

DMS Pharmaceutical's Fund-Raising Tournament Assists Military Families

United States military families facing medical crises garnered new support recently thanks to DMS Pharmaceutical Group, a full-line pharmaceutical and medical supplies wholesaler based in Park Ridge, Ill. DMS hosted a benefit golf tournament that raised \$50,000 for Fisher House programs.

The Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes" built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. Because members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, these residences provide lodging so that family members can stay close to loved ones who are hospitalized for an illness or injury.

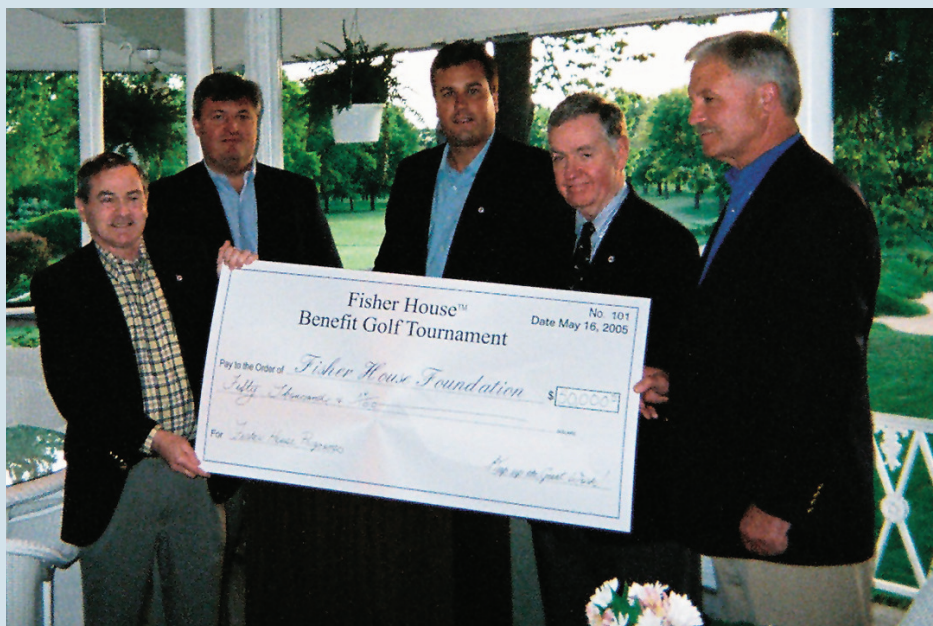
"The Fisher House Foundation provides a remarkable lesson in 'giving back,'" said Sam Lazich, president of DMS Pharmaceutical and host of the event, which was held at the Park Ridge Country Club. "DMS pledges to host future annual fund-raisers to benefit this organization and its deserving mission," he added.

"The provision of comfort homes where military families can stay free in many cases, or for under \$10 a day per family, is a source of great relief for financially stressed family members when they have nowhere else to turn," Lazich commented.

James D. Weiskopf, Fisher House Foundation vice president of communications, acknowledged the fund-raising effort by DMS and outlined expansion plans for additional comfort homes to lighten the financial burdens of military families.

Weiskopf, a retired U.S. Army colonel, thanked all who participated in the tournament program by quoting Fisher House founder Zachary Fisher, "for supporting our national treasure...our military service men and women and their loved ones."

The keynote speaker for the fund-raising tournament was retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Edgar R. Anderson Jr., a mem-



The \$50,000 raised during the DMS-hosted golf tournament is presented to the Fisher House Foundation during the event at Park Ridge Country Club in Illinois. From left: James D. Weiskopf, Fisher House vice president; Misko Dragin, DMS vice president/comptroller; Bill Anderson, DMS executive vice president; retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Edgar R. Anderson Jr., the keynote speaker; and Sam Lazich, DMS president.

ber of the Fisher House board of trustees and presently a professor of medicine at Loyola University in Chicago.

Dr. Anderson personally witnessed the emotional and financial impact of the first Fisher House "home away from home" built in 1992 at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Speaking to the event's audience, he shared this experience and the challenges of directing 52,000 personnel assigned to 87 medical facilities worldwide.

Personalized, Reliable Service

The host of the fund-raising event, full-line DMS Pharmaceutical Group, serves a wide range of health-care and surgery centers, hospitals, pharmacies and government facilities throughout the United States.

The company states that it has "forged a strong role in the wholesale suppliers market with traditional American business val-

ues and signature dependable, personal service for all of its customers, big and small."

DMS is a member of the Healthcare Distribution Management Association and has formed alliances with group purchasing organizations such as MedAssets, Novation, Premier, Innovatix, MHA, HPG and PHS.

The company reports that its customers have access to over 20,000 brand and generic drugs, comprising all their forms and dosages, via current DMS inventories and industry relationships with over 350 leading U.S. drugmakers. A full listing of about 85,000 items is posted on the DMS website, www.dmspharma.com.

Since its founding in 1995, DMS has experienced growth that the company describes as "remarkable." Angie and Sam Lazich headed the team that built the firm from the ground up into today's "bustling enterprise." Pooling their expertise in computer programming, busi-

ness operations and medications, the two started out in a two-person office with a goal and a loan from a supportive friend and mentor in the drug industry.

Although it began with just a handful of accounts and working relationships with drug producers, DMS Pharmaceutical asserts that it is now the "channel of choice" serving customers across the U.S., including medical centers, hospitals, clinics, emergency facilities, and pharmacies, plus government health-care, defense and correctional institutions. Reliable, personalized service is its hallmark, DMS says.

In 2002, the company qualified as a prime vendor to the state of Illinois; in 2003, it achieved awards to service Department of Defense military installations; and this year, it became a prime vendor for Department of Defense Pacific Medical Pharmacies.

By 2000, DMS sales volume had reached approximately \$25 million, and by 2004 sales had almost tripled. The company is headquartered in an Illinois suburb with a staff of 30. DMS says there are plans for further growth.

Meeting Humanitarian Needs

Fisher House, the program that earned the enthusiastic support of DMS Phar-


maceutical, is a unique private-public partnership meeting humanitarian needs through services beyond those normally provided by the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

There is at least one Fisher House facility at every major military medical center. Annually, the program serves more than 8,500 families, and since its origin in 1990, it has made available more than 1.5 million days of lodging to military family members.

It is estimated that families have saved nearly \$60 million by staying at Fisher lodging since the program began.

In addition to constructing new comfort homes, the foundation continues to support existing residences and also helps individual military families in need.

And families and friends of patients at any of the military's hospitals can now receive up-to-the-minute reports on a loved one by going to the patient's own customized web page, thanks to new services provided through CaringBridge.

Fisher House also administers and sponsors Scholarships for Military Children and co-sponsors the Newman's Own Award, which is associated with actor Paul Newman, a World War II Navy veteran. For more information, visit www.fisherhouse.org. 



Fisher House III at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The house opened in April of 2004 and was built in response to the growing number of combat casualties being treated at Walter Reed.

BD Volunteers Help Combat HIV in Zambia

Medical technology company BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) and the Catholic Medical Mission Board recently collaborated to help combat HIV/AIDS in Zambia. A group of ten BD associates from around the world worked with the mission organization at five rural health-care facilities to assist in the fight against the deadly disease.

More than 350 BD associates applied to participate in this effort, and several of those selected were specialists with a laboratory background.

The BD team arrived in Zambia in early May for their two-week assignment. Some volunteers served as laboratory trainers, raising awareness and encouraging best practices in routine lab and HIV/AIDS testing; others were general assistants, teaching basic skills to local residents; and still others did construction work, repairing and renovating hospitals and clinics.

In preparation for the trip, BD associates from locations worldwide contributed funds, which were in part matched by BD. The volunteers themselves sold T-shirts and wristbands, with the funds used to purchase supplies for the Zambian clinics. BD also secured the donation of five new computers and donated various laboratory and medical supplies to the program.

"Currently, an estimated 16 percent of Zambia's population is HIV positive," noted Dr. Elizabeth Musaba, country director of the Catholic Medical Mission Board in Zambia. "The average life expectancy is 37 and there is limited access to health care, especially in rural areas."

John "Jack" F. Galbraith, president and CEO of the Catholic mission organization, said the program utilized "BD's resources and talent to make a real difference in the Zambian communities." Edward J. Ludwig, BD chairman, president and CEO, said the mission board was "the ideal partner for this program because of their heritage and expertise in the developing world, and their exclusive focus on global health-care issues." BD said it hopes to conduct additional volunteer programs in other locations in the future. 