



The Friends Focus! Summer 2023 Newsletter

Major Gifts Propel Capital Campaign Over \$1.5 Million!



Since January, an additional \$500,000 has been raised for the Capital Campaign! With your support, we are half-way to our local goal of raising \$3 million for the second Pittsburgh Fisher House! Groundbreaking on the new 16-room house on the H. John Heinz III VA campus in O'Hara township is slated for 2024 with doors opening in 2025. Donations from you and your colleagues throughout the community are making the dream of a second Fisher House in Pittsburgh a reality!

Highlights from spring donations include a \$250,000 grant from a local foundation, over \$50,000 from the Pirates and Penguins, \$47,000 from the special project of the Commander of the VFW of PA, over \$41,000 raised at a special event at the Edgeworth Club in Sewickley, and \$10,000 from community fundraisers to benefit the capital campaign. Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!

[Donate to Helping Heroes Heal Capital Campaign](#)
[See How Fisher Houses Help Heroes Heal](#)



Fisher House Families Enjoy Pittsburgh Hospitality!

Pittsburghers are generous people! You know this! *You live this!* When there's a need, Pittsburghers step up! Just ask guests about Lynne! For 7 years, Lynne has been coming to the house on Wednesdays to bake her scrumptious treats. She says *"food always opens the way! Families are going through so much, there's just a feeling of comfort that comes with a freshly-baked cookie."* When you walk in the door on Wednesdays, your nose will guide you right to the kitchen where you'll find Lynne baking her delicious treats for all to enjoy. Thank you, Lynne!

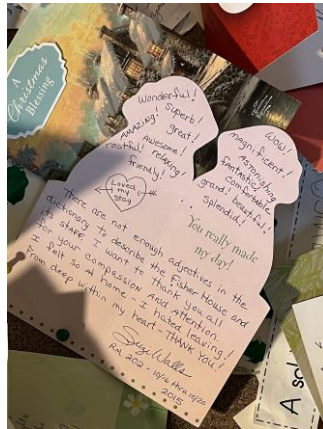


Speaking of the kitchen, the Pirates went right from spring training to spring cleaning! Just before their home opener, team players and staff stopped by to "redd up" the Fisher House kitchen. While you may not consider this to be the most glamorous volunteer work – cleaning shelves, checking expiration dates, organizing cupboards, wiping out the fridge – Vince Velasquez and Rob Zastrzny and members of the Pirates staff – made the day a homerun of fun. After the work was done, they spent time getting to know veterans and service men and women who were supported by the Fisher House over lunch, courtesy of Giant Eagle, Inc.





Fisher House families benefit from your big hearts inside and out. Military employees from DICK'S spread mulch and refreshed the potted plants on our beautiful outdoor deck. Cookouts, hosted by the Jacob Ferree Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution and Murrysville veterans, kicked-off our summer fun, and the Jefferson Hills Rotary delivered a full spaghetti dinner for all families at the house. The Rotary even brought gluten-free options for anyone with special dietary requirements. This type of over-the-top volunteerism is what you do best! No wonder our guests write notes of thanks after their stays!



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Capital Campaign Event Raises Funds for 2nd Fisher House!



Photo (l to r): Rep. Chris Deluzio, Rocky Bleier, Eric McElvenny, Mary Ellen Austin, John Corder, Dee Rink, Deb Walton and Hon. Mike McCarthy

With the leadership of Deb Walton and Dee Rink of Coldwell Banker Realty, the capital campaign committee threw their first capital campaign event. Rocky Bleier opened the evening and [Eric McElvenny](#) shared how beneficial a Fisher House had been for him and his family following his injury while he was stationed in Afghanistan. Eric's mom, Susan, affirmed the importance of Fisher House. Their family spent a very memorable Christmas together at a Fisher House while Eric recuperated. *"The Fisher House was something we didn't know we needed; but wouldn't have survived without it!"* Susan's words echo the sentiments of so many families of veterans who receive free lodging at the Fisher House – for as long as they need it – while they support their loved ones in the hospital.

The event generated a positive buzz, with several new friends stepping up to provide financial support that will make the second Pittsburgh Fisher House a reality! To date the evening raised over \$41,000 from gifts, pledges, and appreciated securities and more is anticipated. This boosts the campaign total to over \$1.5 million, which is halfway to the \$3 million local fundraising goal!

[Helping Heroes Capital Campaign - Find Out More!](#)
[Donate to the Capital Campaign](#)



Supporting the Capital Campaign at the Edgeworth Club:
Left photo (l to r): Kaitlin Donahoe of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Harry Austin, and Cody Dolan
Center Photo (l to r): Edgeworth event staff, Paul Macasek, Ed Morrissey, Deb Walton, Suzette Morrissey, Deb Walton, Greg Walton
Right Photo (l to r): John and Lori Brinker, Jack and Dona McMahon



Ways You Can Help Heroes Heal....

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Give Through United Way #12839585

Give Through CFC Payroll Donations #52712

**Workplace Giving - Does Your Employer Match Gifts?
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