



Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
www.tucson.va.gov



FISHER HOUSE
because A Family's Love
is Good Medicine
www.fisherhouse.org

Arizona Fisher House

- On July 11, 2011, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki approved the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) as the future host site for an Arizona Fisher House serving Arizona Veterans and Veteran referrals from other states.
 - Fisher Houses are built on the premise that ***“a family’s love is good medicine” and when a loved one is ill or injured, a Fisher House unites families, relieving the financial and emotional strain of being away from home.***
- ***The Arizona Fisher House Foundation fundraising committee is chaired by Dr. Dana T. Staggs.*** Several community volunteers serve on the Foundation fundraising committee, which has been charged with raising 3 million dollars from corporate and private donors by the end of 2014. The National Fisher House Foundation will provide a matching contribution to complete construction.
- ***The Arizona Fisher House will be located on the SAVAHCS Tucson campus,*** accessible to the hospital complex – an historic Spanish Mission Style architecture rising out of the desert, providing a prominent panorama visible from all major highways in the southern part of the city. ***The new Fisher House will offer 12-16 suites with private bathrooms and will also include a large living area, kitchen, and laundry facility for Veteran family members living greater than 50 miles away.***
- ***The Arizona Fisher House will serve eligible family members of hospitalized Veterans as well as Veterans receiving outpatient VA medical care.*** SAVAHCS is a major VA referral site for highly specialized medical, surgical, and mental health services for VA facilities located in Phoenix and Prescott, Arizona; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Amarillo, Big Spring, and El Paso, Texas.
 - ***In 2013, over 2,078 Veterans living outside of Tucson received hospital care at SAVAHCS.***



Arizona Fisher House

- **SAVAHCS serves as a Polytrauma Network Site** providing post-acute rehabilitation care for Veterans with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and poly-traumatic injuries.
 - **Since 2006 the Polytrauma program has actively managed 1,430 complex patients receiving advanced treatment for traumatic injuries.**
- **SAVAHCS is home to the Southwest Blind Rehabilitation Center (SWBRC)**, a 31-bed regional referral program that provides Veteran patients with comprehensive and individualized blind rehabilitation.
 - The SWBRC draws patients primarily from Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, California, and Oklahoma, spanning a catchment area of over 1 million square miles.
 - **In 2013, 403 Veterans graduated from the SWBRC.**
- SAVAHCS offers hospice and palliative care, skilled nursing, geriatric care, physical medicine, and advanced rehabilitation in its 90-bed Community Living Center (CLC).
 - **In 2013, a total of 1,142 patients were admitted to the CLC.**
 - CLC patients and their families will benefit tremendously from the Arizona Fisher House. The Arizona Fisher House will accommodate patients by allowing their family members to be available during the Veterans' rehabilitation program.
- SAVAHCS is honored to be a host site for the Arizona Fisher House. Groundbreaking for the new facility is proposed for 2015 with construction estimated to be completed by the end of that year. Once completed, the National Fisher House Foundation will donate the new facility to SAVAHCS.
 - **For more information on how you can be part of this important project please contact Dr. Dana Staggs, Chairperson, Arizona Fisher House Foundation at 520-404-2526 or email staggschiro@gmail.com.**



www.tucson.va.gov



www.fisherhouse.org