



The Fisher House provides high quality temporary lodging, at no charge, to families of Veterans & Active Duty who are undergoing inpatient or extensive outpatient treatment at the RHJVAMC. Fisher House is a "home away from home" and offers a warm, compassionate environment and a sense of comfort while a loved one is undergoing medical treatment.

# Fisher House

## Newsletter



### Fisher House Fun Fact

The Fisher House Foundation also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members.



### Guest Testimony

"Wanted to express my sincere appreciation to the Fisher House and its staff. When you have a loved one in the hospital, it is so very stressful, and being able to come home to a beautiful place with a warm and caring staff makes a difference. I am so glad the Fisher's had the vision and recognized the need for this house, and that their legacy will continue to live on and touch the lives of so many veterans and their families. God Bless, I will recommend this home to all who have a need!"

- Karen Fieselman, (Ret) U.S. Air Force



## South Carolina Aquarium

### A Day of Discovery for the Calvin Family

Benjamin, Lucas (10) and Sawyer (5) took a trip to the SC Aquarium for a behind the scenes tour with Catherine O'Rourke. Catherine is the Major Gift Officer for the SC Aquarium and has been working with the Fisher House Manager and Friends Of Fisher House Charleston to provide free tickets and private tours to families staying at the Fisher House. Benjamin and his family have been staying at the Fisher House on and off since October 2021.

During their "Behind the Scenes" tour, the Calvin family got to experience the daily activities of Aquarium Staff- such as feeding the animals, providing "one on one" special care and weekly tank maintenance.





# Meet the Manager

## Erik Zielinski

Erik is a proud Marine Corps Veteran of 8 and a half years serving with the specialized Infantry Unit 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. Erik completed 3 combat tours to include two tours in Iraq and was part of the first forces on the ground in Afghanistan following the attacks on 9/11/2001. After the military, Mr. Zielinski continued to serve our nations veterans, service members & their families at the San Antonio VA Medical Center and most recently managed the San Antonio VA Fisher House for the last 8 years before coming to Charleston.



## Did You Know?

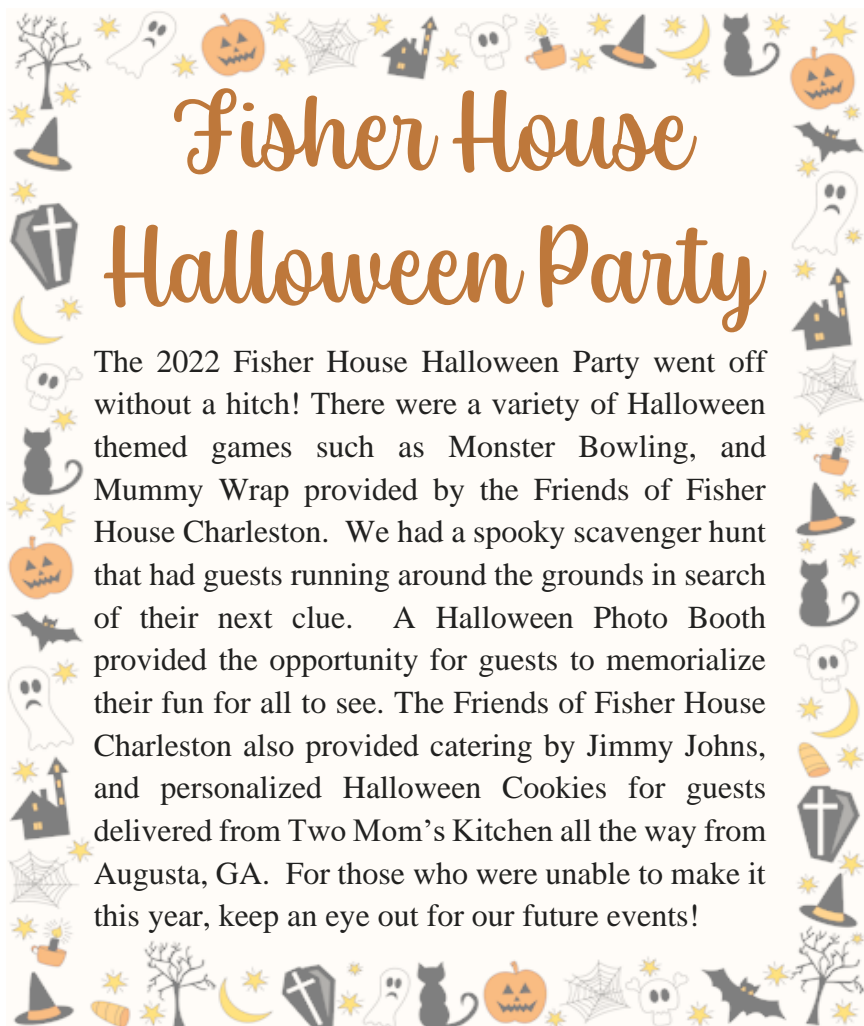
Charleston is not only home to America's First Museum, but it is also the home to the first theater in the country, known as the Dock Street Theater. The Dock Street Theater first opened in 1736, forty years before America gained its independence!

## Honor Luncheon & Open House

The Nov 10<sup>th</sup> Fisher House Honor Luncheon & Open House will be postponed to January 20<sup>th</sup> due to weather conditions. We will be giving private tours of the beautiful Fisher House and providing information about Fisher House referrals and services. This will be a catered event provided by the Friends of Fisher House Charleston. If you have not seen the Fisher House in person, this is a good opportunity to see and experience the amazing things the Fisher House does to support veterans, service members and thier families.







# Fisher House Halloween Party

The 2022 Fisher House Halloween Party went off without a hitch! There were a variety of Halloween themed games such as Monster Bowling, and Mummy Wrap provided by the Friends of Fisher House Charleston. We had a spooky scavenger hunt that had guests running around the grounds in search of their next clue. A Halloween Photo Booth provided the opportunity for guests to memorialize their fun for all to see. The Friends of Fisher House Charleston also provided catering by Jimmy Johns, and personalized Halloween Cookies for guests delivered from Two Mom's Kitchen all the way from Augusta, GA. For those who were unable to make it this year, keep an eye out for our future events!

## Bingo Night at the Fisher House

*As the temperatures start to drop, the Fisher House is bringing Bingo Night to our guests every Wednesday this month. With good friends, great fun and Fisher House prizes, Bingo Night is a favorite amongst our guests.*



# HAPPY Halloween



## Volunteer of the Month!

**Erwin Morris**

Erwin has been volunteering with the Fisher House through the Order of St. John since early 2022. She has been a huge help with the Fisher House kitchen and any special projects thrown at her. You can find Erwin at the Fisher House every Monday when she's not scaling mountains around the U.S.!





# Fisher House Update

*The Fisher House has proudly served 3,815 since opening in 2018 saving military families hundred of thousand of dollars in lodging and travel expenses. In October 2022, Fisher House accommodated 98 families which was the highest number accommodated of the year year!*



## HOW CAN I HELP?



Friends of Fisher  
House  
Donation Link



Meal  
Train



Amazon  
Wishlist



VA Fisher House  
Donation Link



### DONATE

Items: Individually packaged food items/snacks and common household items such as toilet paper and cleaning supplies are always appreciated.

Monetary: Donations can be made online at <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/entry/101/50809435/> or at <https://friendsoffisherhousecharleston.org/donate.html>. Checks can be made payable to *Charleston Fisher House* or *Friends of Fisher House*.

### VOLUNTEERING

Meal Train: We are always looking for volunteers to come and cook at the fisher house. You can register online at <https://mealtrain.com/986m8v>.

If you have any questions about donating or volunteering, please contact the Fisher House Managers at [Erik.Zielinski@va.gov](mailto:Erik.Zielinski@va.gov) & [Charity.Anderson@va.gov](mailto:Charity.Anderson@va.gov), or by calling 843-805-8200.



### Message from the Manager

I want to send a big SHOUT OUT to our VA Social Workers, Nurses and proud Fisher House community supporters. THANK YOU for sending so many referrals in past months especially, in the month of October. If it were not for you connecting families to the Fisher House, we would not be able to continue to provide a “home away from home” for families and Heros at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center.

