has provided respite to many. During the house dedication ceremony, the keys to the house were turned over to the VA and House Manager, Jennifer Kiefer, who are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the house. Over the years, as the VA operates the home, FHW continues to support the needs of families staying at the home by funding expenses associated with the operation of the home and guests’ needs.



The five-year anniversary of the Milwaukee VA Fisher House comes on the heels of the announcement that FHW will partner with the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital to construct Wisconsin’s second Fisher House, which will be in Madison. “This is great news for Wisconsin and for the many Veterans and families that Fisher House will have the opportunity to support,” Dirk Debbink, FHW President.



The Milwaukee VA Fisher House would not exist but for the generosity of its supporters. Throughout the years FHW has received tremendous assistance from countless volunteers, board members, donors, corporate sponsors, and others. The funds raised during FHW’s flagship events, the annual Golf Outing and Motorcycle Poker Run, help sustain the FHW mission. The 2021 Golf Outing is scheduled for August 30 at Geneva National Resort and Club and the Poker Run is scheduled for September 5<sup>th</sup>.

As we celebrate this five-year anniversary, FHW would like to thank its volunteers, donors, corporate sponsors, and others for their continued support. It is through your kindness and generosity that FHW can continue its mission.

