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<http://www.burninstitute.org>

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 **Burn Institute®**

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"I just can't stress enough how important it is to be yourself and just be happy," said Yadira, "It's important to care for other people, but you have to keep yourself happy."

A Survivor's Story: Teaching by Example

To know Yadira Ihmud is to admire her spirit, incredible strength and unwavering optimism. She's easy going, yet as tough as nails. And her wisdom about coping despite adversity reaches well beyond her 19 years.

Despite all the pain, the stares from impolite strangers, the inevitable blow to one's self-esteem—Yadira positively shines. Her ready smile immediately puts one at ease. And that's by design. She credits her strong family, the Burn Institute and a handful of adult mentors (many burn survivors themselves), for helping

her navigate the rough waters that often accompany burn injury.

"If people are staring at me at the grocery store or at school, I just smile at them and let them know I'm OK," Yadira said of the valuable coping strategy—just one of the many lessons she's taken home from *Camp Beyond The Scars*. "I always try to make people feel comfortable around me—(because) they don't know."

The Accident

Yadira was severely burned as a child while on a

month-long vacation to her grandparent's home in Guadalajara. "I was three years old and my Grandpa was cooking," she calmly explained. The youngster stood by her Grandpa's side, helping him as he prepared a meal over an antique stove, both unaware of the danger it posed. In an instant everything changed. Yadira recalled that a flammable ingredient accidentally spilled onto the stove top and "it just exploded."

The force of the blast slammed Yadira against a wall and trapped her where the inferno burned. "I just got

(continued on Page 5)

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Burn Institute Wildfire Guide New Information that Could Save Your Life

In 2003 and again in 2007, San Diego County was devastated by wildfire. In both cases we learned that it's never too early to prepare for the next one. We also learned that in Southern California, wildfire preparation is a year-round concern.

How prepared are you? Have you created a fire escape plan so that if you need to evacuate, (more than 500,000 did in

2007), you know exactly what to take and what route you plan to travel? Do you have an alternate route in case one is blocked?

Created in conjunction with fire service professionals, "Living with Wildfire" is a full-color, 16-page guide that offers valuable information that will not only help to protect your home and property—but could potentially save your life.

For a free downloadable version, visit our website at www.burninstitute.org. For printed copies of "Living with Wildfire," contact your local fire department or visit the Burn Institute, 8825 Aero Drive, Suite 200, San Diego 92123. For more information, call the Burn Institute at **858.541.2277**.

Dear Friends:

I am sure it doesn't come as a surprise to you that I am writing about the economy and how it is affecting non profits like the Burn Institute. I'm not going to kid you, times are hard, and especially hard on agencies like ours that depend on the kindness and generosity of others.

I am often asked how are things going and is this economic "experience" different for us. My answer is yes and no.

Yes, there are fewer contributions, grants, etc. to be had. And, because we're a totally local agency, we don't have a national office or organization to serve as a safety net; we're completely on our own. Our safety net consists of partners like the fire service, who are ramping up efforts to ensure that their number one partner survives—and donors who still are finding a way to make gifts to the Institute. Those gifts have never been more important.

The other side of the answer, is no. We have always prided ourselves in running a very efficient and lean organization. Hard times aside, this is how we normally do business. I believe that when we finally pull ourselves out of this economic downturn, the businesses, non profits, etc. that have strong and efficient business practices will survive. I am confident that we are one of those agencies. That said, we have still managed to find new ways to go even leaner this year. Cutting further would mean omitting programs and/or reducing our prevention efforts and assistance to burn survivors. With the support of people in our community who want to ensure that "their Burn Institute" continues to provide vital programs and services, we plan to be around for another 37 years—and beyond.

Here are a few examples of how your Burn Institute performed last year, and what your support meant to our community: We distributed 25,000 free Wildfire Guides to the public. We launched our new Fire Safe Kids program (K-3), replacing our outdated puppet show. Our Juvenile Firesetter Interventionists conducted 220 sessions in 2008 and added an important mental health component for 2009. BI volunteers installed more than 1,000 smoke alarms throughout San Diego County and distributed more than a half-million pieces of fire and burn prevention literature. Nearly \$100,000 was spent on temporary housing, silicon face masks, rehabilitation equipment, etc. to more than 150 burn survivors and families; special support was given to those affected by the 2007 wildfires. *Camp Beyond The Scars* celebrated 22 years of helping burn-injured children overcome physical and emotional challenges; summer and winter camps had 70+ campers, each!

San Diego has a generous spirit, which is how we were able to accomplish what we did in 2008. Yes, we've hit tough times, and we recognize that you have, too. The road ahead may be uncertain, but there are two things I am certain about: Burn survivors and their families continue to need our help, and the generosity of our community is still intact. Stay with us—we will continue to do whatever we can for burn survivors, and we will continue to educate the community with our fire and burn prevention message!

Best regards,

James A. Floros
Executive Director/
Chief Executive Officer



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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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Fire and Burn Prevention Facts & Tips

Fact A working smoke alarm in the home reduces the risk of dying in a house fire by 50 percent.

Tip Install smoke alarms in each bedroom and level of your home; be sure to test the batteries each time you set your clocks. For more information, visit www.burninstitute.org.

Dry Ice Bombs

Anything But Cool

They are easily made from fairly common ingredients, yet they can burn, cause head trauma, even blindness—and they’re the latest rage on the Internet. Kids are using dry ice coupled with plastic 2-liter soda bottles, balloons and other containers to build homemade bombs—and the consequences aren’t pretty.

In a graphically descriptive story reported by the Long Beach Press-Telegram (1994), a 7-year-old boy, “blew off one of his teeth and ripped his face... when a soda bottle he had filled with dry ice exploded in his mouth.” Two other boys, aged five and one, sustained facial wounds as a result of the explosion.

“Dry Ice Bombs” have been around for about 20 years, yet with the availability of prankster videos via YouTube and MySpace, the danger is reaching a wider audience of curious teens—potentially numbering in the millions. As a result, more kids are heading to emergency rooms with serious injuries after they try to replicate the hazardous recipe.

Recently, the Burn Institute has seen a marked increase in children who are referred to its Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program (JFS) by law enforcement because they’ve been involved in this dangerous activity. At the same time, health care agencies report seeing an increase in patients with extensive tooth damage, eye injuries and trauma to the head. Often, children are injured when the explosive force of the device causes detonation during the building process or just prior to the bomb being discarded. Shards of plastic are then propelled outward, potentially injuring anyone within a certain radius. Because the devices are unpredictable and do not explode immediately, innocent bystanders become potential victims when bombs are left unattended.

In the state of California, it is a felony to make any type of “dry-ice bomb,” and a juvenile or adult can be arrested on public or private property as a result of the activity. San Diego County has a zero tolerance policy in place and will charge offenders with a “Bomb Making Felony”—and though



“The danger is reaching a wider audience of curious teens—potentially numbering in the millions”

many jurisdictions restrict the sale of dry ice to adults 18 and older, it is up to vendors to strictly adhere to the age limit. Bombs made from pool chemicals fall into the same felony category. Equally dangerous, these chemical bombs account for at least half of the kids referred the Burn Institute’s JFS Program.

Parents should exercise caution when they have dry ice or pool chemicals in or around the home, monitor Internet use, and talk to their children about the dangers of playing with chemicals. Besides injuring themselves and possibly others, bomb makers run the risk of a felony charge and a fine of up to \$10,000. 🔥

Confessions of a Juvenile Bomb-maker

Following are excerpts from a paper written by a 17-year-old male who recently went through the Burn Institute’s Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program (JFS). All names and specific references have been changed to protect the young man’s identity.

“Humans often fail to comprehend the true seriousness (of) their own actions. Everything we do has some degree of effect on the world around us, and this effect can either be positive or negative. Unfortunately, when people choose to act impulsively without considering the consequences of their actions first, the outcome is often negative. I recently fell into this category of people when I chose to help set off bottle bombs at my friend’s house. What began as a seemingly harmless activity, quickly elevated into one of the worst mistakes of my life.

“My friend Joe invited me to come and hang out with him and my other friend, Chris, and when I arrived, I saw that they were making dry ice bombs. Instead of seeing the possible dangers of the activity and trying to prevent my friends from doing something stupid, I played a passive role; I stayed and watched. I was so caught up with all the excitement of the situation that I did not want to have to consider the consequences. I gave myself the false sense of comfort that because I

wasn’t setting the bombs off, I was not responsible. This was a wake up call.

“The police arrived to arrest us, and instantly, I was pulled from my sheltered existence. The officers told us that what we were doing (was) incredibly dangerous and that it is a felony in the state of California. My rash actions had jeopardized not only the safety of myself and those around me, but my entire future. A felony charge or a juvenile sentence could easily crush everything I had built myself up to be in years of schooling. Suddenly the course of my life was completely altered by what initially seemed like a harmless activity. There is no excuse for ignorance of the law.

“I am deeply sorry for all my involvement in the bottle bomb situation. I apologize for any inconvenience that I caused the police and the court. I only have one chance to live my life so I must try to get it right the first time.” 🔥

Chief’s Letter

Renewed Sense of Dedication, Despite Challenging Times

It is truly an honor to be selected as the new President of the Board for the Burn Institute. I would like to personally thank outgoing President Jim Hansen for his dedication and his commitment in furthering the very important mission of the Burn Institute as the board president. Under Jim’s vision and guidance the Burn Institute has achieved many successes and he has provided a legacy that I shall try to uphold.

I have had the privilege of working in the fire service for more than 30 years and to serve as fire chief for the communities of Imperial Beach, Del Mar, and Solana Beach during my career. As a firefighter, fire chief, and as past President of the San Diego County



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
FIRE CHIEFS’
ASSOCIATION**

Fire Chiefs’ Association, I have had the honor to work with the Burn Institute as a volunteer and as a board member on many events. The San Diego Fire Service and the Burn Institute share a common vision in our dedication and commitment to improve fire and burn prevention education and to improve the quality of care, treatment, and the quality of life for burn survivors. The partnership between the Burn Institute and the San Diego fire service has been a strong and enduring relationship. As board president I hope to strengthen this important relationship as well as our critical relationships with our other partners in public safety, health care, and private industry.

In these times of economic uncertainty it is more important than ever for all of us to recommit our passion and our efforts in promoting and furthering the Burn Institute’s mission of reducing burn injuries and deaths through fire and burn prevention education, burn survivor support programs and the funding of burn care research and treatment. Although these are challenging times, with challenges come opportunities. With commitment and dedication we will not only meet these challenges but exceed them. I expect 2009 to be a very exciting year that will be full of opportunities, and I’m looking forward to working with all of you in accomplishing great things in support of the Burn Institute and its noble mission.

David Ott
Burn Institute Board President

Thank you from a JFS Mom

This letter came from the mother of a teen who recently went through the BI’s Juvenile Firesetter Intervention (JFS) Program. The youth (whose name has been changed), was caught lighting off M-80 firecrackers using flammable liquids and received felony bomb-making charges.

“Thank you so very much for your time and thank you to the Burn Institute for such a wonderfully hard and life-changing program. This one class of many probably has had the most impact on Michael, not only for the incident, but for how to conduct his life. He now totally understands not only how harmful his actions could have been, but also how fortunate he is, in general for his life. We have you to thank for this.

Thanks to all of you, you are a blessing.”

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GIFTS & TRIBUTES

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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 September 1, 2008 - February 20, 2009.

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as of February 28, 2009

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 Di Sutherland at 858.541.2277 ext. 19 or dsutherland@burninstitute.org.

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Arbors Benefit

Firefighter and burn survivor, Brooke Linman was honored at a benefit luncheon hosted by The Arbors in Rancho Peñasquitos. The benefit took place on November 22, 2008 and raised \$1,068 for the Burn Institute's burn survivor support programs. The Arbors is an assisted living facility that housed Brooke's grandmother. When they offered to host a tribute to Brooke, she asked that the proceeds go to the Burn Institute for help she and her family received during her long recovery. Brooke was seriously injured along with three other Cal Fire firefighters in the Harris Fire in October 2007. All four received the coveted Spirit of Courage Award at last year's ceremony. Sadly, Brooke's grandmother recently passed away, but we know how proud she was of her granddaughter. 🌟



Brooke Linman chats with BI Executive Director/CEO, James Floros, during the Arbors fundraising event. Brooke's daughter, Ciara, is in the foreground.

GIFTS & TRIBUTES

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Check Presentations/Sponsorships



IOA Insurance Services Broker, Jeff Gearhart, presents a check to Di Sutherland BI Assistant Executive Director, at the Insurance Brokers Dinner held in December 2008.



Thank you to SDGE/Sempra, a new sponsor for the Fire Safe Kids program, and sponsor of the Fire Safe Kid contest for the 2009 Viejas FIRE EXPO/Firefighter Combat Challenge.

Join the Heritage Society Today!

The **Burn Institute's Heritage Society** is for those who have included the Burn Institute in their estate plans. Membership is growing! All **Heritage Society** members are invited to an annual luncheon, as well as receive other special benefits, as a special thank you. For more information about the **Burn Institute's Heritage Society**, please contact Di Sutherland at **858.541.2277 ext. 19** or dsutherland@burninstitute.org.

Kiwanis Club San Diego



Thank you to Kiwanis Club of San Diego, a Major Sponsor of the Fire Safe Kids program for children (K-3). Their generous donation will help fund the entire Fire Safe Kids program.



The Cost of Caring



■ 84% Program Services
■ 13% Fundraising
■ 3% Management & General Costs

A Survivor's Story: Teaching by Example continued from cover

cornered into the fire," she said. Yadira's aunt burned her arm when she unsuccessfully tried to pull the child from the flames. Her grandfather rescued Yadira, but managed to avoid injury. "I remember most of it," said Yadira, "but I don't remember the pain at all."

The youngster was critically injured and rushed to the nearest hospital with third degree burns on her face and arms. Yadira was hospitalized for the next six months in Texas and Los Angeles. Over the years she's had to endure seven surgeries to help minimize scarring and to allow her body to grow. Unlike healthy skin that is elastic, the scarring that results from severe burn injury will not expand normally. As a result, burn-injured children are often required to undergo several painful surgeries to "release" scar tissue and allow for growth.

It Takes a Village

Born in California, the Escondido resident is surprisingly matter-of-fact about her burn injury. She makes no apologies and never laments the past, "I have lived with this my whole life. I don't know anything different from it."



In addition to support from her Burn Institute family, adult mentors, Barbara Quail and Cindy Rutter, have had an enormous impact on Yadira's life. She is very close to her younger brother, Sami (16), as well as her mother, Herlinda, who has played perhaps the biggest role in her emotional well-being. The result is a confident young woman with self-esteem to spare.

"My mom is such a strong woman. She's always been there," she said, adding that her entire family has been supportive. "They've always loved me and taught me to be myself. They've always just told me to not worry about what others think because I'll always have my family there."

Yadira began her relationship with the Burn Institute at age five, when she first went to *Camp Beyond The Scars*. "I just remember I didn't want to go home; I must have had a great time!" Besides becoming an annual camp regular, Yadira has increased her involvement with the organization throughout the years, and is in training for the BI's new SOAR Peer Support Program. Yadira has also been instrumental in helping to develop the Leaders-in-Training (LIT) program, which is designed as a training ground for former campers to develop the skills necessary to become Camp Counselors.

"You learn so much from each other. Even though we see each other just twice a year, it's a bond," she said of her peers. "We grew up together—we're like a huge family."

"Yadira's fingerprints will forever be a part of the LIT Program," said Dana Carnduff, Burn Institute Support Services Coordinator. "As we worked together last summer she continued to inspire me to do better work for others. Our success was due to her commitment and hard work."



A Bright Future

Yadira is currently enrolled at Palomar Institute of Cosmetology in San Marcos. She is set to graduate in June 2009, excited about the future and eager to help others dealing with the physical issues related to burn injury.

School Supervisor Charlene Coffing has observed Yadira's work and appreciates the external cultural barriers her student has been able to break through. "Yadira has shown such strength in a seemingly superficial industry," Coffing said. "But as we all know, beauty is what we hold it to be."

From the time she was 13, Yadira has learned how to minimize her own facial scarring with makeup. "I wanted to be able to do that for others," she explained, adding that the lessons she has learned about self-confidence could be of particular help to female burn survivors. Add to that, an affinity for styling hair and she's found the perfect career. What could be better than hair, makeup and straight talk to boost one's waning confidence? Yadira's been there.

As for her secret, perhaps Coffing sums it up best: "Anyone can give up; it's the easiest thing in the world to do. But to hold it together when everyone else would understand if you fell apart—that's true strength." ♦

A \$250 gift funds a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention, designed to teach children about the dangerous consequences of playing with fire.

\$250

6 EVENTS



 San Diego County Credit Union



Share Your Heart 2009

Feathers, Food & Fun Kept Pulses Racing

On Saturday, February 28, 2009, the Burn Institute and nearly 300 of its closest, colorfully-clad friends gathered at the House of Blues San Diego for the 17th Annual San Diego County Credit Union Share Your Heart Mardi Gras Party. Organized by the Burn Institute Auxiliary, this year's successful event was not only fun for its guests, but offered Southern-style hospitality, food and music well into the night!

A big thank you to our Title Sponsor, San Diego County Credit Union ("Helping Southern Californians Achieve their Dreams") whose generous support for the past three years is certainly helping the Burn Institute achieve its dreams! Thank you to Major Sponsor, Sunroad Enterprises; Associate Sponsor, Ian Mausner of J.S. Oliver Capital Management L.P., and to our Supporting Sponsors, Foresters Equity Services, Inc., L.N. Curtis and Deloitte LLP.

Colorful beads were in abundance as guests dined on fantastic Southern-themed cuisine including Cheddar Okra Beignets and Voo Doo Shrimp. For the second year in a row, the Bill Magee Blues Band performed their authentic New Orleans-style blues.

Approximately 120 VIP guests were treated to pre-event goodies including entertainment by a roving magician, airbrush tattooist and caricature artist. Guests who stayed to party into the wee hours were treated to a free concert by 2009 Grammy Award nominee, R&B artist Raphael Saadiq, who wowed the crowd with his Motown-inspired sound.

Bridget Naso (KUSI Morning News) generously donated her talent as the event's emcee and set a festive tone for the evening. Likewise, auctioneer Pierre Charmasson expertly worked the crowd into a bidding frenzy as he moved among silent auction tables displaying more than 100 unique items and gift baskets.

This year's exciting live auction brought in \$3,500 for a trip to Cabo and raised more than \$14,000 to send burn-injured children to the BI's *Camp Beyond The Scars*. By the time the evening was over, more than \$70,000 was raised to further the important work of the Burn Institute.

Many thanks to our Honorary Chairs for overseeing this year's event—Tina Mickelson and husband Eric Topacio, a firefighter with the Chula Vista Fire Department. A big thanks for the second year in a row to Event Chairs, Nichole and Doug Cox, whose son Jason is a burn survivor. And a special thank you to Jill White, who headed up the Share Your Heart Committee as Auxiliary President. A final thanks to our hardworking volunteers and BI staff members!

If you would like to join the event committee to help organize this high-energy event for next year, please call Kasey Shephard, BI Special Events Manager, at 858.541.2277, ext 13. ♡

Top Left: Terri Leyton and guest get dressed up for the occasion. **Bottom Left:** San Diego County Credit Union Community Relations Officer, Shaun Copans and wife Keri, pose with BI Assistant Executive Director, Di Sutherland (left). **Center (L-R):** Honorary Chairs, Tina Mickelson and husband Eric Topacio, pose with Event Chair, Nichole Cox. **Top Right (L-R):** Tommie Juditz and guest Dr. Jack Wasserman, pose with Dolores Juditz, Secretary of the BI Board of Directors, and her guest Ed Leonard. **Bottom Right (L-R):** BI Chairman of the Board Jerry Davee and Kevin McNamara.

Country Friends Holiday Tea

On December 3, The Country Friends invited James Floros, Burn Institute Executive Director/CEO and Di Sutherland, BI Assistant Executive Director/COO, to its annual Holiday Tea in Rancho Santa Fe for an important check presentation.

Just three months prior, the Inn at Rancho Santa Fe was the venue for its 53rd Annual Art of Fashion Runway Show. The September 2008 event was very well attended and included a shopping boutique, luncheon and wine tasting. Several top designers were showcased including Saks Fifth Avenue and Valentino.

Thank you to The Country Friends, South Coast Plaza and everyone involved in the Art of Fashion event for their generous support. Proceeds will benefit the Burn Institute's *Camp Beyond The Scars* and Wildfire Prevention programs. ♡



Jan Fitzpatrick, President of Country Friends, presents a check to James Floros and Di Sutherland, center.



Meet Kasey Shephard New BI Special Events Manager

"My love of events began about five years ago when I received the opportunity to work for the PGA Tour. I coordinated the Accenture Match Play Championship at La Costa Resort, then became the Assistant Tournament Manager for the Acura Tennis Tournament. I volunteered with the Arthritis Foundation, managing event logistics for the annual arthritis walk. Most recently, I have managed events at different Universities

around the country for Sally Ride, the first American woman to go into space. I am proud to be a part of the Burn Institute, as the Special Events Manager and look forward to many successful events!" ♡

SAVE THE DATE!

CASINO NIGHT PARTY AT THE TILTED KILT

**Monday, April 27, 2009
6 to 10 p.m.**

\$35 per person includes: Chips for Craps Tables, Roulette, Texas Hold'em, Blackjack
Tilted Kilt Casino Night Buffet
One Beer/Wine Drink Ticket

Purchase tickets at the Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery
310 10th Avenue, San Diego
(Corner of 10th & K—Next to Petco Park)

Open daily at 11a.m.
619.814.KILT (619.814.5458)
www.tiltedkiltssandiego.com



The Barona Firefighter Boot Drive

April 16, 2009

Look for firefighters in and around San Diego County, as they take to the streets for the Barona Firefighter Boot Drive! Thank you to Barona, the first-ever sponsor for this event which is the Burn Institute's largest one-day fundraiser of the year.

Look for your local heroes at intersections across San Diego County during morning and evening commutes, and check the Burn Institute website for locations as the event nears (www.burninstitute.org). Every dollar counts—and helps to fund important outreach programs including *Camp Beyond The Scars* for burn-injured children. For more information, contact Kasey Shephard— 858.541.2277, ext. 13. ♡

Join the Padres as they Salute Local Firefighters

Cheer the Padres & Support the Burn Institute on Friday, April 24, 2009, as they take on the Pittsburgh Pirates at Petco Park. Pregame ceremonies honoring local fire service will begin at 6:40 p.m., which will include firefighters lining the first and third base paths, a firefighter video tribute on the Padre Vision Screen and a young burn survivor featured as the "Play Ball" kid. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. Stay for the fireworks.

Hosted by the San Diego-Imperial County Firefighters Advisory Council to the Burn Institute, this event promotes awareness of burn injury and burn/fire prevention. A portion of the proceeds will help fund Burn Institute programs & services.

Early Bird tickets for this special night are available for \$12 each, but must be purchased before April 10.

Ticket prices increase to \$15 each after the 10th and supplies are limited. For more information or order tickets by phone, contact Linda Van Wickel at 858.541.2277, ext. 12. ♡



Be a Fire Safe Kid

Win a Fire Truck Ride!

The Burn Institute invites children and families to get involved in safety and have some fun! The 2009 Fire Safe Kids Contest sponsored by SDG&E/Sempra is an opportunity for families and children to learn more about fire safety and create their own family escape plan. Kids (6-12 years) will be asked to write one paragraph about why they think it is important for homes to have a family escape plan. One boy and one girl will be named this year's "Fire Safe Kids" and will win an exciting fire engine ride with the 2009 Burn Run parade of fire trucks, which will take place on June 20, 2009. Lights flashing and horns blaring, the parade of nearly 100 fire trucks and apparatus will tour major roadways in the county, before concluding at the Viejas FIRE EXPO/Firefighter Combat Challenge at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

To enter, visit the Burn Institute website and download our Family Escape Plan. Contest deadline is 5 p.m., June 11, 2009 and winners will be notified June 13. To participate in the Burn Run, each child must be accompanied by an adult or guardian. Contest rules and full details are available at www.burninstitute.org. ♡

2009 EVENT CALENDAR

APR

10th Annual Barona Firefighter Boot Drive Thursday, April 16, 2009

Join firefighters throughout San Diego County during morning and evening commutes as they raise funds in support of Burn Institute programs & services.

10th Annual Firefighter Night at the Padres Friday, April 24, 2009

PETCO Park, San Diego
Support your fire service while benefiting the Burn Institute. Special game tickets are available at the BI.



Tilted Kilt Firefighter Casino Night Monday, April 27, 2009

Tilted Kilt Pub & Grill, San Diego

MAY

11th Annual Bomberos de San Diego Golf Tournament May 4, 2009

Spirit of Courage Awards Banquet Thursday, May 21, 2009

Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine
Sponsorships available



JUNE

Viejas FIRE EXPO / Firefighter Combat Challenge Saturday, June 20, 2009 Del Mar Fairgrounds

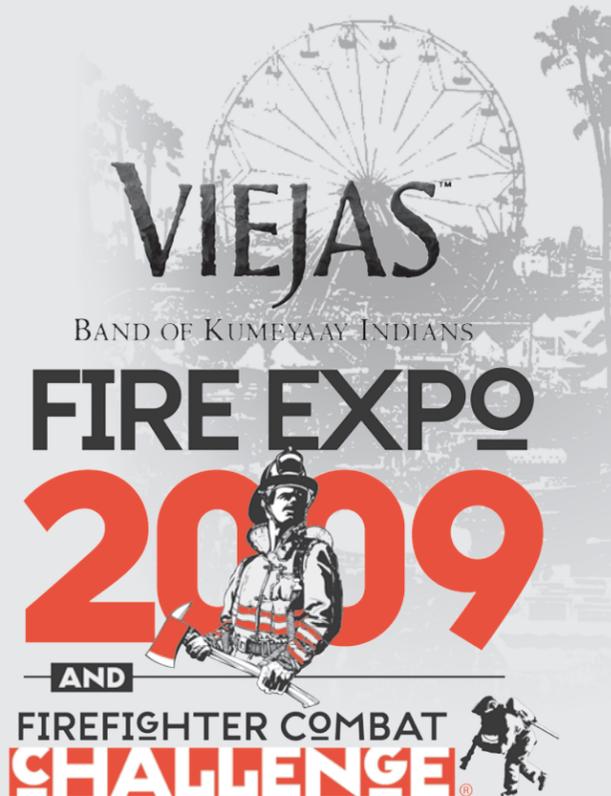
Grab your kids, the sunscreen and a good pair of walking shoes. For the first time ever, the Burn Institute's 19th annual Viejas FIRE EXPO/Firefighter Combat Challenge will be held at the picturesque Del Mar Fairgrounds!

In a move that is sure to excite the kids and make for a great day of firefighting fun, the event will be held on Saturday June 20, during the regular run of the San Diego County Fair. Formerly held at QUALCOMM Stadium for the past several years, the new seaside location at Del Mar offers so much more! Fair general admission will allow visitors to enjoy the fairgrounds PLUS all of the excitement that has made the Viejas FIRE EXPO/Firefighter Combat Challenge the largest firefighting event in Southern California!

Other than a welcome change of scenery, this year's EXPO will feature the same unique highlights that have made it a summer favorite. Designed to heighten awareness of modern emergency services, the day will include the popular Burn Run Parade of nearly 100 fire trucks and apparatus from all over the county of San Diego. This crowd-pleaser is a predictable favorite for kids, as a seemingly endless stream of shiny red engines arrive with sirens blaring, horns honking and strobe lights blinking. It's quite an experience!

Thrilling "live" firefighting demonstrations are another crowd favorite, leaving onlookers slack-jawed, as fully-suited firefighters extinguish a full-blown car fire. Once the blaze has been snuffed, another team demonstrates its vehicle extrication equipment on the still-smoking wreckage. As if that weren't enough, add an exhilarating Firefighter Combat Challenge (see below), a fire and burn prevention pavilion, kid-friendly hands-on activities and a concert to top off the day.

The Firefighter Combat Challenge began as a one-time regional competition showcasing the importance of physical fitness in the firefighting profession. Today, with that same goal in mind, the Challenge now takes place in more than 20 locations annually, including regional, national and world competition levels. For the duration of the event, competitors must wear full bunker gear and breathing apparatus, which together can weigh up to 50 pounds. The Challenge includes five consecutive real-life firefighting tasks that are performed by two competitors head-to-head. The Challenge attracts hundreds of fire department teams from all over the world, as they compete to prove that they are the best in their profession.



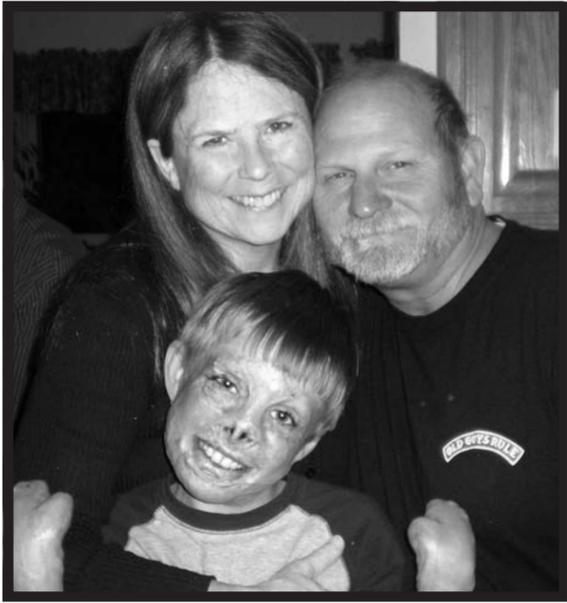
"We're very excited about this year's EXPO," said James Floros, Burn Institute Executive Director/CEO, who is pushing to make the event the largest fire and burn prevention event in California. The venue will not only showcase local fire service, but allow the Burn Institute to extend its reach into the community with crowds much larger than ever before. Floros hopes to introduce a whole new crowd to fire and burn prevention awareness. "I think that the new location will really allow us to enhance what we've done in the past," he said.

The Viejas FIRE EXPO/Firefighter Combat Challenge is fun for the entire family and is the only special event in San Diego County endorsed by the San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association—where every fire agency, association and union participates. So come join us—and enjoy a day of fun at the fair!

For more information, call the Burn Institute 858.541.2277 or visit www.burninstitute.org.

Marius' Story

A new beginning awaits 10-year-old burn survivor Marius Dasianu. Born and raised in Romania, young Marius nearly died when a boiler in the family's home exploded, seriously burning the child's face, hands and legs. Both of his parents perished in the fire, leaving the child an orphan. Marius' 18-year-old brother recently brought the child back to the United States for follow-up medical care and reconstructive surgery to repair Marius' hands (he lost all of his fingers), and severe facial injuries. Lakeside couple, Lynne and Paul Woodward, are in the process of adopting Marius. They will be there every step of the way—and it's a long road ahead for the family.



Lynne and Paul Woodward pose with Marius, December 2008.

In February, Marius underwent the first of four complex toe-to-hand transfer surgeries. It took three teams of doctors more than 12 hours to complete the surgery, which will eventually give Marius two functioning hands. His next hand surgery will take place in May; ultimately, two toes will be transferred to each hand. "I'm hoping by the time summer camp comes around, his right hand will be working," said Lynne Woodward, who is eager for Marius to experience *Camp Beyond The Scars* in August. Enrolled in 3rd grade and loving it, Marius has made remarkable progress so far.

"He is honestly the most amazing kid," Woodward said, smiling broadly. "He's a charmer and has such good people skills. He's upbeat, outgoing, friendly—doesn't shy away from people because of the way he looks. He's just really, really unique. I honestly see a great future for him."

The Burn Institute has created the Marius Fund to help assist the family with ongoing expenses related to his rehabilitation and specialized care. A full 100 percent of the funds collected by the Burn Institute will go directly to the family. ♡

To learn more about Marius, go to www.teammarius.org. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit the homepage at www.burninstitute.org and scroll down to Marius Fund.



Marius proudly shows off his new thumb after surgery, February 2009. Eventually, two toes will be transferred to each hand, requiring three more painful and complex surgeries.



Marius playing in the Utah snow. "He is honestly the most amazing kid," said Lynne Woodward.

Stuffed Animals + Santa = Fun!

Holiday Party for Burn Survivors

On December 9, Santa's trusty reindeer were replaced by 12 very loud, metallic motorcycles, whose riders ushered in the annual Holiday Celebration for Burn Survivors December 9. Each year, the UCSD Regional Burn Center and the Burn Institute cohost the popular event, held at the Sheraton Hotel in Mission Valley. This year's festivities included stuffed animal stations, where young guests could choose their favorite fluffy friend to take home, with an outfit to match, plus lots of music, good food and a performance by the talented UCSD Burn Center Holiday Carolers!

After dinner, young guests gathered in front of the hotel to wait for Santa's dramatic entrance. First they heard the roar of his (not-so-tiny) motorized "reindeer" as they thundered past, followed by Santa himself on a shiny red fire engine, its horn announcing the grand arrival. Hundreds of young burn survivors and their families attended the holiday party—more than 400 guests in all.

Support Services Coordinator, Dana Carnduff, headed up the event, explaining its importance not only to young burn survivors and their families, but to UCSD Regional Burn Center doctors and staff. "It gives them the opportunity to visit with patients that they work with, and hopefully see them in a happier place. It's very cool!"

The Burn Institute wishes to thank: UCSD Regional Burn Center, event cosponsor; Burn Institute staff and BI volunteers, especially Amy Fireck, Joann Gutowski and Jim Leckliter; Viejas Tribal member, Robin Lackie and her husband, who generously donated hundreds of Animal Land stuffed animals, their outfits, materials and two stuffing machines—a tremendous hit with all the children! Thank you to Viejas Chief Don Butz and



the Viejas Fire Department who transported the machines and assisted with animal stuffing. A special thanks to Viejas Division Chief Bob Pfohl who facilitated the entire animal-stuffing project (no small task!) Thank you to the UCSD Burn Center Holiday Carolers and DJ Andy from DiscGO Round, who provided entertainment; San Diego Fire-Rescue, Station 5 for providing Santa's red rig; to our motorized "reindeers" Ruff Ryders, San Diego Chapter; to Helm's Bakery and Christine Shuttleworth Photography. And of course—a big thank you to Santa and his helpful elf! ♡

Top: The UCSD Burn Center Holiday Carolers entertain the crowd with their own, unique fire/burn prevention message sung to a familiar holiday tune.

Middle: Youngsters get a chance to chat with Santa and strike a pose with their newly-stuffed animals.

Bottom: Viejas Tribal member, Robin Lackie (center), donated hundreds of Animal Land plush toys and outfits. They were a big hit with all the children!



BURN SUPPORT 9



Top Right (L-R): Jennifer Ballard (UCSD Burn Center nurse and camp counselor), with campers Parnika Kant and Evie Nootenboom. Bottom Right: Camper Evie Nootenboom enjoys the new snowfall. Above: Campers, counselors and volunteers pose for a group photograph at winter Camp Beyond The Scars 2009.

Winter Camp Beyond The Scars: Nearly Snowbound!

Big Bear became “Big Snow,” as 78 eager campers descended on the Burn Institute’s 2009 Winter Session of *Camp Beyond The Scars*, Feb. 13-16.

Mother Nature welcomed the arriving campers with the first of two major snow storms, providing a first-time opportunity for several children who had never witnessed the white stuff in person. The snow had already accumulated quickly, with more on the way, when the Paw-Pals Assistance Dogs arrived and enthusiastically joined in the snow play with the kids.

The post-card perfect start to camp gave way to a roster of activities prepared by Camp Activity Director and Corona Firefighter, Rick Stone. Camp Director, Tim Luna, and Assistant Camp Director, Roger Noon, were on-hand to support new counselors and campers. Burn Unit Social Worker, Mindy Gerbitz, designed a number of life skills activities to assist the children in age-appropriate discussions dealing with burn injury.

Thanks to the generosity of local Big Bear Lake residents, Roger Williams and Jamie Wolcott, each camper was awarded a ski package that included lift tickets, ski rentals and two hours of instruction. While the teens were learning to ski on the slopes, the pre-teens preferred to catch big air off the hill at camp. With an abundance of snow and exclusive use of the hill, there were no lines to deal with before heading down at terminal velocity speed—each tubing flight becoming more and more impressive. Saturday evening started with a birthday celebration for campers and counselors born in February, with no less than three decorated cakes for the occasion! Movies and graham cracker-chocolate “smores” rounded out the evening.

Traditionally Sunday at camp is an exciting day and this camp was no different. President Tom Addis of the PGA’s Southern California Section dispatched golf pros to introduce golf to the campers. The PGA brought equipment and enthusiasm, allowing the children an opportunity to drive, chip and putt their way around a skill development course. Soon it was carnival time where games, arts and crafts and face painting filled the lodge, courtesy of volunteers from Crossroads Community Church. By Sunday evening, the mountains were reverberating with the rock music of Anarchy, a polished youth-based rock band from the Arrowhead area.

All day Sunday, Luna and the camp leadership were kept busy monitoring severe winter weather warnings. The situation on the mountain was changing by the hour and some felt camp might have to be terminated early in order to beat the storm. With nightfall at hand and the peril of black ice a certain reality, the group decided to wait until the storm’s arrival in the morning before making final decisions about departure.

Ironically, just two weeks before camp it appeared there might be no snow at all; now there was a real possibility that the latest storm could actually keep the campers snow-bound! Fortunately, a window of opportunity right after breakfast allowed time enough to quickly dismantle the camp. Vans and busses were loaded.

BLM Fire Captain, Terry Joyce, led the caravan safely down the backside of the mountain. Leaving dozens of friendly snowball scuffles and lopsided snowmen to memory, campers certainly got what they wished for this year—and Mother Nature delivered!

Thanks to Kiwanis Club of San Diego for their long term support of this event. An additional thanks to Union Pacific Railroad for their generous support which helped to make camp possible for Burn Institute-Inland Empire children to attend. ❄️

Camp Thank You's

AAA Speedway
 Adventure 16 Donate-A-Pack Foundation
 Amber Starbuck
 American Legion Aux. Steele Town
 Andres Family
 Arrowhead Neurosurgical Medical Group
 Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
 Bradford Renaissance Portraits
 Bud Korn
 Busch Entertainment Corp./
 Anheuser-Busch Co.
 Burn Institute Staff
 Camp Committee Volunteers
 Chief David Waltemeyer
 Chief Dennis Ellison
 Chik-fil-A, Corona
 Chili's, Corona (Perry Scholuten)
 Circle City Kiwanis
 City of Big Bear Fire Department
 Corona Fire Safety Foundation
 Corona Firefighters' Association-Local 3757
 Crossroads Community Church
 Debbie Alvarez
 Dennis Cunningham
 Dick Paulis
 Dr. Victor Joe
 Eagle Productions (Jeff Burr)
 Edward G. Hirschman Burn Center at ARMC
 Federal Fire Department
 Firefighters' Advisory Council -
 Inland Empire

Gabriella Burr Photography
 Gallery of the American Landscape
 Har-Bro Inc.
 Honda Autos of Corona
 Images by Christine, Christine Shuttleworth
 Photography
 In the Moment Portraiture
 Instant Imprints
 Jean Powers
 John Tazbazian
 Josh Alavarez
 Josh Lightner, Sierra Lakes Golf Club
 Kim Burr, Ontario Unified School District
 Kim Morettini
 Kimberly Cory
 Kiwanis Club of San Diego
 Las Primeras
 Los Angeles Fire Department
 Legacy Quilt Guild
 Lisa Holloway
 Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union
 Mark Savinsky
 Matthew B. Cunningham
 MFM Enterprises, Inc.
 Mike Hough
 Miramar Fire Department
 Morongo Fire Department
 Mountain Area Regional Transit Authority
 Mr. & Mrs. Baxter Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Patison
 NAIER
 NASCAR Foundation

One Legacy—A Donate Life Organization
 Otis Greer
 Paw-Pals Assistance Dogs
 Pechanga Fire Department
 Pechanga Tribal Government
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 Inc., and Staff
 Rancho Cucamonga Professional Firefighters
 Association
 Riverside City Firefighters-Local 1067
 Riverside County Board of Supervisors
 Riverside County Fire Chiefs' Association
 Roger Williams
 Rodney & Yvette Ewing
 Sam's Club
 San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
 San Bernardino County Professional
 Firefighters-Local 935
 San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
 San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
 Sierra Lakes Golf Club
 Southern California Edison
 Space Place
 Sundance Stage Lines, Inc.
 Sunroad Enterprises
 The Gas Company
 Tim & Jamie Wolcott
 Tom Irwin
 Union Pacific Railroad
 UCSD Regional Burn Center
 Ventura Fire Department
 Wal-Mart

10 VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Smoke Alarm Installations

Year round

Individual volunteers and employee-based volunteer groups are needed to install smoke alarms within the county of San Diego. Teams of volunteers are regularly scheduled to install the alarms for seniors who own their own homes and are 55 years or older. Spend a few hours a month making your community safer.

We are seeking volunteers for springtime installations during the months of April and May. To volunteer, please contact Kathleen Frampton, Director of Volunteer Services at 858.541.2277 ext. 11 or email kframpton@burninstitute.org.

To schedule a smoke alarm installation, qualified seniors may contact Gwen Lammers, Community Outreach Specialist at 858.541.2277 ext. 15 or email glammers@burninstitute.org.

Viejas FIRE EXPO / Firefighter Combat Challenge

Saturday, June 20, 2009

Volunteers are needed for this exciting event which will be held—for the first time ever—at the Del Mar Fairgrounds! A variety of volunteer positions will be available, including manning booths, helping to direct guests, set-up and breaking-down the event space, etc.

For more information, call Kathleen Frampton, Director of Volunteer Services at 858.541.2277, ext. 11, or email kframpton@burninstitute.org. For event information, call our offices or visit us online at www.burninstitute.org.

January 14, 2009

Dear Gwen,

I wanted to send my sincere thanks for our smoke detector installation last Saturday! Your volunteers were just great, on time, polite, and very accommodating! I'm sure, if asked, the volunteers would have told you that by the looks of where we live we certainly could have afforded to purchase a couple of inexpensive smoke detectors for our home. However, in 2003, my husband and I started our own residential real estate and mortgage brokerage firm; since the end of 2005 things have been steadily declining with 2007 and 2008 being particularly hard. We have put everything back into the business trying to keep the doors open while weathering this mess in our industry! Unfortunately, this has required deferring maintenance to our home and other things. I have been concerned about our old hard wired detector for some time; now, I feel much safer knowing that we have not only one new detector, but two; and one less thing to cause me concern. Thanks again so much and God Bless you all for the work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Tamara & Chris Swanson
Fletcher Hills, El Cajon

Volunteer Spotlight

Humor Meets Compassion: Dustin Kuhn

Miramar Fire Department's Dustin Kuhn is a big, quiet guy—at least until you get to know him. Nicknamed “Belly Bone” (more on that later), the firefighter/EMT has been generously donating his time, energy and sense of humor to the Burn Institute for more than eight years.

A resident of Escondido, Kuhn's career as a firefighter began 10 years ago with the U.S. Forest Service. He has been with the Miramar Fire Department for three years. His work with the BI began in 2001, when he volunteered to sell FIRE EXPO T-shirts for the organization. Before long, Kuhn was logging extra hours at a variety of Burn Institute events and began working as a counselor at *Camp Beyond The Scars* (summer and winter sessions). That's where the nickname comes in.

“The kids just love him,” explained Burn Institute Executive Director/CEO James Floros, “They came up with the name Belly Bone.” It happened during summer camp as the counselors gathered to relax after a long day, the teen campers down for the night in sleeping bags nearby. The conversation turned to Kuhn's abdomen. “I'm just big boned,” he joked. Out of the darkness, a camper's voice exclaimed from a sleeping bag, “There's no bone in your belly!” And the name stuck.

Besides working at camp with burn-injured youth, Kuhn has worked with seniors, helping to install smoke alarms in their homes, has arranged for his department to participate in a variety of Burn Institute events and causes, including blood drives and toy drives at Christmas time (2007 and 2008), and helped to facilitate a department donation to send a child



to *Camp Beyond The Scars*. Last October, Dustin arranged for a BI mentorship outing at the Miramar Fire Department.

A member of the Firefighters' Advisory Council to the Burn Institute, Kuhn is well-liked by BI staff who look forward to his frequent office visits, complete with corny jokes and engaging dimples. He's managed to step up his involvement for 2009, volunteering to Chair the Barona Firefighter Boot Drive, and pulling double-duty as T-shirt Chair of the Viejas FIRE EXPO/Firefighter Combat Challenge.

“Dustin has quickly become one of our top firefighter volunteers,” said Floros. “He is a camp counselor, his department adopts families at Christmas time and he's heavily involved in the FFACBI. He's just a great, great guy.”

No matter the event, (from toasting marshmallows at winter *Camp Beyond The Scars*, to ushering guests at the Spirit of Courage Awards Banquet), if the Burn Institute is involved, you'll likely find Kuhn. And that's just how he likes it.

For more information about volunteering, call Kathleen Frampton, Director of Volunteer Services at 858.541.2277, ext. 11 / kframpton@burninstitute.org.

Sharing Hearts, Hours for a Good Cause

They promised, and boy did they deliver! When the Gamma Alpha Chapter of Alpha Phi sorority at San Diego State University asked to volunteer for the Share Your Heart fundraising event, staff had no idea what to expect. But on Saturday, Feb. 21 a happy throng of more than 20 enthusiastic young women descended upon the Burn Institute to eagerly wrap auction baskets and help wherever needed.

“There were far more than we expected,” said Kathleen Frampton, Director of Volunteer Services, admitting that the sheer number of girls at the weekend wrap-fest was rather overwhelming at first. “This group of girls came in like a whirlwind! We couldn't believe how quickly they got everything done!”

After the baskets, many of the girls stayed to help stuff and stamp thousands of Fire Ball invitations, working for several more hours until the project was complete. The following Saturday, another few dozen would volunteer to set up silent auction tables



Alpha Phi volunteers pose with Share Your Heart auction baskets, after a busy morning of wrapping and decorating.

and help decorate prior to the Mardi Gras event at the House of Blues.

“We were happy to have such well-rounded young women help with our event,” said Frampton, “Their time, energy and creativity was very much appreciated.”

Frampton said that volunteers are an essential component of the Burn Institute and hopes the girls came away with a larger message about community service. “We hope they got a good taste of how fulfilling volunteerism can be.”

The Burn Institute not only needs volunteers, but offers unpaid internship positions with flexible hours throughout the year. Volunteers and interns are needed to help in a variety of departments including Clerical/ Front Office, Special Events, Programs and Communications. For more information, contact Kathleen Frampton at 858.541.2277, ext. 11 / kframpton@burninstitute.org.



Above (L-R): Alpha Phi members Bianca Anderson, Jessica Pansegrau and Tawny Rodriguez help with the Fire Ball invitation mailing.

Volunteers Provide Outreach, Deliver Bundles of Holiday Joy

Being stuck in the hospital during the holidays is tough for any child, but for a burn-injured child, the holidays can be an especially difficult time. For two years running, a special group of volunteers in the Inland Empire has gathered to bring cheer and joy to even the littlest patients at the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Burn Unit. This year the effort widened to include youngsters on the hospital's Pediatric Unit.



On December 17, volunteers from Crossroads Community Church Youth Group (42 youth and 8 adults), loaded up their cars with a bounty of wrapped gifts and made a special holiday delivery. They also lent their resources, time and talent to the youngsters, providing arts and crafts, caroling and puppet

shows for the children. And of course, Santa made an appearance! The youngest patient at the Burn Unit was a two-week-old baby, whose parents were able to participate in the festivities. After the Burn Unit, the group visited nine more patients on the pediatric unit (newborns, toddlers and teens) and their parents, sharing laughter and holiday spirit.

An added benefit for Crossroads youth was a tour of the Burn Unit, where nurses answered students' questions about careers in the medical field. The tour was coordinated by BI-IE Board Member and Nursing Manager, Adrian Martinez, and Assistant Nursing Manager, Suzanne Barrett R.N.



In December, Crossroads Community Church Youth Group delivered toys and holiday cheer to children at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. The group, which has adopted the BI-IE, also volunteers at winter Camp Beyond The Scars. (Gabby Burr Photography).

Two special groups of volunteers made the holiday outreach possible: Kim Burr's 6 to 8-grade students at Grace Yokley Middle School in Ontario Calif., collected toys throughout the year. At the same time, more than 50 young volunteers from Crossroads (ages 12-18), joined with their congregation to collect additional toys. By the time December rolled around, so many toys had been collected that a generous stockpile was set aside for the hospital's use throughout the year! "All around, the event was good for the children," said BI-IE Executive Director, Gary Stansberry. "We've gotten a nice response from the community." ♠

SAVE THE DATE!

**Burn Institute –
Inland Empire
Spirit of Courage Awards
June 20, 2009**

Highland Springs Resort,
Cherry Valley

For tickets or information
call (909) 519-1063



Holiday Party guests take a break from the festivities: (L-R): Kevin Chavez (10), Miguel Villa (11), Ana Mariel Galvez (11), and Bryce Mejia (8).

Imperial Valley Holiday Party

"Our first annual Valley Christmas party was a great success," said an enthusiastic James Payne, Imperial Valley Outreach Specialist. About 20 guests, (including five burn survivors), attended the festivities which were held at the Burn Institute-Imperial Valley offices on December 19. Thanks to generous support from the community, food, toys and decorations were provided, allowing each child to receive two wrapped gifts. "It was a nice way to introduce new survivors to the more experienced kids, and helped to make everyone feel more comfortable with the organization," said Payne. "It will only get bigger and better from here."

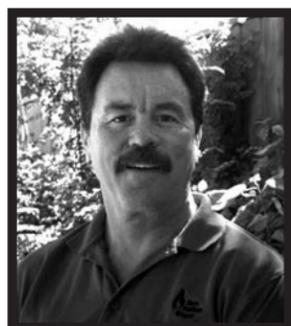
Several local groups and businesses helped to make it all possible. The Christmas tree, lights, stockings and other decorations were donated by Home Depot, El Centro #1059. Employees from the same store donated gifts that included radios, dart boards, remote airplanes, teddy bears, dolls, rockets and water guns. A generous donation from the El Centro Firefighters Association provided the party with Subway sandwiches, chips, cupcakes and drinks. And a group of volunteers wrapped gifts and decorated the office.

"Thanks to all who helped," said Payne. "We couldn't have done it without you!" ♠

Meet James Payne Imperial Valley Outreach Specialist

You can call him Jim. And he's no stranger to the Burn Institute. A firefighter for more than two decades, Payne has been working in close conjunction with the Burn Institute for about 12 years. In his new role as Outreach Specialist, he's infusing the Burn Institute-Imperial Valley with his knowledge, energy and enthusiasm.

Payne's background is a natural for the job. He's currently a Paramedic Engineer with the El Centro Fire Department, where he's been since 1986. Early in his career he worked as a seasonal firefighter with the California Department of Forestry in Fallbrook. His work on behalf of the Burn Institute has included participation in the Burn Run and counselor at *Camp Beyond The Scars* (both summer and winter sessions), among other events.



"It was great getting the guys to pitch in for a cause that really affects all of us," he said of his early days rallying his fellow firefighters to help with Boot Drive or the FIRE EXPO.

Payne has also been instrumental in the creation and training of fire/burn prevention education programs in public schools (grades K-6), and he's been heavily involved in the creation of a Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention program in the Imperial Valley. He's looking forward to the challenges ahead.

"As the Outreach Specialist I hope to increase the volunteer base and support all of the organizations

in the Imperial Valley to reach even more children," said Payne. "Like most organizations, the larger our volunteer base the stronger we will be."

Payne and his wife, Faith, have been married for 24 years and live in El Centro with their kids, Heath, 20; Joshua, 18 and Heather, 14. A self-described family man, his off hour activities include swimming, traveling and quad riding in the desert with his teens. Their latest family hobby is geocaching, (a GPS-based treasure hunt), in which they all enthusiastically participate when they visit a new place. "It's a blast!" Payne said. ♠



Programs and Services

Fire and Burn Prevention Education

- Burni the Dragon's Preschool Curriculum Guide
- Burns are Serious Business
- Child Care Burn Prevention
- Fire and Burn Prevention, Fire, Burns & You Curriculum Guide
- Fire-Safe Kids (K-3)
- **Fire Safety Training Program (Nominal Fee)**
- First Responder Smoke Alarm Program
- It's Your Choice: Stop Fires and Burns
- Juvenile Firesetter Program
- Senior Fire Safety & Smoke Alarm Program
- Wildfire Program

Burn Research

- Funding Vital Burn Research and Treatment

Burn Survivor Support

- Adult Support Group
- Camp Beyond The Scars for Burn-Injured Children
- Emergency Needs Fund
- Holiday Party
- Mentorship Program
- Retreat for Adult Burn Survivors
- Scholarship Program
- School Re-Entry Program
- SOAR Peer Support
- Special Assistance Fund

Community Service

- Fire and Burn Prevention Literature
- Public Service Announcements
- Speakers Bureau
- Spirit of Courage Awards Banquet

i Program Highlight

Fire Safety Training

OSHA standards require employers to provide proper exits, fire fighting equipment, and employee training to prevent fire deaths and injuries in the workplace.

Where the employer has provided portable fire extinguishers for employee use in the workplace, the employer shall also provide an educational program to familiarize employees with the general principles of fire extinguisher use and the hazards involved with incipient stage fire fighting.

Burn Institute's trained specialists will teach your staff about how to properly use fire extinguishers, fire safety in the workplace, exit plans and so much more.

Contact the Burn Institute for a free quote 858.541.2277, ext. 20 or email aflores@burninstitute.org

Hablamos Español

To receive a discount on your next Fire Extinguisher Training Class, call 858.541.2277, ext. 20 and mention this coupon. Deadline is April 30, 2009.



Beacon Bits

♠ A fond farewell to Jim Hansen, who served as the BI's Board President from 2004 to 2008. Hansen will remain on the board as an active member and his post has been filled by new Board President, Chief Dave Ott. Congratulations to both men!

♠ The Burn Institute Board of Directors would like to welcome new members Don Cowan and Jamie Mason. Welcome also to new Advisory Board member, Dr. Ronn Johnson.

♠ Farewell and thank you to outgoing board members Paul Dawson and Rodger Dougherty. After 25 years of service and dedication, Mr. Dawson will continue to serve on the BI's Advisory Board.

♠ Congratulations to Christina Lesniak, who has been promoted to Office Manager. She will replace Vicki Schoonderwoerd who is retiring after more than 8 years with the BI. But it's not "goodbye," as Vicki will continue to work for the organization as a volunteer!

♠ A warm welcome to new staff members: Special Events Manager, Kasey Shephard, and Imperial Valley Community Outreach Specialist, Jim Payne.

♠ Congratulations and farewell to Special Events Manager, Rick Ochocki, who married in December and relocated to Bakersfield.

♠ Thank you to Bloomingdales and all who participated in their daylong fundraiser on October 23, 2008. Proceeds will benefit Burn Institute programs and services.

♠ Several local eateries hosted recent fundraisers for the BI. Thank you to Claim Jumper, Corvette Diner and Sammy's Woodfired Pizza and all participants for their generosity. Proceeds will benefit Burn Institute programs and services.

You are reading the SPRING 2009 issue of the Burn Institute Beacon. Please don't throw this newsletter away! Pass it along to a friend. If you know someone who would like to receive this publication, would like to be removed from our mailing list, or if you have an address change, please email kframpton@burninstitute.org.

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Christina Lesniak
Office Manager

James Payne
**Community Outreach Specialist
(Imperial Valley)**

Kasey Shephard
Special Events Manager

SAVE THE DATE!

36th Annual Spirit of Courage Awards Banquet

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Hyatt Regency La Jolla–Aventine Ballroom

For sponsorship information, contact Di Sutherland 858.541.2277, ext. 19 or dsutherland@burninstitute.org.



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