

# Aftercare News

The Newsletter of the Aftercare Programs at the UNC Jaycee Burn Center



**UNC**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
JAYCEE BURN CENTER

## Phoenix World Burn Congress September 12-15, 2018, Grand Rapids, Michigan

By, Anita Fields

Phoenix World Burn Congress is an annual conference for burn survivors and their families, burn professionals and members of the fire service. Held in different parts of the United States and Canada, this conference offers an opportunity to come together to learn, to support and to be inspired!

I often tell staff that this is the best place to learn the most about our patients and their families, from patients and their families. This September, we were able to, again, take a group of survivors and parents to Phoenix World Burn 2018 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I think the benefit of this conference is clear in this message from one of our survivor parents, Chris Ross. His son Clayton was burned years ago and has been a frequent attendee at many aftercare programming events. Clayton is now in college and hoping to become a doctor one day, largely due to his experience as a patient in our unit and as a participant in Camp Celebrate and Teen Camp. Clayton returns each year now as a counselor to young survivors, a role which he takes very seriously. I think Chris' words regarding his experience at World Burn says much more than I can relay.

"On behalf of Clayton and I, we are both so thankful for the opportunity to have been selected to receive your invite and sponsorship to the 2018 World Burn Congress Event in Grand Rapids, MI. The event exceeded my expectations. (cont. pg.2)

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For me personally the structure of the event provided the ability to talk about feelings, experiences, trauma and healing in both casual social settings as well as more formal clinical breakout sessions. As a parent of a burn survivor it opened my mind greatly to the complexities of the burn survivor experience that includes the healing needs of the family members surrounding the survivor.

It is such a wonderful thing that such an event exists because it serves an incredibly valuable purpose. I met a young man who was very quiet with very severe burns and by the end of the event I was in a social fun setting with him and witnessed him acting joyous, outgoing and not for a second did he or anyone around him stop to focus on his burns. I met a family who the husband and wife were burn survivors and they attended the event annually with their children who had not been burned but for them it was an annual must do family event and for the entire family you could see the same joy, sense of belonging and opportunity to not feel 100% comfortable because the scars etc. were invisible.

The nature of the event naturally created an environment where we were focused on looking into the soul and beautiful personality of each person we came in contact with allowing everyone to forget for a couple days about anyone's physical scars.

It was so comforting and therapeutic for me to talk to other parents of burn survivors and share our experiences, emotions and dealing with life after the events that led to us being at the event together. In one of the breakout sessions that involved parents of burn survivors I had the opportunity to openly discuss the challenges that pertained to my child's burn event in an environment that was safe, professional and clinical in nature. For the first time in 10+ years I was truly working through my family's burn event beyond the physical nature of it. The event afforded me the opportunity to have a meaningful conversation with my son about his burn event and it offered insight into paths of healing for my family given the nature of our family's event that included the accidental burning of my son by my mother.

I am forever grateful for the amazing care our son received at the Chapel Hill (UNC Jaycee) Burn Center. I am also grateful each year since our son's burn for the ongoing care and friendship that the Chapel Hill (UNC Jaycee) Burn Center and amazing people like Anita Fields provides my son and our entire family. We are so blessed to be a part of the Chapel Hill (UNC Jaycee) Burn Center family. Huge thanks again for the opportunity to further our healing process through sponsoring our attendance to the 2018 World Burn Congress in Grand Rapids, MI."

**Phoenix World Burn Congress is  
October 2-5, 2019 in Anaheim, California.**

I encourage all burn team members to attend.  
It is an amazing experience.

**For more information, please contact Anita Fields  
afields@med.unc.edu or 919-962-8427.**



## 18th Annual Adult Retreat



**The 18th Annual Adult Retreat is  
Friday, April 12 - Sunday, April 14th, 2019  
at the Camp Caraway Conference Center  
in Sophia, NC.**

This event is open to adult burn survivors and their significant other/caregivers. This Adult retreat offers the opportunity for you to meet other survivors and caregivers, to talk together and to learn how others are coping with their changed lives after a burn injury. Survivors have the opportunity to explore ideas and resources that can help their individual recovery as they re-enter their community, work place, and life. Spend time in group activities and in individual private time, to reflect on your personal healing journey. Take time to receive support and to be part of a supportive community.

**For More Information,  
Contact Shirley Massey, 984-974-0218**





## Camp Celebrate 2018

By Sheerah Coe

On Friday, May 18th, outside of the Triangle Town Mall parents began to arrive with their children for check-in. Kids held up signs with their name to have their picture taken as volunteers marked their attendance on a roster. They smiled and laughed, running around meeting old friends from years past or posing for photos with Wool E. Bull mascot of the Durham Bull's baseball team. Some got their faces painted; others ate snow cones, and still more had caricatures drawn.

Firetrucks were lined up row after row ready to ferry kids on parade to their final destination for their weekend adventure at Camp Celebrate. The traditional firetruck parade marks the beginning of Camp Celebrate, a weekend camp for children ages 7-15 who have survived burn injuries. In its 37th year, Camp Celebrate is the country's oldest camp for pediatric burn survivors. At this year's camp, they had their record number of attendees with 74 kids spending a weekend filled with swimming, shooting BB guns, canoeing, crafts, and meeting other kids who share the experience of having been burned. They were supervised by over 80 volunteers that included former campers, firefighters, nurses, counselors in training, program staff and logistics assistants.

"Do. Or do not. There is no try." — Yoda. Star Wars, the 2018 Camp Celebrate theme, threaded throughout the weekend starting with the yearly tradition of the cardboard boat regatta; mixed teams of all ages worked together with only supplies of cardboard, Star Wars themed duct tape, and some pool noodles to create a boat. One member was tasked with the responsibility of racing it around the lake.

Saturday night, the dining hall was transformed into a dance hall, kids dressed up in costume while Star Wars reenactor volunteers attended the event, blowing the kids away with their authentic costumes. The photo booth was a big hit as campers and volunteers took photos and made memories that will last a lifetime.

One of the most powerful moments of the camp took place on Sunday during the annual family picnic. As campers, volunteers and families shared a meal closing out the weekend; a unique ceremony was held this year. Josiah Garcia, an 18-year-old former camper, and counselor-in-training had chosen not to attend his high school graduation ceremony, instead choosing to spend the weekend at Camp Celebrate.

(Cont. pg 4)

## Upcoming Events

### Adult Retreat 2019

*April 12-14, 2019*

\$25 Registration Fee.  
Limited to 40 Participants

Camp Caraway  
Sophia, NC

### Camp Celebrate 2019

*May 16-19, 2019*

Camp Kanata  
Wake Forest, NC

### FFBCF Scholarship

**Deadline**

*June 1, 2019*

### Teen Camp

*August 16-18, 2019*

Camp Don Lee  
Arapahoe, NC

### Family Camp

*September 13-15, 2019*

Camp Kanata  
Wake Forest, NC

### World Burn Congress

*October 2-5, 2019*

Anaheim, CA

### Adult Burn

### Survivor Reunion

*November 9, 2019*

Friday Center  
Chapel Hill, NC

**For more information  
call (919) 962-8427**



Josiah had attended 14 different camps over the years including Camp Celebrate, Teen Camp, and Family Camp and he didn't want to miss this year's camp before shipping out to the Air Force. As a surprise, the organizers worked with his parents to have his cap and gown at camp so that he could have a special graduation ceremony, walking across "stage" in the covered gym as families watched and cheered.

To make the Camp a reality year after year, organizers rely on the support of individuals as well as businesses and civic organizations in the surrounding community. 2018 Camp Celebrate would not be possible without the amazing support of members of the Raleigh Sewing Guild, NC School of Math and Science in Durham, Lee County Firefighters Burned Children's Fund (FFBCF), Roxboro County FFBCF, Wake County FFBCF, Catawba FFBCF, Person County FFBCF, the Monroeton Fire Department, and local fire stations.



## Community Partnerships

**The North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center is fortunate to have support from many communities and businesses across the state. We are pleased to share the story of a volunteer from Camp Celebrate who orchestrated a unique auction with amazing results, for the benefit of burn survivors.**

The Southeast Regional Collector's Conference met for their first annual joint meeting in Asheville, NC on April 28th.

The Collector's Association is made up of 4 states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia. At the closing ceremony on Thursday evening, the association held a charity bottle auction, organized by Jessica Smith (NCCA) with the assistance of Kim Stone (NCCA) and Roger Medlin (GCA), for 4 summer camps dedicated to helping pediatric burn survivors. The camps were, Camp Celebrate, Central Virginia Burn Camp, Camp Oo-U-La, Georgia, Camp Can Do, South Carolina

At the start of the auction, the auctioneer, who donated his time for the cause, asked what the goal was for the night. In previous years, \$1500 was raised at industry conferences so I told him my goal was to raise \$2500. I started to describe the camps and told a personal experience of my time volunteering at Camp Celebrate and how one of my campers loved her scar because it made her unique. No one else in the world would have a mark identical to hers and that made her happy. I felt that her positive attitude was a result of her time spent at camp around other survivors.

When the first bottle was presented for auction, the auctioneer started the bidding at \$500 and someone shouted from the back that they wanted the bottle for \$1100! Roger Weiss was the first bidder and as he accepted the bottle he told a story of when he was younger he worked for a scuba camp for burn survivors. He said, "The money you spend tonight isn't purchasing this bottle of wine or liquor, it's sending a kid to camp and offering him the chance to be comfortable in his skin and learn from people who have been through the same things." Within an hour, all bottles were auctioned off and the association raised a total of \$23,195.00 to be split equally amongst the four camps.

Since the conference ended, one member of the association went back to his staff and told them of the auction and their team raised an additional \$600. Another participating member reached out to me at the end of June to donate another \$720.

**Written By, Jessica Smith**





## Teen Adventure Weekend 2018

**When we head out for a camping weekend with 24 teenagers,  
we can always be assured it will be an adventure!**

This year Teen Camp was on the move again, and landed in Sophia, NC at Camp Caraway. For the first time we had the opportunity to bring in a facilitator for the weekend – burn survivor, camp expert, and Marriage and Family Counselor James Bosch. James joined us from California, and added a new and invaluable life skills component to our weekend.

Some of the highlights from the weekend also included trying out log-rolling in the pool, kayaking and trampoline fun in the lake, and zip lining. With the support of local Guil-Rand firefighters and the generosity of Kersey Valley, teens had the opportunity to work as small teams brainstorming their way out of escape rooms.

We had the chance to challenge ourselves to try something new when burn survivor Brian Davis and his instructor colleagues led us through Acro-Yoga. Brian found Yoga to be an important part of his healing after his burn injury. His enthusiastic and effective teaching style had many of us flying through poses we may never have thought possible. Teen camp is truly an adventure each year as it unfolds, with the fun activities, unique personalities, open sharing, and supportive atmosphere that helps all of us grow.

**This year teen adventure weekend will be off to another  
new location, Camp Don Lee, August 16-18th!**

**Teen Burn Survivors who have yet to graduate High  
School are welcome to join us!**





## Family Camp

Every fall, one of our most unique events takes place: Family Camp. Over the years we have come to understand that a burn injury can truly impact a whole family. Many times a family member observed the injury happen, or maybe life events had to be altered as hospital routines and recovery took center stage. Whatever the circumstance, we know that a burn injury to one family member can really affect the whole family.

If a child has been to Camp Celebrate, often siblings are interested in a camp experience as well. For these reasons and many more, The North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center is proud to host family camp, where burn survivors and their families can join us for a weekend of fun and healing.

At family camp, parents often tell us how helpful they find it to be able to talk to other parents who have had the shared experience of navigating hospital routines, dressing changes, surgeries, pressure garments, or questions about the appearance of their child's skin.

Family Camp takes place at the YMCA's Camp Kanata, in Wake Forest. Younger campers get the opportunity to experience camp for the first time with their families to gain the confidence they may need to come to Camp Celebrate on their own. It is also a great way for siblings to join in on the fun of camp.



## Contact Us

We recruit volunteers to assist us in all our programming needs and are always happy to talk with anyone interested in volunteering. If you would like more information about any of our Aftercare programs, or if there are ways that Aftercare can assist you, please contact us!

If you are a burn survivor, adult or child, or are a Burn Center staff member, past or present, and have not received invitations to our aftercare events, please contact us at 919-962-8427. You may also email any of the aftercare staff. (See contact information below)

### YOU ARE INVITED!!!!!!

We want to make sure we have your correct information so that the invitations get to you! More importantly, if you have never even considered coming to one of the events, we encourage you to take that leap and know that we look forward to seeing you there!

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If you feel like your family would benefit from attending our Family Camp... Please Contact, Michele Barr: 919-962-8427

This camp always fills to capacity quickly.

