



US Burn Support Organization Newsletter

Publisher
Public Relations

Volume
02

Issue
6

Date
Summer 2008

U.S Burn Support

The Executive Board welcomes the new Chairman of the Board (Fmr- Advisory Comm Co-Chair- Mr. Rick Eiselen) and with his strong leadership. We feel the U.S Burn Support Organization, will continue to move forward with support and direction.

United Nations

The High Commissioner for Burns, Brandon C. Jones-McGeer and Deputy U.N Liaison Ms. Thorne Maxwell, the Alt-U.N Representative Mr. Thomas Sesko had the honour to take part in the welcoming of Pope Benedict on his First visit to the United States of America as the head of the Catholic Church.

While undertaking our official duties, HCB- Brandon Jones- McGeer had the honour of meeting with some of the representatives from the Holy See-

May 12th 2008- the same representatives had the honour to officially recognize the Disability Convention as it was entered into force – The event was truly graceful and accepting of the fact. We now have a treaty that will aid in the Disability Community”

“CEO-HCB Remarks”

As a International burn organization, our hopes of having burn survivors being treated as human beings and not as a group of people who is disfigured can finally be recognized as a start in the International Burn Community with the Disability Treaty.

Fundraising

The U.S Burn Support Organization, has begun its first official fundraising season. If you or anybody you know would like to support the U.S Burn Support Organization by making an donation, please contact the U.S Burn Support Organization by calling (215) 473-2955 or emailing usburnsupport@usburn.org. Anyone wishing to visit the website should go to [Http://www.usburn.org](http://www.usburn.org).

The U.S Burn Support Organization has officially teamed up with the Eiselen Pastry Shoppe of Roxborough, (Phila) Pa. As a fundraiser goal- we will be selling “Cinnamon Buns” for Burns. To obtain a box of buns \$9.00: please contact the Bakery directly (215) 482-3111 and don’t forget to mention the U.S Burn Support Organization.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to benefit our programming.

The U.S Burn Support Organization would like to sincerely thank the wonderful sponsors who have helped so much to make the Camp Susquehanna 2008 possible.

Burn Camp 2008

The U.S Burn Support Organization is currently in the process of preparing for the camp season (Camp Susquehanna) which be held June 25th to the 29th at the Millersville University Campus in the Lancaster, Pa area.

Memorials

The U.S Burn Support Organization would like to offer its sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones due to fires or other burn related events.

The Services Provided

- 1) Support Groups
- 2) Pressure Garment Assistance
- 3) Burn Camps
- 4) Image Enhancement
- 5) Transportation Assistance
(Doctor Appointments Only)

Educational Services

- 1) Burn Prevention
- 2) Fire Prevention
- 3) Disability Awareness

Emotional Services

- 1) Fire Fighter Grief Counseling
- 2) Family Grief Counseling

Executive Board 2008

Brandon C. Jones-McGeer **CEO & Founder**
Richard "Rick" Eiselen **Chairman**
Sandra A. Rose **Vice President**
Tanisha D. Carter **Secretary**
John Bourne **Finance Director**
Todd McCarrison **Int-Burn Camp Chair**
Thomas Sesko **Advisory Chairperson**

International Liaison Board UN

Brandon C. Jones – **High Commissioner for Burns**
Thorne Maxwell- **UN Deputy Chief**
Sandra A. Rose – **Alt-Delegate**
Thomas Sesko – **Alt-Delegate**

Events

Camp Susquehanna will be held at the Millersville University on June 25th to June 29th 2008. The Sontoma Club of Lancaster, Pa. In conjunction with the Lancaster Fire Department sponsors the camp. In addition, with the U.S Burn Support Organization.

Support Groups should be starting soon! And we wish for all the people of the burn community to attend, including children from the age of 8.

The U.S Burn Support Organization would like to thank the Whitmarsh Township of Montgomery County, PA for the wonderful event during March 2008. We hope to see them next year!

Fire Safety Tip Summer 2008

Please remember to use safe measures when smoking, in addition to being safe around Any "open" flame. Ergo, Camp fires, bonfires, grills and fire works. Please consider your safety before engaging any life threaten activities.

Editing & proofing

Mr. Tom Seisko – Editor
Mr. Richard Sullivan Co-Editor- Poster
Cm- Mr. Richard "Rick" Eiselen

Emergency O.P.S Center

Please refer to the website
<http://www.usburn.org>.

Mail Suggestions

U.S Burn Support Organization
P.O Box 26001
Philadelphia, Pa 19128

Survivors News Stories

“New Program for Survivors to communicate with others”

*Re-Building Lives, One Skin Graft At A Time.
By Delores Lekowski*

A lot has been said about the emergency responders who rescue others from a burning inferno. Indeed, burn survivors and their families are forever beholden to firefighters who put their own lives in danger to save theirs.

But the rescue is only the beginning of a long journey filled with heroes. Family members become the emotional heroes of burn patients, and together they share an unfamiliar world filled with uncertainty and pain, tears and triumphs. A love-and-hate relationship develops with the burn nurses, as they work with empathy to do what they can to help the excruciating healing process along. And last, but certainly not least, are the heroes that you don't hear much about--the re-builders of our lives and our bodies--the burn unit doctors! This month's article is a tribute to these amazing professionals.

I was a child, just ten years old, when I was thrown into the scary world of burn recovery. Dr Clifford Keihn and Doctor John Desprez were my Plastic Surgeons. I remember Doctor Keihn had cleats on the bottom of his shoes (so I always knew when he was coming down the hallway) and a booming voice that was a little intimidating to a child. After one of my skin grafts took when there was little chance that it would, I heard Dr, Keihn tell my mother, “I don't know what she is made of, but it must be good stuff!”

As an adult, many years after my injury, I was considering having more surgery done, and I made an appointment with Doctor Keihn. I was amazed when he remembered me. He gave me a hug as he said “I was always so proud of you!”

Years later, I found out Doctor Desprez had retired, and I was able to get his address. I wrote him a thank-you letter telling him what I have done with my life. He wrote back, and I was amazed that he remembered who I was.

I had always felt that Dr. Keihn had an emotional attachment to my recovery and would have been personally affected had I not survived. Since I have become involved with the Burn Center at Metro Health Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio, I have been given the opportunity to understand how burn doctors feel about their patients. I learned that not only was I right about Dr. Keihn; I learned that this feeling isn't unique to just my doctors. They all have this personal attachment.

Every doctor of the Metro Burn Unit shares these feelings, according to Doctor Richard Fratianne, Director Emeritus and founder of the Metro Health Burn Center and a retired burn surgeon. When I told Dr. Fratianne about my doctors' remembering who I was, he said, “Don't you know, we never forget our patients, and we especially never forget our children.”

Without burn doctors, survival from a burn injury would not be possible. These doctors not only take a professional role in our survival, they take a personal role. Every patient becomes a member of their family. Survival is not their only goal. After we survive our injuries, the goal of these doctors shifts from concern for our survival to concerns for our quality of life after we leave the burn units and re-enter society. Just as parents are proud of their children's successes, so are these doctors proud of the successes of their burn patients. They don't take credit for any of it, but instead they seem to have a special admiration for the will and ability of the survivors to lead fulfilling lives in spite of their injuries. In recognition of the lives that burn survivors go to lead, Dr. Fratianne has said many times that every child born to a survivor is a miracle child, because had their parent not survived, these little miracles would not exist.

Burn survivor's have a different take on survival; we know our survival was in the hands of our God, our doctors and the burn unit staff; I have little doubt that Dr. Fratianne, Dr. Keihn, Dr. Desprez and all burn doctors have never forgotten the thousands of patients they have put back together. Our quality of life has been enhanced because of them, and while deep admiration is deserving of everyone who stood by us in our recovery, we have a special place in our hearts for our doctors, who literally re-built our bodies and our lives, one skin graft at a time.

Public Relations Committee of the United States Burn Support Organization (**Summer'08**)