



Friends of Mid-Missouri Fisher House

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FRIENDS OF MID-MISSOURI FISHER HOUSE, INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Efforts began in early 2018 to establish and organize the local partner organization for the Fisher House Foundation, which had announced approval in October 2017 of VA's application to build a Fisher House on the grounds of Truman VA Hospital in Columbia. Several informal meetings were conducted and Veterans United Home Loans Foundation agreed to provide monies to help the organization get established, including fees associated with establishment as a bonafide 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. Brian Gawne, Vice President for Community Relations at the Fisher House Foundation, visited Truman VA in March 2018, meeting with VA medical center officials and interested volunteers and providing suggestions and advice.

The law firm of Haden & Haden was engaged to assist with the legal establishment of the organization. Board members were recruited. Organizational Bylaws were drafted. The first board meeting was held on May 4, 2018.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Adopted organizational Bylaws on May 4, 2018.
- Elected board officers in May.

Stephen Gaither, Chair

Eileen Scrivner, Vice Chair (replaced by John Cassels in October 2018)

Paul Moen, Treasurer (replaced by Mark Claypole in February 2019)

Rebecca Nieters, Secretary (replaced by Jill Norton in December 2018)

- Organized as a bonafide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, recognized by the IRS and the state of Missouri, in June 2018.
- Board of directors recruited and appointed.
- Kick-off event was conducted July 27, 2018 with great support from the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.
- A checking account for the organization was established at Commerce Bank in July 2018.
- The local organization logo was developed and approved on August 13, 2018.
- The organization's Facebook page was created and launched in August 2018.
- Membership in the Columbia Chamber of Commerce was approved in September 2018.
- In September, a task group of board members was formed to work with Lift Division to develop the organization's website. The website was subsequently launched on May 1, 2019.
- A PO BOX mailing address for the organization was purchased in September 2018.
- The MisLedd Band agreed to make its concert at Katfish Katy's on the Katy Trail a fundraiser for the organization. The September 28 event generated a net total of \$1,039 (\$150 from food and beverage sales, \$150 from the Truman VA Medical Research Foundation and \$739 from donations at the door from attendees).
- Truman VA employees supported the organization in a variety of ways including the "Pink Out Your Pumpkin" Breast Cancer Awareness Month contest, the annual Employee Association Halloween Costume Contest and the Employee Association Holiday Social.
- A Doll House and quilt raffle generated more than \$1,600.
- The organization purchased General Liability Insurance from Country Financial in January 2019.
- A Fundraising Subcommittee was established in January 2019.

- The Form 990 was completed and submitted to the IRS in February 2019.
- The organization planned and conducted a successful Trivia Night fundraiser on February 8, 2019. Net proceeds after expenses were \$4,720.
- After applying for the Combined Federal Campaign in February, the organization was approved in May by the Local Federal Coordinating Committee of the Gateway CFC Zone to participate as a local organization in the 2019 Combined Federal Campaign.

PLANS

- Continue to raise public awareness of the Mid-Missouri Fisher House to be built at Truman VA.
- Develop a strategic development and fundraising plan for the coming year.
- Recruit and identify organization ambassadors in outlying communities/areas to include Kirksville, Mexico, Sedalia, Lake of the Ozarks, Saint James, Waynesville, and Marshfield.
- Identify and contact prospects as potential donors at varying levels of support during the three year capital fund campaign, e.g., approximately 24 prospects to generate 1 to 6 “Lead” gifts to achieve \$1.2 million to \$1.8 million, approximately 224 prospects to generate 30 to 60 “Mid-Range” gifts to achieve \$ 900,000 to \$1.2 million, approximately 1,820 prospects to generate “Lower Level” gifts to achieve \$300,000 to \$600,000.
- Plan and conduct the annual Trivia Night event.
- Organize, maintain and manage an effective register of donors.
- Maintain Facebook page and the organizational website with frequent updates and information.