



The new Fisher House at Hines VA Hospital. Sam Lazich and Bill Anderson, DMS Pharmaceutical Group, took a pre-grand opening tour of the house and provided the photos included here.

DMS Pharmaceutical Group Proud to Help Bring Illinois Its First Fisher House

No one has earned our respect and dedication more than America's soldiers. In recognition of that, twenty years ago the Fisher House program was created to offer soldiers and veterans receiving treatment at military and VA medical centers a comfortable home to live in for themselves and their families during care.

By 2009, there were 43 Fisher Houses throughout the U.S. at 18 military medical installations and 13 VA sites — but none in Illinois.

That was why, in 2005, DMS Pharmaceutical president, Sam Lazich, and executive vice president, Bill Anderson, decided to team up with the Fisher House Foundation to bring this much needed facility to the 'Chicagoland' area. Fisher House Foundation challenged DMS Pharmaceutical to raise enough funds to help build a Fisher House at Hines VA Hospital, with matching of funds provided by the Fisher House Foundation. DMS Pharmaceutical rose to the occasion and, through continuous fundraisers, raised enough money by July 2008, to make an Illinois Fisher House a reality.


Hines VA Hospital services 300,000 veterans in Illinois and more from 16 surrounding states. To date, some 2,600 soldiers wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan have traveled to Hines for

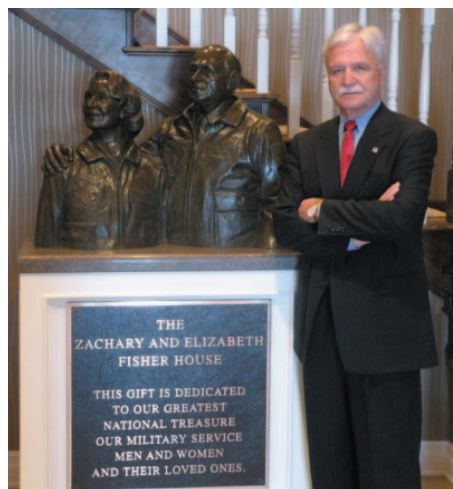
months of special medical care at this designated national polytrauma site. But none of these soldiers have been able to enjoy the benefits of the Fisher House program.

On May 28, 2010, this will all change with the grand opening of the first Fisher House in Illinois.

A "home away from home" at Hines will make a world of difference for them and their loved ones in terms of relief from the burden of lodging expenses and the priceless support of family by their sides during their medical crises.

Working with the Fisher Houses for Illinois Board, committees and volunteers has been deeply gratifying to DMS Pharmaceutical. This has been further enhanced by the joining of hands with other "friends of Fisher House" dedicated to making the Fisher House for Hines a reality.

DMS extends its heartfelt gratitude to all Fisher House for Illinois supporters, and looks forward to the grand opening of the Hines VA Fisher House, which will be reported on in the upcoming June/July issue of *HealthCare Distributor*. 



A justifiably proud Sam Lazich, president of DMS Pharmaceutical Group, in the foyer of the Hines Fisher House. The dedication plaque bears the busts of Fisher House Foundation founders, Elizabeth and Zachary Fisher.



The lovely dining room of the newest Fisher House.



The living room is gracious and comfortable.



Bill Anderson and Sam Lazich in one of the beautiful bedrooms.


The Fisher House Program

The Fisher House program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. The program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that normally provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Because members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times — during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

There is at least one Fisher House at every major military medical center to assist families in need and to ensure that they are provided with the comforts of home in a supportive environment. Annually, the Fisher House program serves more than 10,000 families, and has made available nearly three million days of lodging to family members since the program originated in 1990. By law, there is no charge for any family to stay at a Fisher House operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Fisher House Foundation uses donations to reimburse the individual Fisher Houses operated by the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

In addition to constructing new houses, Fisher House Foundation continues to support existing Fisher Houses and help individual military families in need.

For further information about the program, volunteering or to make a tax deductible gift, visit www.fisherhouse.org. 



Denver Fisher House at the VA Medical Center.