SPRING 2008

AARBF kicked off its public safety campaign focused on scald prevention in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Alameda Counties on March 31, 2008. Generously funded by FEMA through a Fire Prevention and Safety grant, the campaign is reaching millions through advertisements posted on public transit and shelters, and even Los Angeles fire engines. AARBF has also partnered with local hospitals, clinics, and other community centers to get the word out.

The campaign aims to educate parents of children under 5 about the danger of hot liquids. Scald injuries are highly preventable, yet thousands of California children are injured by hot food and drinks each year. The campaign advertisements are raising awareness of scald injuries, as well as giving caregivers tips on how to keep children safe from burns.

To further publicize the campaign, AARBF has held four media events in conjunction with local fire departments and burn units. AARBF thanks the San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, and Long Beach Fire Departments, as well as Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, for their partnership on these events.

In March, AARBF also unveiled the new Protect Your Child scald prevention kits, now available in English and Spanish and in two age groups: Infant and Toddler. The kits are free to any parent or caregiver in California, and can be ordered online at www.beburnsafe.com, or by calling your local office.

Help AARBF get the word out – pass along the scald prevention tips below to family and friends with children under 5. Together we can stop scalds from happening!

**Scald Prevention Tips**

- Avoid eating or drinking hot liquids, like coffee or tea, while holding a baby.
- Use caution when serving hot foods and liquids around children. Avoid using tablecloths and placemats – children can pull hot food down onto themselves.
- Keep children out of the kitchen if possible, or establish a “no-zone” of at least 3 feet around your stove. Cook on the rear burners of your stove, with pot handles turned in.
- Place hot items and appliances at the back of your kitchen counters. Keep appliance cords unplugged and coiled behind them when not in use.
- Supervise children at all times while bathing them. Turn the faucet away from the child if possible, and keep the hot water handle out of his or her reach. Ensure bath water is no hotter than 100° F, and set your hot water heater to 120° F (or low).
Hello, I’m Mike “Otter” Gonzalez, and I have the honor of serving you in the role of President of the Executive Board of Directors. “Otter” is my Champ Camp name and I use it proudly, as it reminds me of all of the burn survivors and volunteers that I have had the pleasure to spend time with at Champ Camp and other survivor activities.

Recently I have had the good fortune to attend the Young Adult Summit for the first time. Afterward it occurred to me that these young burn survivors seemed to be incredibly grounded. They have security in the world knowing they have a group of friends and a consistency of mentors into adulthood. I’m proud to be a part of their journey.

On the Board level our goal is to build a foundation for the future of all of the people AARBF serves. One of the methods for achieving this goal is to build an organizational endowment through restricted individual gifts and estate planning donations. Watch our website for more information about making AARBF a beneficiary of funds through insurance policies, wills and trusts. AARBF’s endowment will become a spring of wealth, helping fund the foundation for years to come.

The Board is also concentrating on making connections with new funding sources. It is much easier to call a potential funding source when we’ve been introduced to them by you (or your friends, family or colleagues). If you know a corporate executive, a government official, someone who works at a private foundation, or a member of a fundraising community group, please give us a call so we can coordinate a team effort to introduce them to AARBF’s amazing mission.

Thank you for being part of the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Mike Gonzalez

Otter (last one on the right) with Young Adult Summit participants in Morro Bay, California.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB-SIGHTS

After months of dreaming and planning, AARBF is pleased to announce the launch of its newly redesigned website at www.AARBF.org. Working alongside designer Eric Bemberess, former Board member Cheri Voisine has led the charge to bring the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation into the future. New features include a monthly e-newsletter, the Burn Bulletin, an organizational blog and comprehensive listings of 2007 supporters. Be the first to check out the new pages and then spread the news.
On a bright afternoon in October, supporters, former staff and Board members, volunteers, friends and family of the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation gathered at the Odyssey Restaurant in Los Angeles to celebrate 35 years of service to the community. The luncheon was a touching tribute to the vision and compassion of the early founders of the organization. It was also an opportunity to salute those inspiring leaders who guided and nurtured the organization through the years. Alisa Ann’s mother, Diane Host, presented awards of appreciation (personally hand-sculpted statuettes) to 15 people who have been instrumental in shaping the organization.

Looming across the landscape of Granada Hills was the beginning of the fires that marked the end of 2007 in Southern California. For many, the rise of smoke above the hilltops was a powerful reminder of the important services that the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation provides.

Cheers to all of you, near and far, who have contributed to the health and well-being of the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. Its growth is a tribute to you. With every child and adult burn survivor helped on their path to recovery, there are a thousand hands supporting, caring and lifting. Congratulations to all on 35 years of amazing work!

A few of AARBF’s accomplishments include:

- AARBF has worked in partnership with approximately 400 fire departments across California.
- Over 1,300 children with severe burn injuries have attended Champ Camp.
- 250 Back-to-School and Back-to-Work Re-Entry presentations have been provided throughout California.
- Over 250,000 school age students have been taught fire and burn safety messages by staff and AARBF volunteers.
- AARBF has hosted informational booths at more than 200 health fairs.
- Over 5,000 burn survivors, both children and adults, have received services from AARBF.
Young Adult Summit - Change

The 11th Annual Young Adult Summit was held February 15-18, 2008 in beautiful Cambria, California. The retreat, a favorite among survivors 16-20 years old, provides activities that foster empowerment and encourage reflection and growth. Special sessions were led discussing such topics as: relationships, the job interviewing process, how to move out, and body image. This year’s theme was Change, and change it was; this year’s Summit was the largest yet! With 23 young adults and 12 volunteers, the weekend was packed full of awesome activities and memorable moments. An exciting field trip to Morro Bay included riding on Coast Guard ships and an afternoon at the beach! Thank you to all of the volunteers and donors who made this unforgettable weekend the best ever. We hope to see more new faces at next year’s summit!

Fantastic Fishing for All

In August 2007, AARBF took 13 kids (ages 8–17) to shake some fishing rods at the fish that reside in Spicer Reservoir in Northern California. Our hosts Kevin “Yukon” Siewert and Shari “Cedar” Barbella housed and fed the hardy bunch and escorted them around the lake in their two fishing boats. This year the fish ate a bunch of worms but only Svetlana got her fish to stay on the line until it was safely in the boat. AARBF thanks all of those who made the trip a success!

Family Camp Fun!

On Labor Day weekend 2007 adult burn survivors and their loved ones celebrated AARBF’s 13th Annual Family Camp. Families were busy this year with new activities targeted to kids and an appearance by SAW, a wonderful volunteer who teaches wood working. There were also the annual favorites of Family Olympics, arts and crafts, bingo, support groups, ropes course, paint ball, swimming and, of course, the talent show. Be sure to mark next year’s Getaway (Family Camp) on your calendar for Labor Day weekend: August 30-September 1, 2008.
Thank you, Trip! You’re the tops in our book. Best of luck on your future adventures!

Happy trails to you, Trip!

Sad but true… the time has come to say goodbye to the beloved co-director, Trip. Trip has been with Champ Camp since 1991 and has brought an amazing amount of energy and creativity to camp. Thank you for your years of service. You will be missed! A big e-hug from all of us!

Be an AARBF Guest Blogger! Have a great story about your experience as an AARBF volunteer? Do you have something to share about burn survivor services or burn prevention education? Want to encourage people to participate in a fundraising event? Then be a guest blogger. Simply type your story in an email and send to info@aarbf.org and we’ll post on our blog at www.AARBF.org, click on “Blog.”
NORTHERN

East Bay Holiday Party
On Saturday, December 8, the South Berkeley Senior Center was full of cheer in celebration of the annual East Bay Holiday Party. Survivors, family members, volunteers and the Berkeley Fire Department sang holiday carols, made beautiful winter crafts and were entertained by an Oakland based youth clown troupe, the Prescott Clowns. After the festive afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Claus surprised the party, bearing gifts generously donated by Target. Special thanks to all of our new and returning volunteers, the Berkeley Fire Department and Target - we look forward to celebrating with you all next winter!

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
On Saturday, December 15, survivors, family members, donors and volunteers turned the cafeteria of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center into a winter wonderland. This joyous holiday party was full of delicious treats, exciting crafts and games, and the “kids only” Santa’s Store which allows each child to “shop” for a special gift for a loved one. Later in the afternoon, Santa surprised everyone with a special visit and with gifts graciously donated by Sunnyvale’s Bank of the West Giving Tree Program. This merry celebration is an annual favorite! Special thanks to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Jill Sproul, Maaike Fewel, Burn Center Staff, Linda Carrier, Santa Clara County Fire Department; and all new and returning volunteers. We truly appreciate you!

CENTRAL

Central Coast Holiday Party
On December 1, the Central Coast Holiday Party brought together burn survivors, their loved ones, AARBF volunteers, and fire service professionals. People bundled up for a fabulous evening including a lighted boat parade curtesy of the Morro Bay Coast Guard. Mark and Kitty Brunner generously donated crafts for all the little ones. Dominos and Round Table Pizza of Morro Bay donated pizza as revelers caught up with old and new friends. For the children who attended the party, the best part was clearly a visit from Santa Claus with a personal gift for each of them. Thank you to Mark and Kitty Brunner, Kimberly Potts, Philip Goldbloom, Steve Knuckles, Chief Pond and the Morro Bay Coast Guard for making this an evening to remember.

Central Valley Holiday Party and Toy Drive
On December 9, burn survivors, volunteers, family and friends gathered for the annual Central Valley Holiday Party. AARBF had tons of activities which included craft tables sponsored by the Girl Scouts Golden Valley Council, a scavenger hunt, refreshments and a teddy bear tree. After a photo with Santa, children were ushered into Santa’s Village by his Elves to choose a gift. All of the toys and gift cards were generously donated by Clovis, Visalia, Reedley, Sanger, Fresno, Hanford and Selma Fire Departments, Tulare Volunteer Fire Department, Fresno Airport Public Safety, Fresno City College Fire Academy, and Cal Fire. We thank the many dedicated volunteers and donors that made this party possible. We want to send out a special thank you to Scott Sanders, Sandra Yovino, Holly Cartozian, Donna Gavello, Marilyn Erickson, and the Rex Phebus Veteran’s Memorial Building.

SOUTHERN

Shriners Hospital for Children Holiday Party
On December 9, over 200 burn survivors, AARBF friends and volunteers celebrated the holidays at Shriners Hospital for Children-Los Angeles. Volunteers and the Los Angeles Fire Department provided a huge spread of food and The Art of Elysium warmed the party with live music. As with previous years, each child at the party was presented with a toy or Target gift card by Santa Claus himself. During the party Ray Mayo, the President of LA Heat (the Los Angeles County Firefighter Football team) presented AARBF with a $5,000 donation. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a success for the families who attended, including the Shriners Hospital for Children, Southern California Volunteer Group, The Art of Elysium, Target, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Chevron Fire Department.
We simply couldn’t do it without you, Thank you!

Our sincere appreciation goes out to each and every person who donates funds to support the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation, our programs and services in the community.

Below is a listing of the 2007 Individual Donors. We applaud your compassion and your belief in our mission.

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Marilyn Boggeri
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If you discover an error with your listings, please contact our Burbank office at (818) 849-0223 or email us at info@AARBF.org.
NORTHERN REGION

July 4, Moraga. The sensational Moraga/Orinda Pancake Breakfast raised over $4,000 for AARBF’s programs. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event a success!

August 18, San Mateo. Crazy Car Promotions hosted its annual Car Show. Beautiful cars parked everywhere made this a dazzling event. Thank you Carl Asaro for your dedication.

September 7, Mountain View. Fire engines old and new started in Mountain View and ended in San Francisco during the Peninsula Relay to collect money raised for AARBF. A special thank you to Jim DeMattei and Steve Bezzozi and the Relay Coordinators for all of the hard work as well as the CHP for escorting the relay.

September 16, Dublin. Sprinkler Fitters hosted their annual golf tournament, raising $20,000. Year after year, this event happens flawlessly. Thank you to everyone who donates their time and talents to host such a successful event, especially Rick Mangan.

September 26, Alameda. Thanks to all of the volunteers of the Alameda Golf Tournament, which raised over $23,000 for AARBF programs and services. Cheers to Alameda County Firefighter Association IAFF #55!

October 6, Mountain View. Mountain View Firefighters rose to the occasion, bringing in $9,000 at their pancake breakfast during Fire Prevention Week. Executive Chefs from Google made yummy pancakes and the community enjoyed the special day. A special thank you to Jenna “Sweet Pea” Graham who hosted another fabulous event!

October 6, Menlo Park. Menlo Park Fire Protection District and the Junior League of Menlo Park hosted a delicious pancake breakfast raising over $8,000. A special thank you to Stanford Park Hotel who made all the food and Jon Johnston for making this event possible.

October 12, San Francisco. Supporters of AARBF danced the night away at this year’s annual Hook & Ladder Ball, held at the Olympic Club. A special thank you to Suzie Hart for her countless hours of chairing the event and Jodi Hansen for working on every detail. And cheers to the sponsors of the event: Bank of America, San Francisco Fire Credit Union, and Saint Francis Memorial Hospital!

October 13, Sunnyvale. Many thanks to the organizers of the 9th Annual Sunnyvale Pancake Breakfast & Safety Fair which raised nearly $4,500 for AARBF. Special thanks to Fremont High School Key Club, Sunnyvale Public Safety Officers’ Association and the Department of Public Safety. Thanks for making a difference.

November 13, Los Gatos. Santa Clara County Fire Department’s Fabulous Firehouse Favorites, hosted at Sur la Table, was a delicious evening of epicurean delights! Hal Chase, Nanci and friends hosted a fantastic evening of food and fun, raising over $3,000. Thank you!

CENTRAL REGION

March 6, Paicines. Many thanks to Janet Flook and Flook Productions, who presented AARBF with a check for $3,500 that was raised during the John Henney Memorial Barrel Race. Way to go!

September 20, Fresno. The Fairmont Private School Annual Fundraiser raised over $3,700 for AARBF. Thank you!

October 11, Central Coast. The Central Coast Relay raised over $10,000 for AARBF. Thanks to Steve Knuckles and Bill Murphy for coordinating the relay.

December 9, Fresno. Joe Rosa presented AARBF a $12,000 check on behalf of the California Fireman’s Muster Association. Amazing!

SOUTHERN REGION

September 24, Diamond Bar. Three cheers go out to Ken Hewett, his wife Toni, Jim Stamp, Marcelle McCollough and the entire golf committee for another successful year at the Diamond Bar Golf Tournament. This year’s tournament raised more than $40,000 to send burn injured kids to Champ Camp. You all inspire us!

December 9, Los Angeles. LA Heat presented AARBF with a check for $5,000 at our annual holiday party at Shriners Hospital for Children. We thank Ray Mayo and the entire LA Heat team!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Get involved in AARBF’s events. Whether hanging with a relay or guiding kids as a Champ Camp counselor, we can do great things together.

May 24, 2008 🏖 Monterey Bay Aquarium Sleepover, Monterey: Contact: Audra Stetler, (559) 224-7223, astetler@aarbf.org

May 30, 2008 $ North Bay Relay, Marin County: Contact: Renée Croteau, (415) 495-7223, rcroteau@aarbf.org

June 2008 $ Niles Rotary Chili Cook-off, Fremont: Contact: Renée Croteau, (415) 495-7223, rcroteau@aarbf.org

June 7, 2008 🏖 Western Avenue Elementary School Health Fair, Los Angeles: Contact: Johanna Wilkie, (818) 848-0223, jwilkie@aarbf.org

June 14-21, 2008 🏖 Champ Camp, Wonder Valley Ranch: Contact: Renée Croteau, (415) 495-7223, rcroteau@aarbf.org

June 2008 $ Mopar Alley Car Show, San Jose: Contact: Renée Croteau, (415) 495-7223, rcroteau@aarbf.org

July 19, 2008 $ Stop Drop & Roll Bike Ride, Woodside: Contact: Renée Croteau, (415) 495-7223, rcroteau@aarbf.org

August 1-3, 2008 🏖 Fishing Trip, Dorrington: Contact: Audra Stetler, (559) 224-7223, astetler@aarbf.org

August 16, 2008 $ Crazy Car Show, San Mateo: Contact: Renée Croteau, (415) 495-7223, rcroteau@aarbf.org

August 2008 $ Peninsula Relay, Northern California: Contact: Renée Croteau, (415) 495-7223, rcroteau@aarbf.org

August 30- September 1, 2008 🏖 Getaway Camp (formerly Family Camp), Camp Oakhurst: Contact: Audra Stetler, (559) 224-7223, astetler@aarbf.org

Check our website at www.AARBF.org for more information about upcoming events.

Support Group Information

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

San Francisco
Saint Francis Hospital
900 Hyde Street, San Francisco CA 94109
Meets the last Friday of the month at 11 am

San Jose
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
751 South Bascom Ave, San Jose CA 95128
Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm

For more information call 1-800-755-BURN

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Fresno
Community Regional Burn Center
2823 Fresno St., Fresno, CA 93721
Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm

For more information call 1-888-492-BURN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles
LAC + USC Burn Center Family Room 120421
North State St., Los Angeles CA 90033
Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm

Torrance
Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Outpatient Surgery Waiting Room
3330 Lomita Blvd, Torrance CA 90505
Meets the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 pm

For more information call 1-800-242-BURN

Children’s Support Group In Spanish – Los Angeles
Shriners Hospital for Children
3160 Geneva St., Los Angeles CA 90020
Meets every Thursday at 12 pm

For more information call 1-800-242-BURN

OTHER SUPPORT GROUPS

Phoenix Society
Online Chat
For burn survivors and loved ones ages 13 years or older. Includes support groups and guest speakers. Go to www.phoenix-society.org and click “support” network and then “chat”. Every Wednesday at 5 pm (PST).

Teenager Online Support Groups
Online chat and social networking for burn survivors to talk with peers and other teenagers who have serious health conditions between the ages of 13 and 20.

www.starbrightworld.org
The Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation’s mission is to enhance the quality of life for burn survivors and to promote burn prevention education.

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