



## The Friends Focus! Winter 2023 Newsletter



### The Chain of Gratitude!

Do you remember those paper chains you made in grade school? The way they looped, and draped, and wound their way around the classroom? The memory of your single piece of paper linked together with others to form a great big, interconnected chain makes a lasting impression. That's exactly what happened with your year-end contributions to the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House! Together your donations totaled \$36,437! THANK YOU! You are making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. They are grateful and thankful for your support during their time of need and for making their stay at the Pittsburgh Fisher House as comfortable as possible. Your collective links in our chain of gratitude grew into a chain of generosity that will benefit all the military families who stay at the Fisher House. We appreciate you!

[Families You Support Say Thank You](#)

[We're Better Together](#)



## Ten Years and Going Strong!

As advocates of the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House, you know our mission is to ease the burdens of veterans and their families during difficult times. Since 2012, the Fisher House has been doing just that! This past December, the Pittsburgh Fisher House celebrated 10 Years! **Since opening, the Pittsburgh Fisher House on the VA campus in Oakland has provided over 30,175 days of lodging for more than 8,255 military families!** What a wonderful community effort, with volunteers and donors all pitching in. Here's to another great decade at the Fisher House!

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**10th Anniversary Celebration Guests** (top row left to right): Jan Gawne, Dr. Rory Cooper, Jack and Dona McMahon, Rosi Cooper, Laura McKinney; (2nd row left to right): Misty Hawk, Kim Sell-Shemansky, Brian Gawne, John Corder, Heather Frantz, Teresa Saxton, Mary Ellen Austin

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[Help Heroes Heal](#)

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## Helping Heroes Heal Capital Campaign Reached \$1M!

**A new Fisher House is on the way!** Military families are fortunate that Pittsburgh, with its premier VA and city-wide medical facilities, has been approved to build a second Fisher House to be located on the HJ Heinz III campus of the VA. Its 16-suite design will increase our local capacity for free temporary lodging on the VA campus by 160%! The Capital Campaign – *Helping Heroes Heal* – has raised its first \$1,000,000 in donations and pledges.

The Pittsburgh Pirates, along with legendary pitcher Steve Blass, visited the Fisher House in January to present the check for \$28,645 that put us over the million dollar mark! We need more friends in the community like you and our beloved sports teams who have big hearts for veterans and their families. Learn how you can be part of making this happen by emailing us today at [friends@fopfh.org](mailto:friends@fopfh.org). There is a role for everyone. We hope you'll consider making a stretch gift or pledge, and help link us to others who are able to invest in building the second Fisher House in the 'Burgh.

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

[Ways You Can Give and Get Involved](#) • [Donate to the Capital Campaign](#)



On hand at the Fisher House for the check presentation to reach \$1M (left to right):  
Alyssa Stroyne, Mary Ellen Austin, Dave Shinsky, Teresa Saxton, Tessa Paivanas, Amy Smiley, Brett Baur, Steve Blass  
Center Photo: Legendary Pirate Pitcher Steve Blass  
Regaling Friends in the Fisher House Kitchen: Tessa Paivanas and Steve Blass

**SAVE THESE DATES....**

**Saturday, February 18, 2023**

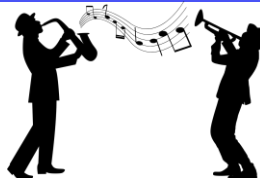
If you want to hear some great local music and support veterans, you can check out the **2023 BRADFORD VET JAM** on Saturday, February 18 at VFW Post 212 (94 Barbour Street, Bradford, PA 16701)! With 14 bands playing on two stages throughout the day, you're sure to hear some great live music while supporting a great cause! Doors open at noon and the bands start at 1:00pm. Proceeds benefit the Capital Campaign for the Second Pittsburgh Fisher House. We hope you will join the Bradford Community in supporting the Pittsburgh Fisher House at Vet Jam! *For more details call Ed Yohe at 814-366-5685 or check out Vet Jam on FaceBook!*

[You can find the list of bands and details about VET JAM 2023 on FaceBook](#)

### **Saturday, April 29, 2023**

It's a dance party! Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices is hosting a fundraiser, **THE LAST DANCE**, on Saturday, April 29 from 6-11pm at the Mars VFW (331 Mars Valencia Road, Mars, PA 16046). Admission is \$30 per person and will include food, snacks, beer, and soft drinks. (A cash bar will be available for mixed drinks). Festivities include a basket raffle and 50/50. Northwood Charitable Foundation, the charitable arm of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, is a long time, generous supporter of the Pittsburgh Fisher House! You are invited to join the fun – proceeds benefit the Capital Campaign. *For more information, contact Linda Pelkofer at 412-427-7403.*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



### **Ways You Can Help Heroes Heal....**

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Host a Meal](#)

[Wish List](#)

**Give Through United Way #12839585**

**Give Through CFC Payroll Donations #52712**

**Workplace Giving - Does Your Employer Match Gifts?**

**Tell Your Friends About Us!**

**Email for More Information: [friends@fopfh.org](mailto:friends@fopfh.org)**

**You Can CLICK HERE to Give and Get Involved!**



**Our Contact Information**

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