

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Barton Fisher House Fund Drive

<http://www.fisherhouse.org/index.html>

The first Fisher House built outside the U.S. was dedicated in June, 2001 in Landstuhl, Germany, site of the military's only major medical center in a foreign country.

It supports all service members and their families, retirees, and other U.S. Government personnel in Europe, Northern Africa, and the Middle East, and has been at full capacity since its opening.



## FISHER HOUSES: A DREAM COME TRUE BY PAULINE TROST

*In the mid-1970's, as I came onto the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda for a clinic visit, I saw a helicopter land at the medical center heliport. A sailor, his wife and two children came down the steps with their luggage. I wondered where they would stay. Living in the D. C. area, I knew that hotels and motels in the Bethesda area were expensive and likely beyond the means of couples such as this one. These thoughts remained on my mind for years.*

*When my husband became the Chief of Naval Operations in 1986, I thought this might be a good time to pursue my dream of providing affordable temporary housing for families of those facing a medical crisis at Bethesda. I spoke with Mrs. Iris Reiman, then president of the Washington area Naval Officers Wives Club, and asked her if she would explore how members felt about taking on such a project. She brought up the subject at next meeting and reported agreement on planning the concept. We originally thought about finding an unused or underused building on the medical center grounds which could be converted into a place for people to stay on a temporary basis.*

*In early 1990, my husband received a call from our friend, Zachary Fisher, who had provided generous assistance to families of service personnel beset by tragedy. Zachary indicated that he was prepared to expand his support and asked my husband for thoughts on projects he might undertake which would benefit personnel of all military services. Among other ideas, my husband mentioned my dream. Zachary was taken by the concept and we discussed it further. He said, "I'm a builder, I have my own architect, we can do this." Things moved rapidly thereafter, bureaucratic hurdles were overcome, a site was identified for the first house, and in 1991, the first*

***Fisher House opened with President and Mrs. Bush joining the Fishers and us at the dedication ceremony. The dream had come true.***

***Zachary Fisher told me later it was the most satisfying thing he'd ever done. In a letter to my husband and me in January, 1992, commenting on a thank-you letter from a wife who had stayed at Fisher House I at Bethesda, he wrote: "The attached letter says it all. I knew how important the Fisher Houses would be - but I never imagined how many lives would be changed!" Zachary and Elizabeth were true American patriots.***

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The annual Barton fund drive is dedicated to providing funds directly to the Landstuhl (Germany) Fisher house <http://www.fisherhouse.org/theHouses/europe.shtml>. The Drive kicks off each Veterans Day and ends on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Landstuhl is one of the first stops in the evacuation route for WIA soldiers.

Our donations to the Fisher House at Landstuhl help provide funds for immediate soldier needs, helps with family travel expenses and cover the cost of family lodging.

Barton County Community College is proud to provide educational services to the Army Family. Please support your fellow students and their families as they continue to serve in harms way.

Please send your tax deductible donation to:

**Ft. Riley Fisher House Fund  
Barton County Community College  
ATTN: Janet Balk  
P.O. Box 2463, Ft. Riley, KS 66442.**

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**Fisher House Foundation has received an A+ rating from  
Charity Watch ([www.charitywatch.org](http://www.charitywatch.org))**