40 Years and Going Strong

Forty years ago in San Diego there wasn’t a Burn Center. In fact, specialized burn treatment was a relatively new concept. In 1970, San Diego and Imperial Counties had a population of 1.9 million with over 300 burn injuries each year. These unfortunate people had to be transported to Long Beach or even Houston for proper care. We weren’t alone. In the U.S. at that time there were 6,000 acute care hospitals, but only 32 had the capability to treat severe burn injuries.

Dr. Hugh Frank identified the lack of a burn center as a “high priority community need” and set out to make it happen. Part of his crusade was speaking to civic organizations all over the community. It was at one such presentation in 1971 to a Women’s Club where Dolores Juditz became aware of the problem. After seeing the slides presented by Dr. Frank showing the frightening and traumatic injury suffered by the human body, “we were truly amazed to find out that there was no place for us to get prompt and adequate care” Dolores recalls. They also learned that the treatment of burn requires special facilities, sterile environment, specially trained physicians and nurses and other support personnel, expensive and specialized monitoring and therapeutic equipment. What would happen to the people of our community if they were severely burned? The club was very concerned and appointed Dolores to spearhead their effort to help Dr. Frank in his mission. At the time, she expected only to gather information and take it back to the club and help raise a little money. Forty years later, Dolores is still at it!

In 1972, Dolores found herself on the board of the newly formed Institute for Burn Medicine. In her first year alone, she spoke to 65 other Women’s Clubs. Also during that first year, they had to get incorporated, write bylaws, get contracts with the University Regents, meet with lawyers, contractors, bankers, find places to meet and most importantly, they had two months to raise the $50,000 needed to get the unit started. The Burn Unit opened at University Hospital in August, 1973 and had the distinction of being the first burn center to be funded primarily by community support. There were 1,247 donors that year; mostly individuals.

By the end of 1974, Dolores and the board made presentations to 128 groups. They distributed 40,000 brochures on fire and burn prevention in English and Spanish. They sponsored fire safety classes for long-term health facilities and homes. The Institute Health Fair program showed safety displays and a slide program to 15,000 people. $74,000 was donated to the Burn Unit.

During those early years, Dolores was juggling a job, her work with the Burn Institute, the Women’s Club and six children which was no easy feat! Looking back, she is not certain how she managed to stay on top of it all.

Dolores Juditz and her daughter, Tommie along with Dr. Jack Wasserman and Ed Leonard at the “Share Your Heart” event in 2009
Dear Friends:

As you may have already noticed, this year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Burn Institute. In addition, surprisingly, 2012 also marks my 20th year here at the BI as well – my how time flies when you’re having fun! It has been one heck of a ride! It seems like only yesterday that the Firefighters Advisory Council to the Burn Institute (FFACBI) was established and we were holding the Burn Run and Fire Fighters Night at the Padres down at Qualcomm with just a big tailgate party (2,000+ people!). Some of those firefighters were instrumental in getting me the Executive Director job here at the BI – and they remind me of that every chance they get!

We’ve come a long way since those days and accomplished so much because of the dedicated support of firefighters, fire chiefs, thousands of volunteers and donors. It really has been a full community effort. All these talented and generous people coming together for a single mission – to end the devastation of fires and burn injuries. We have so much to be proud of. Locally, we are recognized as the experts in fire and burn prevention and burn survivor support. Nationally, we are considered by many to be the preeminent burn foundation in North America. Our programs and services have become a model for others to follow. Much to be proud of, indeed.

When you read this issue of the Beacon, you will note some of our agency milestones during the past four decades. But the real accomplishments are not those simple agency highlights. Our real accomplishments are measured by every fire or burn injury we have prevented, and every burn survivor we have helped during their challenging recovery. That is something to be proud of!

Here’s to another 40 years of serving our community. Thank you to all of you who have made this success story a reality.

Stay Safe!

James A. Floros
Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer

Fire and Burn Prevention Facts & Tips

Fast 80% of burn injuries are preventable.
Tip: Protect your family with a practiced fire escape plan, and establish an outside meeting area. Download your free plan at: www.burninstitute.org.

40 Years of Achievements: Nearly $30,000,000 Raised to Date!

1972: Institute for Burn Medicine Board of Directors held their first meeting at the home of board member Mrs. Betty Comer.

1973: A 5-kilowatt burn center opened on August 6. During its first year of operation, the Burn Unit treated 89 patients, 22 of whom were children.

1992: The Institute's Auxiliary was formally established.

1993: Nearly $100,000 was raised at the first Share Your Heart Auction and Wine Tasting in Del Mar.

1994: The Institute held its first local winter Camp Beyond the Scars.

1996: The Burn Institute established the first Juvenile Firesetter workshop in San Diego County.

1997: The San Diego-Imperial County Fire Fighters’ Advisory Council to the Burn Institute was formed. The San Diego County First Responder Association held their first golf tournament and raised $7,800 for the Burn Institute.

1998: The Institute began providing emergency funds for needy families in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

1999: The Institute’s Board of Directors voted to move their offices to the Imperial County Fairgrounds.

2000: The San Diego – Imperial County Fire Fighters Advisory Council to the Burn Institute was formed. The San Diego Burn/Fire Expo celebrated its 10th Anniversary and raised more than $100,000. The San Diego County Fire Chiefs’ Association celebrated their 10th Annual Golf Tournament and raised more than $30,000. The Burn Institute’s annual budget surpassed $1 million dollars.

2001: The San Diego County Chiefs’ Golf Tournament was moved from Qualcomm Stadium to the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

2002: The San Diego County Chiefs’ Golf Tournament was moved from Qualcomm Stadium to the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

2003: The Institute provided $100,000 worth of support to local wildfire burn victims.

2004: The Firefighters’ Retroactive Scholarship Fund was established.

2005: The Burn Institute established its first affiliate in the Inland Empire.

2006: The Burn Institute introduced the Heritage Society for those who have named the Burn Institute in their estate plans. The BI Imperial Valley rollout its FEMA Funded Fire Safety Trainer. The First Down Fund scholarship was awarded.

2007: Over 2,000,000 pieces of fire & burn prevention literature were distributed to the community. The BI helped establish a new Juvenile Firesetter Coalition to conduct conferences in the Western U.S. The Mentorship Program for young burn survivors was founded. The BI provided significant assistance to firefighters burned in the 2007 wildfires and created the Fireproof Fund, designed to assist 15-year-old burn survivor Richard Vardock with support and special needs.

2008: Burn Institute Executive Director/CEO Jim Flomos received the American Burn Association’s National Burn Prevention Award and San Diego County Fire Chiefs’ Maltese Award. The BI hosted its first young adult retreat for burn survivors. The new Fire Safe Kids program was launched.

2009: 225 families participated in the Juvenile Firesetter Program. The annual Fire EXPO was moved from Qualcomm Stadium to the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

2010: 3,500 smoke alarms were installed free of charge in homes throughout the county through the First Responders and Senior Smoke Alarm Programs. The Burn Institute partnered with the University of San Diego to provide Juvenile Firesetting counseling services. The popular Navy Lodge Children’s Derby was brought back as part of the annual Fire EXPO.

2011: The San Diego County Chiefs Golf Tournament was changed to the Chief’s Gala & Golf Classic and a second day was added.

2012: The BI partnered with Alliant University to provide counseling services for Juvenile Firesetters.

The Burn Institute is the local nonprofit agency dedicated to reducing the number of burn injuries and deaths in San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino counties through fire and burn prevention education, burn care research and treatment, and burn survivor support services.

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Please remember the Burn Institute in your annual United Way/Omni & CFC Campaigns. Member Agency of Combined Health Agencies (San Diego County #59581)
United Way (Imperial County)
Combined Federal Campaign (San Diego #50359) (Imperial County #72024)
What can be Red, Yellow, White, or Green?

Surprisingly, the answer to that question is a fire engine! Most fire engines in San Diego County are one of those colors, with the predominant color being red. Have you ever wondered why there are so many different colored fire engines? Across the nation there are even more colors, they include blue, orange, dark green, and any combination of colors in between. There have been numerous safety studies over the years on apparatus colors. Usually the safest color for a fire engine has been noted as being that bright lime green. There was a push back in the late 70’s to make lime green the color of choice for fire engines but it never caught on. In fact, I remember a story about a chief officer driving around in a lime green sedan in the downtown area. Apparently he was flagged down by a little lady on a sidewalk. When the chief pulled over to help, the lady climbed in the back of the car because she thought it was a taxi. Well, that was the end of the lime green apparatus in that city.

If you ask most children what color a fire engine is, they would answer red. That is the traditional color for most departments. In Escondido we have white fire engines with a red reflective stripe but there is a move to change the color to red. Why? Because of our fire service traditions. Fire engines are supposed to be red, aren’t they? Although white is easier to maintain and care for, in a recent in-house fire department survey, red won out 3 to 1. Some departments today will stay with their non-traditional anti-red color because it identifies their department. If you ask a firefighter in San Diego County which department has yellow fire engines, all could answer Santer. That color now identifies their apparatus almost as if it were a brand. Most departments in the North County used to have white apparatus but over the years all but Escondido, San Marcos, and Rancho Santa Fe have changed to red. Escondido changed to white back in the late 50’s because it was easier to maintain, now, we may be changing back to red. There is also rumor that Rancho Santa Fe may be changing to red sometime in the future.

As far as which color is safer, the arguments seem to go full circle depending on the time of day. Some would say “Red” is safer during the day because people identify it as a fire engine. Others would argue yellow, orange, lime green or white because they are brighter and easier to see, especially at night. Others would argue that the color really does not matter because of all the safety and warning devices that now come equipped on fire apparatus. The code 3 lights are very bright, the sirens are located for better directional amplification, and now there are usually reflective stripes on both sides of the engines. New features we are seeing more and more of are the reflective chevron stripes in reflective lime green and red on the back of fire apparatus. In fact, those reflective stripes are now recommended by the National Fire Protection Association for all new apparatus.

So, does it matter if a fire engine is red, yellow, white, or green? Some of you may say who cares or it really doesn’t matter as long as it shows up when I call 911 and the firefighters inside of the engine take great care of me. But if you ask your local firefighter about the color of the fire engine they work on, it does matter. They usually will answer that their department’s color is best!

Escondido Fire Chief
Michael Lowry
President, San Diego County Fire Chiefs’ Association
Board Member, Burn Institute

Thank You Letters
Dear Burn Institute,

I appreciate so very much the installation that you did of two smoke alarms and one for carbon monoxide. It makes me feel much more comfortable & safe. Such a wonderful gesture. Thank you so much.

Gerri

Dear Burn Institute,

Just a short note to tell your organization thank you for coming out to service my smoke alarm and adding one to my hallway which is much more convenient to take care of.

I fully appreciate your program to assist seniors with this type of problem. All the staff members that came in contact with me were very helpful and courteous. Thanks again for taking your time to assist us in this special program.

Irene

To schedule a FREE smoke alarm installation, seniors aged 62 and over that own their home may contact Stephanie Olivas at 858.541.2277 Ext. 13, solivas@burninstitute.org, to schedule an appointment.

Senior Smoke Alarm Program

In December, local seniors got the gift of new smoke and carbon monoxide alarms installed in their homes, thanks to the Burn Institute, Councilmember Lorie Zapf, and a volunteer coalition of community organizations. More than 80 seniors benefited from the Burn Institute’s Senior Smoke Alarm Program just in time for the holidays, when fireplaces, heaters and candles can increase the risk of house fires and carbon monoxide leaks.

Calling All Artists: Firesafe Kids Poster Contest

Do you have a budding young artist in your family? Are you a teacher who would like to teach your students important fire and burn prevention safety tips?

The Burn Institute is inviting local children ages 5-9 to submit original artwork featuring fire and burn prevention safety messages for use in its 2013 Fire Safe Kids calendar! Children are asked to submit artwork representing one area of prevention and are encouraged to include seasonal references (i.e., holidays, summer). Get creative and have fun with it! Visit www.firesafekids.org for more ideas.

Winning artwork will be used in the 2013 Burn Institute calendar and will be displayed at the 22nd Annual Farmers Insurance Fire EXPO & Firefighter Demo Derby presented by Viejas, June 16, 2012 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The Grand Prize winner will get the ride of a lifetime in a fire engine during the Burn Run Parade! Hurry! Contest deadline is May 25, 2012.

For contest guidelines and info, visit www.burninstitute.org. Schedule a FREE Fire Safe Kid Presentation for your school! Contact Stephanie Olivas at (858)541-2277, Ext. 13; e-mail solivas@burninstitute.org.

You Can Help Make A Difference In The Life Of A Burn-Injured Child

Text BURN to 20222 to donate $5.00 to help send a kid to camp this summer

We appreciate your support!

A one-time donation of $5.00 will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. All donations must be authorized by the account holder. User must be age 18 or older or have a parental permission to participate. By texting YES, the user agrees to the terms and conditions. All charges are billed and payable to your mobile service provider. Service is available on most carriers. Donations are collected for the benefit of the Burn Institute by the Mobile Giving Foundation and subject to the terms found at www.mgfg.org. Message & Data Rates May Apply. You can unsubscribe at any time by texting STOP to 20222, text HELP to 20222 for help.
Donors

The Burn Institute is grateful to the following individuals, corporations, foundations and community groups for their generous gifts. Listed below are donations of $250+ made from October 24, 2011 through February 14, 2011.

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GIFTS AND TRIBUTES

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As of 2/15/2012

President’s Circle members are individual donors who support the Burn Institute with an annual gift of $1,000 or more. This annual gift can be made in the form of cash, check, credit card or appreciated stock. You can become a member for only $83 a month. To learn about all the exciting annual benefits you will receive as a President’s Circle member contact Diane Sutherland at (858) 541-2277, Ext. 19 or dusutherland@burninstitute.org.

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Special Thanks

Lori Fentress from Insurance Brokers and Agents of San Diego presents a donation to Diane Sutherland, Assistant Executive Director/COO of the Burn Institute.
Adult Burn Survivor Retreat

The Burn Institute proudly hosted The Adult Burn Survivor and Caregivers Retreat at Miracles Hot Mineral Resort & Spa in Desert Hot Springs, CA on January 5-8. This was the first Adult Retreat where the caregivers were included (significant other, partner, sibling, children) and were provided separate support sessions. What many people don’t realize is that a burn injury affects more than just the victim. Caregivers & family members have experienced some level of trauma during the burn survivor’s injury, treatment and recovery phase. Thank you to Jen Hartley and Chris Hallwas, both burn survivors and certified Massage Therapists with an emphasis in Scar Tissue Massage for providing massage therapy to all the attendees. For many burn survivors this would be the first time having their scar tissues touched by others since their treatment phase.

Group sessions were facilitated by Cindy Rutter, Mark Foreman and Sam Kilbourne. Cindy has facilitated many “peer based” support sessions but this would be the first time the retreat included therapy based counseling provided by Mark and Sam who are in the Doctorate program for Clinical Forensic Psychology at Alliant University. They also offered attendees the opportunity for follow up counseling after the retreat.

The weekend ended with a tribute to burn survivor, Art Lindberg as he generously donated the use of the Miracle Hot Springs Mineral Resort & Spa to the Burn Institute in his legacy.

Young Burn Survivor Scores Big with Rugby Tournament

Over a year ago, Derek Thomas was traveling home from Mammoth, CA along with four other passengers; Derek’s girlfriend, two other fellow athletes and their coach. Their SUV lost control, flipped onto its side, and was struck by an oncoming van. Derek was pulled out with burns over 85% of his body and was given a 1% chance of survival. After one year in the hospital and 43 surgeries, he has returned home. His rehabilitation will continue for years, but his thirst for life and desire to “make-it” are inspirational.

One of the survivors of the tragic accident, Derek and his friends and family teamed up with the Burn Institute to create The Derek Thomas Fund. Derek recently hosted the First Annual Derek Thomas Youth Rugby Invitational on February 11 & 12. Teams from all over California participated. Derek has a long-time passion for rugby and this tournament offered the community a chance to come out and support the Thomas family as they manage the emotional and financial strains of the long road to rehabilitation. The weekend also included a team banquet at the Del Mar Fairgrounds for teams, sponsors and community supporters. You can donate to the fund online at www.burninstitute.org.

Burn Survivors Celebrate the Holidays

Each year, the UCSD Regional Burn Center and the Burn Institute co-host the very popular holiday party for burn survivors. This year’s festivities held at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley included cookie, dinner, young guests gathered in front of the hotel to wait for Santa’s dramatic entrance on a shiny red fire engine, its lights & sirens announcing the grand arrival. Hundreds of young burn survivors and their families attended the holiday party – more than 400 guests in all.

Program Manager, Dana Kuhn headed up the event, explaining its importance not only to young burn survivors and their families, but to the UCSD Regional Burn Center, its staff and the survivor community. “It gives them the opportunity to visit with patients that they work with, and see them doing well in their recovery. The smiles definitely validate the hard work they do year round.”

The Burn Institute wishes to thank the UCSD Regional Burn Center, event co-sponsor and all the volunteers and companies that donated their services to make this such a special event.

She recalls some of the interesting early fundraisers which included a Miss Flame and Mr. Inferno costume contest and party. For a $3.00 donation attendees were treated to a band, entertainment, snacks and 75 cent drinks. The Federal Firefighters had a “Rent a Firefighter” program. For $50 donors got services from a firefighter which could be anything from painting to walking a dog. There was a chocolate, fire-themed fashion show, a Western Stunt Show & Wild Donkey Softball Game and a Junk Jamboree contest.

According to Dolores, there have been many notable accomplishments throughout the 40 years of her involvement. She is very proud of the extensive cooperation with fire service organizations throughout the area. In addition, the ability of the Burn Institute to attract dedicated board members and staff is commendable. She is also gratified by the organizations’ ability to earn the support of community leaders and businesses and with the continuing emphasis on burn prevention education to every area of our community including school children, teens, seniors and businesses. The recognition of the Burn Institute on a national level due to our local accomplishments is one of her highlights.

When she reflects on those early years, Dolores is surprised by what was accomplished by so few really dedicated people in such a brief time. “The sheer volume of meetings, contacts, reports and problems was exhausting.” But even so, she recalls it fondly and remembers the enthusiasm, inventiveness and the can-do attitude of talented, interesting and interested people working together to accomplish a dream.

When asked why after 40 years with the Burn Institute as a board member she remains devoted, Dolores replied, “People still get burned. Our original mission is still an ongoing need. Our burn unit still needs support for the patients and their families. We still need to focus on burn prevention in every area of our lives; at home, at play, at work and at school. There is always a new goal, a new problem, a new fundraiser. Fortunately there are also new and exciting ideas, new board members and staff who want to keep the Burn Institute moving forward. I hate to leave a job unfinished.”

“My vision for the future of the Burn Institute is that our work will continue to attract enthusiastic, selfless and skilled board members and financial supporters. I hope for a seamless system of sharing all aspects of burn prevention, medical care and occupational skills on a national level,” Dolores said.

Dolores Juditz was one of the founding board members of the Burn Institute and continues today as the Board Secretary.

For more information, contact Program Manager Dana Kuhn at 619-588-5417, Ext. 21; dkuhn@burninstitute.org.
13th Annual Firefighter Boot Drive
April 3, 2012

Look for firefighters in and around San Diego County, as they take to the streets once again for the Firefighter Boot Drive to benefit the Burn Institute. Come out, thank your local heroes and give to the BI's largest one-day fundraiser! Firefighters will be located at intersections across the county during morning and/or evening commutes. Check the Burn Institute website for locations as the event nears: www.burninstitute.org.

NEW this year, if you can't make it to one of our intersections, you can text your $5.00 donation to BURN at 20222.

Remember, every dollar raised stays here to serve the local community with important fire/burn prevention outreach and burn survivor support programs, including Camp Beyond the Scars for burn-injured children (5-17). Show your support and "Give Burns the Boot!"

Note to fire service: Each Firefighter Boot Drive participant will receive a free ticket to Firefighter Night at the Padres (April 20), and a limited edition commemorative T-shirt! For more information, contact BI Special Events Manager, Kelsey Warren, at (858) 541-2277, Ext. 20, or e-mail kwarren@burninstitute.org.

Join the Padres as They Salute Local Firefighters
April 20, 2012

Support your local fire service and enjoy the all-American sport of baseball when the San Diego Padres take on the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday, April 20, 2012 at Petco Park! Pregame ceremonies honoring local fire service will begin at 6-40 p.m. and will feature a firefighter video tribute as firefighters line the field and a young burn survivor gets the thrill-of-a-lifetime, throwing out the first pitch!

Hosted by the San Diego-Imperial County Firefighters Advisory Council to the Burn Institute, a portion of ticket proceeds from Firefighter Night at the Padres will benefit BI fire/burn prevention education, and burn survivor support programs and services including Camp Beyond the Scars for burn-injured children (5-17).

Special discount tickets – Hurry, supplies are limited! Field Pavilion for $19.00 and Right Field Lower Reserved for $17.00.

Order online at: www.padres.com/promo (Promo Code "BURN"). To order by phone, contact Lea Hubert at 858-541-2277, Ext. 12; lhubert@burninstitute.org. Deadline for this special promotion is April 16, 2012.

40th Annual Spirit of Courage Awards Banquet
May 24, 2012

Hosted by San Diego Firefighters Local 145 at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla – Avenue Ballroom

For general information visit www.burninstitute.org or call (858)541-2277. Sponsorships, Honors, Table Donations: Annette DeWong (858)541-2277, Ext. 17; jewing@burninstitute.org.

Farmers Insurance Fire EXPO/Firefighter Demo Derby presented by Viejitas
June 16, 2012

Save the date and join us for the most exciting day of firefighting fun and car-crushing excitement this side of the Mississippi! Held during the San Diego County Fair, general admission will allow visitors to enjoy the fairgrounds PLUS all of the excitement that has made the Farmers Insurance Fire EXPO/Firefighter Demo Derby presented by Viejitas Band of Kumeyaay Indians the largest firefighting event in Southern California! It's a great value for your entertainment dollar – and all for a good cause!

• Firefighter Demolition Derby
• Derby Car Display (pre-race)
• Local heroes compete head-to-head
• “Live" firefighter demonstrations
• Vehicle Fire
• Vehicle Extrication
• Rappelling & more!
• Burn Run Parade of fire trucks/apparatus
• FREE GIVEAWAYS – Win a chance for a ride on the Farmers Insurance Airship
• Community Pavilion & fire safety exhibits
• Fire & burn prevention education booths, vendors
• Free Photo with a firefighter!
• Fire truck, engine & apparatus display
• Activities & hands-on fun for the kids
• Fire Safe Kid poster contest display
• Free smoke alarms, prizes & giveaways
• Live music

Event proceeds support BI fire and burn prevention education, burn survivor support services and programs including Camp Beyond the Scars for burn-injured children (5-17). So come out and join us -- and experience an exhilarating day of firefighting fun!

For general information, call the Burn Institute (858)541-2277 or visit www.burninstitute.org. Firefighters interested in derby participation or businesses wishing to sponsor a car or event booth: Contact Kelsey Warren at (858)541-2277, Ext. 20; kwarren@burninstitute.org.

2nd Annual Sunroad Chiefs’ Gala & Golf Classic presented by Ashford University
September 8 & 10, 2012

The Burn Institute’s annual Sunroad Chiefs’ Gala & Golf Classic presented by Ashford University was upgraded to a fantastic two-day event in 2011 and the tradition continues this year!

Held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine, the Saturday night Gala will feature an elegant dinner, live music and dancing, plus amazing live and silent auctions. The Golf Classic will be held Monday, September 10th at the legendary Maderas Golf Club in Poway.

The San Diego County Fire Chiefs’ Association and Burn Institute Auxiliary host the event each year. Proceeds will benefit BI fire and burn prevention education and burn survivor support programs and services, including Camp Beyond the Scars for burn-injured children (5-17 years).

If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, contact Diane Sutherland at 858-541-2277 or dsutherland@burninstitute.org. For more information on the event, contact BI Special Events Manager, Kelsey Warren (858)541-2277, Ext. 20, or e-mail kwarren@burninstitute.org. Sponsorships are still available!

$750 will send one burn-injured child to Summer Camp Beyond the Scars. $750
Spreading the Christmas Spirit in the Inland Empire

When Santa & Mrs. Claus traveled to the Holiday Party for our burn survivors on Dec. 11 at Shooters Sports Grill in Riverside, he left his reindeer and sleigh at the North Pole. With sirens blaring and lights flashing he arrived on a shiny red Riverside Fire Department station 12 fire truck, where more than 40 burn survivors and their families gathered to greet him.

While Santa was busy handing out gifts, our burn-injured children learned how to use a pool stick and enjoyed one-on-one billiards instruction, thanks to members of the American Pool Association (APA).

The kids, billiard aficionados, and even Santa himself were all dazzled by a display of pool table trickery provided by the members of the APA. While some of the children kept busy playing pool, others got right into the holiday spirit by creating holiday decorations at the craft area.

“I was delighted to be part of the event, and to entertain these wonderful kids,” said Terry Keoper, board member of the Burn Institute-Inland Empire who donned the Santa suit and played a remarkable role as Santa. The heartwarming holiday celebration also included lots of homemade food, music, and crafts. Santa provided gifts (with the help of BI-IE director Sherri Laffey, staff and volunteers), courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire, to all the children and their siblings.

Firehouse World Conference

The Burn Institute is excited to have been chosen as the nonprofit partner for the 10th annual Firehouse World Conference that took place in February. Fire service personnel from all over the country attended the event. In addition, we would like to thank MES Fire for hosting the “Fire Service Appreciation Event” aboard the USS Midway on the opening night of the conference. The price of admission included food, drinks, Flight Simulators, full access to the USS Midway Museum and music from the Bill Magee Blues Band. All proceeds went to the BI.

Miramar Fire Department Helping during the Holidays

Since 2007, the Miramar Fire Department has adopted a family with a burn-injured child for the holidays. In addition, they sponsor two kids to go to Camp Beyond the Scars each year. Thank you!

Calling All Volunteers!

We are updating our database and want to be sure we have your current email address. If it has changed in the past year, please email kframpton@burninstitute.org so that we can keep you informed on all the great Burn Institute volunteer opportunities!

2012 Event Calendar

April

13th Annual Firefighter Boot Drive
Tuesday, April 3
Held throughout San Diego County

13th Annual Firefighter Night at the Padres presented by SDA Security
Friday, April 20
Padres vs. Phillies
PETCO Park, San Diego

May

40th Annual Spirit of Courage Awards Banquet
Thursday, May 24
Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine

June

The 22nd Annual Farmers Insurance Fire Expo/ Firefighter Demo Derby presented by The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Saturday, June 16
Del Mar Fairgrounds

July

20th Annual Summer Session Camp Beyond The Scars
July 30 – August 5
Oakbridge Camp, Ramona, CA

The 2nd Annual Sunroad Chiefs Gala & Golf Classic presented by Ashford University
Saturday & Monday
September 8 and 10
Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine (Gala);
Maderas Golf Club (Classic)

September

Volunteer opportunities are available for many of our events. For more information, contact Kathleen Frampton, Director of Volunteer Services at kframpton@burninstitute.org or call (619)541-2277, Ext. 11. For more event information, call our office or visit us online at www.burninstitute.org.
Beacon Bits

The Burn Institute would like to welcome new Community Outreach Specialist, Stephanie Olivas to the team. She replaces Fabianne Furman who left to further her education. Best of luck to Fabianne.

Congratulations to BI staff member Dana Kuhn for her recent promotion to Program Manager.

The Burn Institute congratulates Robin Mitchell for being elected President of the Burn Institute Auxiliary. Auxiliary member, Ashley Constand will co-chair this year’s Chef’s Gala & Golf Classic. Thank you for your support!

Welcome to Jamie Edmonds who recently joined the Burn Institute Board of Directors. Jamie is also the President of the San Diego Council of Firefighters.

The Burn Institute-Inland Empire is proud to announce the election of its new Board President, Robert Visconti. Robert is the Regional Affairs Manager for The Gas Company. He has also joined the San Diego Board of Directors.

Thank you to Yadira Hammad and The Dry Bar for going above and beyond to secure a donation of a new wig for a local burn survivor in need.

We are saddened by the loss of good friend and former employee, Christopher D’Auria. Our heartfelt condolences to his family.

The Cost of Caring
- 88% Program Services
- 10% Fundraising
- 2% Management & General Costs

Program Highlight

Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace

The Burn Institute’s Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace Program is structured around the guidelines and recommendations made by OSHA, DOSH, and Cal/OSHA, the National Fire Protection Association and other recognized experts and can be tailored to meet the needs of your business.

Trained employees will:
- Respond with greater confidence in emergency situations.
- Effectively utilize portable fire extinguishers.
- Have confidence in the development and practice of emergency evacuation and group congregating procedures.

Nominal program fee includes equipment and course completion certificates. Proceeds from this program will help support BI fire and burn prevention education and burn survivor support programs including Camp Beyond the Scars.

Don’t Wait! Schedule Your Training Today!

Call (858) 541-2277, Ext. 13
E-mail Vivians@burninstitute.org
Visit www.burninstitute.org for more information.