

# FISHER HOUSE OF BOSTON



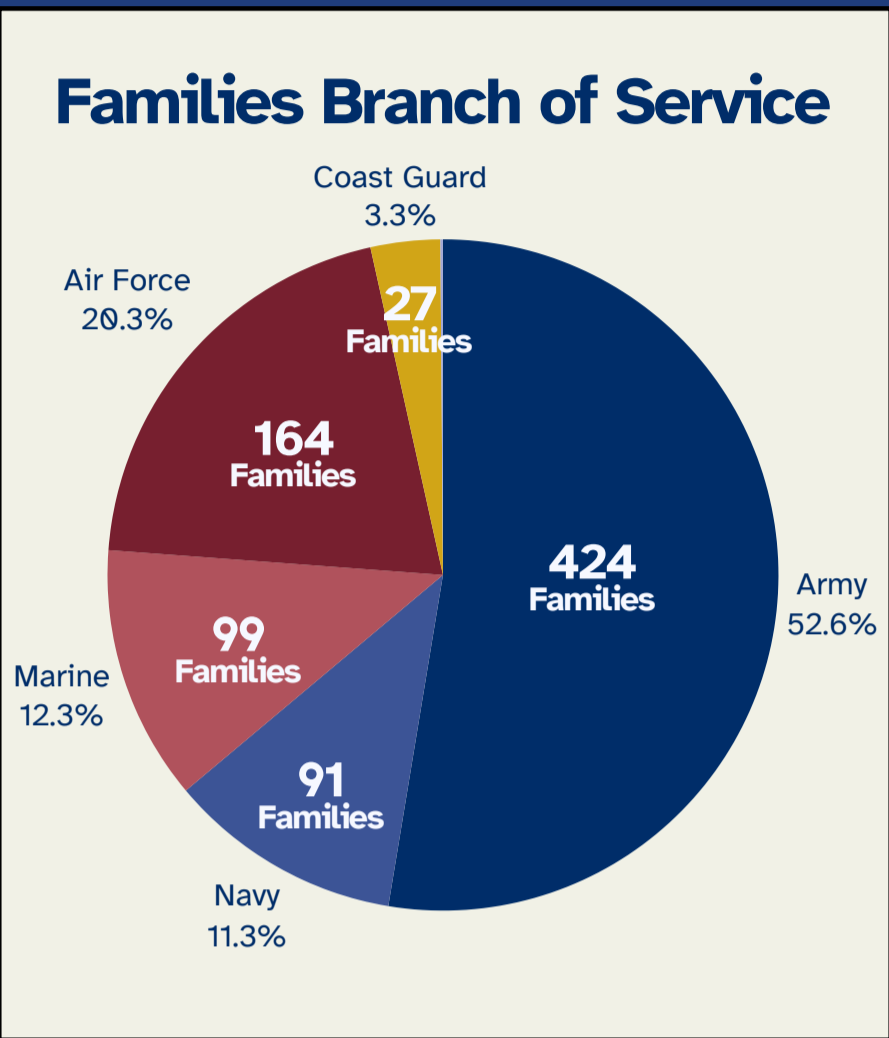
2023 Report

Fisher House Boston's mission is to provide a home away from home where military families can stay, free of charge, while a loved one is receiving in-house treatment at any of our world-renowned medical centers in Boston.

**Nights of Lodging Provided**  
**5,876**

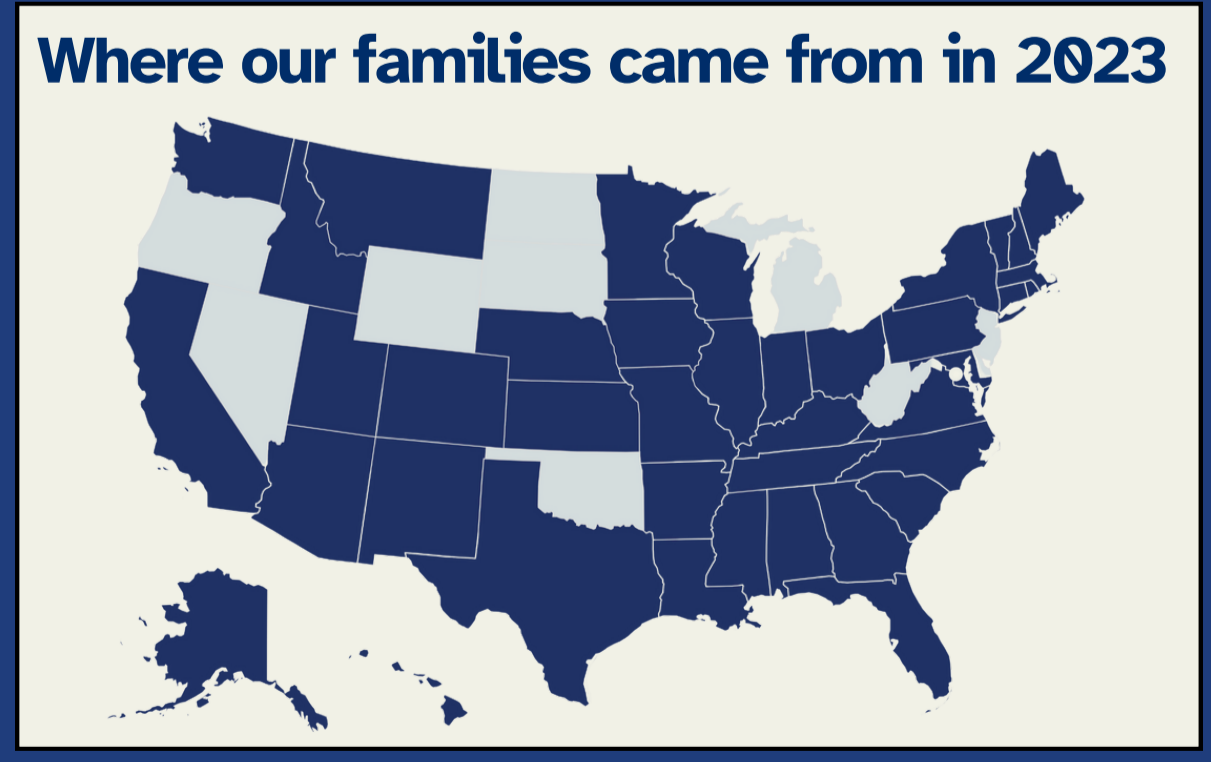
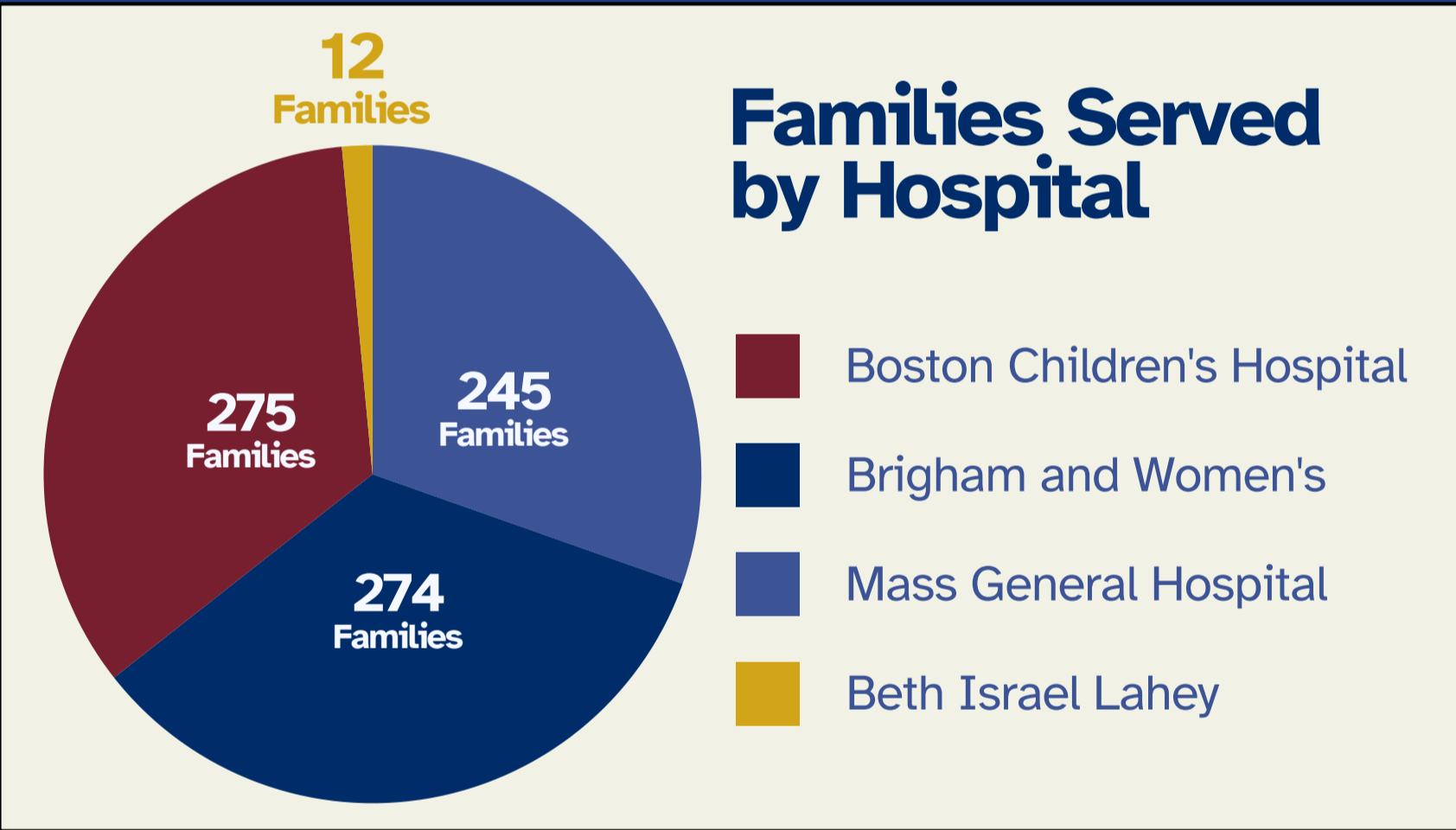
**Military Families Served**  
**806**

**Savings to Military Families**  
**\$2,400,000**



**60% of the families Fisher House of Boston Served in 2023 came to Boston for care related to a Cancer diagnosis**

- ### Highest Use States in 2023
1. Massachusetts
  2. New York
  3. Maine
  4. New Hampshire
  5. Connecticut
  6. Florida
  7. Virginia
  8. Vermont
  9. Ohio
  10. Rhode Island



**“I can't stress how important it is to have this type of support while in a time of crisis! While a patient is undergoing whatever situation they are going through they also worry about their family's wellbeing. I'm grateful for all FHB has done for my family and keeping us together.”**

**Mr. G - NY  
Heart Transplant Recipient**

Jennifer DeLuca  
Executive Director  
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jdeluca@fisherhouseboston.org



Website: [fisherhouseboston.org](https://fisherhouseboston.org)  
Facebook: Fisher House of Boston  
Instagram: @FisherHouseBos  
EIN: 26-0190895



# FISHER HOUSE OF BOSTON



## CELEBRATING TEN YEARS!

Nights of Lodging Provided

**20,000**

Military Families Served

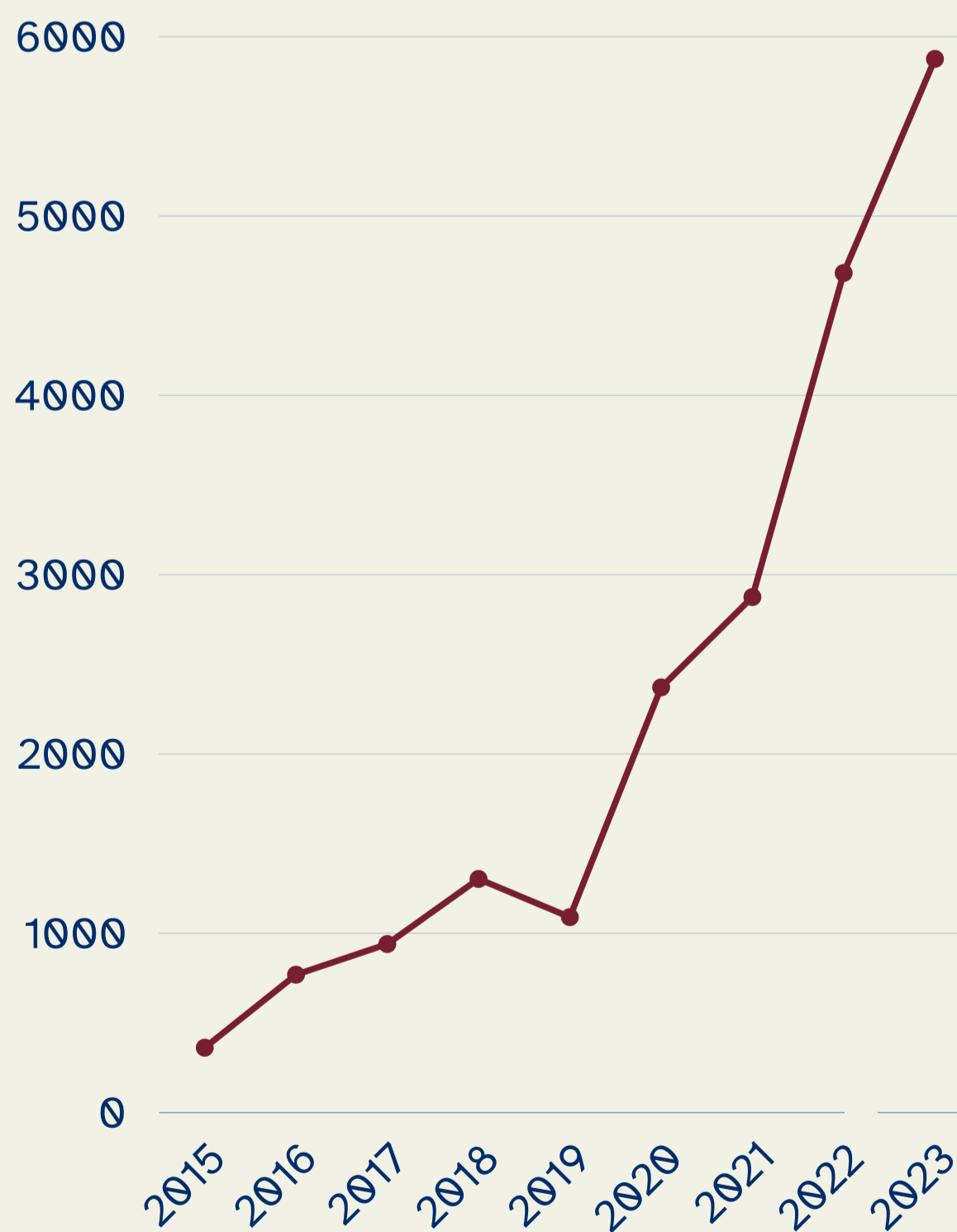
**3,500**

Savings to Military Families

**\$7,500,000**



### Nights of Lodging Provided per year



“Fisher House of Boston’s assistance with our housing need over the past year, during my ongoing illness, has been (and continues to be) essential in facilitating access to the best treatment at Dana Farber. Equally important, it has provided safe and convenient housing for my wife, allowing her to be at my bedside through everything. We are so thankful!”

US Army Veteran - NY - Cancer



“We felt like we were drowning... Fisher House of Boston was the hand that was extended into the deep waters that pulled us out”

**Bryne Bish**  
HLHS Mom & Marine Wife

Jennifer DeLuca

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## CAPTAIN ASHLEY SAM, D.O.



As a military pediatrician, I spent every day taking care of military children and providing support to their families. During my first year of my Pediatrics residency at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, I watched many children, and many young service members that I was charged with caring for, navigate illness that no young person should ever encounter. I saw the good days and the not so good days, and I became acutely aware of how everyday stressors weighed on service members minds, and what a tremendous relief it was to have those burdens eased.

After completion of my pediatrics residency, I came to Boston to pursue a fellowship in Pediatric Critical Care at Boston Children's Hospital. I was confident that I would see very few military families in a civilian hospital- it turns out that couldn't have been further from the truth. Within a few months of beginning my training I encountered several military families who were in from out of town. Most of them were expected to be in the area for at least a few weeks, but for many it would be many months of time in Boston to get the necessary care for their children. As a pediatric intensive care physician, every day I bear witness to the stress that the illness of a child places on families. For many, the stress of the patient's illness, be it a spouse, parent, child, or other loved one is just the tip of the iceberg. The additional stressors associated with coping with illness or supporting a sick loved one exponentially increase the burden of illness. "Will I be able to miss work?" "Am I going to be able to stay with my loved one during their treatment?" For parents, the question of "How can I be with my child, not only to support them but also to make necessary decisions in the course of their care?" is at the core of their hospital experience and these stressors can profoundly impact recovery. Fisher House of Boston not only recognizes these burdens but makes it their mission to alleviate them.

Fisher House of Boston removes the concerns about finding lodging, and moreover, removes the financial burden associated with accommodations in the Boston area. This financial relief enables patients' loved ones, or patient's themselves, to purely focus on the road to recovery. They can focus on being mentally present in care meetings and therapy sessions rather than worrying about the next bill associated with staying near the hospital. But in addition to the financial freedom that Fisher House of Boston provides to military families, it also provides a warm, welcoming community that helps to lift the spirits of families as they encounter some of their hardest days. Fisher House Boston offers a home away from home to our service members and their loved ones that, without question, positively impacts the patient's recovery. I see every day the effect that a safe, loving support system has on patients and their resilience as they progress in their care. I am endlessly grateful to Fisher House of Boston for fostering this resilience. As the daughter of veteran, a service member myself, and a physician who actively cares for service members and their children, I am grateful to Fisher House of Boston for the tremendous difference they make in the lives of those who have willingly sacrificed so much for others.



## THE GRAY FAMILY



In December of 2017, my husband and I traveled to Boston. He would be receiving surgical care for his spinal tumor at Massachusetts General Hospital. I was four months pregnant, and my husband was very sick. We coordinated a place for me to stay while he would be in the hospital recovering. The room was very expensive, it was cold, and the shower was broken. Weekly I had to request an extension, with no guarantees to be able to stay in the room, so that it was not given to another person. My husband's surgery had many complications and what was meant to be a two week stay in Boston had already become a month without an end in sight. A social worker on the hospital floor finally asked me to call the Fisher House of Boston. I spoke with Jen Deluca that day, and I was reassured immediately that

she would help us. From 2017-2020, my husband would have over 26 surgeries at MGH to treat the cancer and subsequent infections in his spine. There were many long nights and stressful days. Every time we traveled to Boston; Jen Deluca was right there beside us. She helped me get through our darkest, scariest times by providing the most essential need: security. She found me a room, but she gave us so much more than that. Fisher House of Boston gave us community in the people at the hotel that felt like family. Fisher House of Boston gave us a person to call when we were overwhelmed with hospitals. Fisher House of Boston gave us hope so my husband could have his wife and daughter in a safe place close to him while he recovered. Our daughter started her first day of kindergarten today. The first thing she told her new teacher was how she could not wait to go visit Boston. My daughter cherishes her memories of our time in Boston because of the Fisher House of Boston and Jen Deluca. My husband has fully recovered and been in remission for almost one year. He has resumed his career as an engineer. I was able to complete my doctorate and now work in a child and adolescent psychiatry clinic. None of this would have happened had it not been for the safety, security, and community that Fisher House of Boston provided our family during the hardest time of our life. We will forever be grateful to Jen Deluca and the incredible work Fisher House of Boston accomplishes every day.

Marissa and Chris Gray  
Tennessee  
United States Navy (Ret.)





## THE BISH FAMILY



October 19th, 2022. That is a day that will forever be burned into our memory. Sam and I went to our anatomy scan full of anticipation. As the technician moved through the testing, she affirmed us each step of the way with a “looks good,” or “that’s what we want to see.” When she got the heart, she was silent. I remember that silence well. She finished with the exam and delivered the news, “congrats mom and dad, you are having a boy! Let me go grab the doctor and I will be right back.” Sam turned to me and with all the confidence he said, “I think we should name him Cillian.” Just prior we were going back and forth on the name. We liked the sound of Cillian, but loved the meaning even more which is Gaelic for “little warrior.” Fitting for the

journey he would have to go down. Thirty seconds later the doctor came in and delivered the news that Cillian had an underdeveloped left ventricle; a condition called Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS). What he said next then sparked some concern; “I think you should clear your schedules today for additional testing. You’ll have to make a lot of tough decisions, so give yourself today.”

Sam and I drove to the nearest Dunkin Donuts. It was pouring down rain and 35 degrees. I guess when it rains it pours! As Sam grabbed coffee, I typed in HLHS and began scanning the search results. My heart in that moment broke and I crumbled into tears. “Fatal, open-heart surgeries, infant death” were the words that pierced my heart like a knife. As Sam and I researched more we discovered Boston Children’s was cutting edge on these surgeries. We called that day and set out to see the clinic two days later. I cried the entire plane ride there. In our appointment and research with various doctors we were told several things. To correct Cillian’s defect, he would have to undergo at minimum three open heart surgeries within the first three years of life. These surgeries are some of the most complicated to be performed and require the best skill of a surgeon. We were also told it’s not a matter of if there is a complication, but when. As Sam and I learned more about the clinic and robust comprehensive care that Boston Children’s had to offer, we confidently knew this was the place to be when those complications should arise.



## THE BISH FAMILY

On the plane ride back, we looked at each other and with all the assurance both said to each other “we need to go to Boston.” When we started to look into cost, we felt disheartened. After endlessly searching for affordable housing, I turned to Sam and said “I don’t know how we are going to do this. I know this is where Cillian need to be to give him the best shot at life, but right now we can’t make it work.” Affording two rents, one in Cleveland where we were living and one in Boston, was simply not suitable for us. In that moment, we were lost. In that moment we felt hopeless. Low and behold it was the Fisher House of Boston that served as a helping hand to rescue us from the waters of fear that were all consuming. The next day I heard about the Fisher House of Boston and within



one day I was on the phone with the coordinator Abigail. We found out we would be eligible for housing based on Sam’s service in the Marine Corps. Her philosophy brought us to tears, “If you raised your hand to serve, you have a place to stay.”

There aren’t enough words to describe how grateful we are to the Fisher House of Boston. They were and are the lifeline we needed as new parents and newlyweds figuring out life together. Because of their program, Sam and I have been able to provide the care to Cillian that he needs. Yes, we ran into complications that were promised to us. But because we had access to the most cutting-edge care, Cillian recovered in record breaking time. Our journey has not been easy. But we have never felt more supported by organizations like the Fisher House Boston that have been with us every step of the way.

His name is apt for the story he has to tell. After all, you can’t be a warrior without a battle to fight. And he has fought many, but with the loving support of the Fisher House of Boston behind him.

Brynne and Sam Bish  
Ohio / Maryland  
United States Marine Veteran

