

# AARBF FACTSHEET

*Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation*



Alisa Ann Ruch

**Burn Foundation**

## FACTS OVERVIEW

Full Name: Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation

Founded: 1971 in Glendale, California

Mission: To enhance the quality of life for burn survivors and promote burn prevention education.

Status: Nonprofit organization with 501(c)3 status

Annual Budget: Approximately \$1M

Services: AARBF provides services to burn survivors of all ages and burn prevention education programs throughout California.

Employees: 13 full- and part-time staff members in three regional offices; a volunteer base of approximately 200 dedicated individuals.

Leadership:

- Executive Director – Scott Vandrick
- President of Board of Directors – Captain Mike Gonzalez

Geographic Areas Served:

- Northern California including San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Marine and Colusa Counties.
- Central California including Fresno, Tulare, Kings, Madera, Monterey and Merced Counties.
- Southern California including much of Orange, Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

Population Served:

- Burn survivors and their families
- Fire and burn prevention professionals and community members

Correction Word/Phrase Usage:

- Burn Survivor instead of “Burn Victim”
- Firefighter instead of “firemen” or “firewoman”

## DETAILED MISSION AND HISTORY

At age 8, Alisa Ann Ruch was fatally injured in a backyard barbeque accident. Bravely using their tragedy as a catalyst for change, Alisa Ann’s parents partnered with Southern California firefighters to found the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation (AARBF), a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, in 1971. They realized severe, life-altering burns often occur in seconds, especially among young children. Their vision led them to establish a mission for AARBF of enhancing the quality of life for burn survivors and promoting burn prevention.

35 years later, AARBF works with local hospitals, fire departments, safety coalitions, and other organizations across California to develop innovative programs and services. Prevention education is key to avoiding agonizing burn injuries, while survivor services prove paramount to improving quality of life for courageous burn survivors.

## AARBF PROGRAMS

### Burn Survivor Services:

In conjunction with the burn community, AARBF provides services that aim to improve the quality of life for burn survivors and their families.

- **Champ Camp:** residential, summer camp experience for young burn survivors ages 5-16 treated at California hospitals.
- **Back to School:** School-based program to reintroduce young burn survivors to classmates.
- **Bridge to Life:** Educational stipends for burn survivors.
- **Young Adult Summit:** Retreat for burn survivors ages 17-20.
- **Family Camp:** Get-away for adult survivors, families and loved-ones.
- **Support Services:** Self-help and peer-led support groups for burn survivors; hospital visits to provide initial information about and resources for burn injuries; emergency financial assistance during hospitalization, including financial assistance, housing assistance, and food assistance; some medical supplies and image enhancement services.

### Burn Prevention Programs:

AARBF works in conjunction with fire agencies and the burn and medical community to provide programs and materials to help in the prevention of burns and fires.

- **Firefighters In Safety Education (FISE):** A fire safety educational program for pre-K through grade five.
- **Protect Your Child:** A campaign to reduce scald burns.
- **Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Trainings:** High-quality, low-cost classes for fire professionals and other community partners on juvenile firesetters.
- **Fire FRIENDS (Firesetter Regional Intervention Education Network and Delivery System):** Firesetter intervention program
- **Educational materials:** Materials on fire safety and burn prevention for fire departments, schools, and the public.

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For more information: [www.aarbf.org](http://www.aarbf.org)