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Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation Accredited by the Standards for Excellence Institute® Earns Seal of Excellence

The Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation (AARBF) is a recipient of the Standards for Excellence Institute's Seal of Excellence for successfully completing their rigorous accreditation program. AARBF voluntarily opened itself up to analysis by a "jury of its peers." The peer review team examined ABC Nonprofit for compliance with the Standards for Excellence®: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector, in areas including: Mission, Strategy and Evaluation; Leadership: Board, Staff, and Volunteers; Legal Compliance and Ethics; Finance and Operations; Resource Development; and Public Awareness, Engagement, and Advocacy.

The Standards for Excellence Institute evaluates fundamental values such as honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility, and accountability, all of which are inherently important in the nonprofit world. AARBF's programs and services, management, fundraising and financial practices were subjected to in-depth examination prior to earning accreditation.

Jennifer Radics-Johnson, Executive Director of the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation comments, "In preparation for our 50th Anniversary, we believe that receiving accreditation by the Standards for Excellence Institute will provide evidence to our constituents, donors and supporters that AARBF truly is an excellent organization and holds itself to the highest standards possible."

"The Board is proud of the hard work of the staff to achieve the seal of Excellence for the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. It is just validation of what we already knew- AARBF is an excellent organization," says Russ Charvonja, president of the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation's Board of Directors.

The Standards for Excellence Institute is committed to raising the level of principled and responsible practices within the nonprofit sector. The Institute offers a model for organizations to implement in their operating plans so they can gain a deeper understanding of their effectiveness, improve their decision-making and minimize risks. Nonprofits that adhere to the principles and practices of strong nonprofit management and governance can become formally accredited under the Standards for Excellence® program.

A recent university study of 102 nonprofit organizations that have received the Standards for Excellence accreditation compared with peer organizations of similar size and industry examined the impact of becoming accredited. Significant findings found that the process is associated with an increase direct public support.

Researchers found that nonprofit organizations' stakeholders will react positively to organizations earning the Standards for Excellence accreditation by allocating more resources to the nonprofit. The Standards for Excellence program provides a structured approach to improved operations and quality management, delivering years of benchmarking and best practices to organizations' leadership, and a "Good Housekeeping"-type seal of approval to outside stakeholders, indicating that the organization is performing as promised after comprehensive evaluation by practitioners and industry experts.

About the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation

The Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation (AARBF) is a California-based nonprofit organization dedicated to significantly reducing the number of burn injuries through prevention education and enhancing the quality of life of those affected by a burn injury. AARBF brings together health care providers, firefighters, emergency workers, burn care professionals, burn survivors, and our community to enhance the quality of life for burn survivors and to make burn injuries a thing of the past. www.aarbf.org.

About the Standards for Excellence Institute

The Standards for Excellence originated as a special initiative of Maryland Nonprofits in 1998 and has since expanded into a national program to help nonprofit organizations achieve the highest benchmarks of ethics and accountability in nonprofit governance, management and operations. The program has been formally adopted by ten state, regional and national affiliate organizations, and is supported by nearly 80 Licensed Consultants and over 100 volunteers with professional experience in nonprofit governance and administration. Since its inception, the program has accredited or recognized over 200 individual nonprofit organizations that completed a rigorous application and review process to demonstrate adherence to the Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector. www.standardsforexcellenceinstitute.org.

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