

Connecticut Burns Care Foundation

INSIDER NEWS

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Summer Camp Offers New Attractions & Summer Fun

It was hot and humid - perfect weather for the 72 campers who enjoyed a great camping adventure July 11-18th at the Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp, operated by the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation, based in Milford.

Located in Union, CT near the Massachusetts border, the Burn Camp is the ideal setting on 176 wooded acres to help children with burn injuries enjoy camping and heal both emotionally and physically.

This year, the Burn Camp, which is provided at no charge to the children, introduced some new activities for the campers that were overwhelming hits. The Water Park, featuring two huge inflatable water slides, delighted the children who cooled off in the heat sliding down a steep slide into a pool of water. They cooled off in the middle of the day, slurping down snow cones of skyblue raspberry, cherry, orange and grape.



The 2010 Burn Camp featured other new activities, such as a Paint Ball. Campers 12 years old and over staged mock battles with paint ball guns that were set at low, safe settings.

Campers also took part in the Wilderness Challenge, learning about the species of trees, plants and animals in and around the Burn Camp and how to navigate with a compass. The week finished with a carnival and barbecue.

In addition, each age group was equipped with its own digital camera to capture their special moments. For

the first time, the Burn Camp published the Evening Campfire, a daily newspaper that reported the highlights of each day.

Camp culminated with the naming of the Camper of the Year, Shawn McWhorter of Bridgeport, CT and

(continued on page 5)

4500 Runners Go the Distance for the Foundation

Erin Varga of New Brunswick, NJ completed her first Fairfield Half Marathon on June 27th and is already planning to return to run next year.

Running for the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation, Varga, who also organizes a benefit run for the Children's Burn Camp, ran a competitive 2:02:29 over the 13.1-mile course and recruited two additional friends to run the half marathon. Varga said not only was the race extremely well organized but more importantly she was running for a good cause.



"I loved everything about the race," she said. "It was a beautiful course and well done. My friends and I were running for a great cause. That's what's most important."

In its 30th year, the Fairfield Half Marathon, founded by retired Fairfield Firefighter Steve Lobdell, contributed \$23,532 to support the Children's Burn Camp.

"We love putting this race together," Lobdell said. "It takes an incredible amount of work and volunteers to pull it off. It keeps growing every year and we're able to donate money to charity. The Children's Burn Camp is our primary beneficiary and all the work is worth it."

Doug Wade, owner of Wade's Dairy based in Bridgeport, completed his first half marathon along with

(continued on page 2)



**For More Information or to Make a Donation,
Contact the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation
at 203-878-6744 or visit our website:
www.ctburnsfoundation.org**



The Foundation Honors Kim Phuc (“The Little Girl in the Picture”)

Kim Phuc, the “little girl in the picture” of the iconic, Pulitzer Prize winning Vietnam War photo, mesmerized the audience in a luncheon to benefit the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation March 30th with her story about her recovery from severe burn injuries, leading her to her life work working with children injured in war.

Dressed in a purple traditional Vietnamese outfit with gold embroidery, Phuc stressed that finding forgiveness for the pilots who dropped the napalm bombs on her village of Trang Bang in 1972, saved her life. “I could hate and be consumed by it,” she said. “I chose to forgive. It saved me.”

Burned over most of the left side of her upper body, Phuc revealed scars on her left arm that still cause her pain today. The Connecticut Burns Care Foundation honored Phuc for her work with severe burn injuries as its Person of the Year at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport. The law firm of Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder in Bridgeport was the title sponsor. Teamsters 1150 of Sikorsky Aircraft also sponsored the luncheon. A special thanks to Luigi’s Italian Bakery of Bridgeport for providing the dessert.

As a 9-year-old child in 1972, Kim Phuc was immortalized in an iconic photo that captured the horror of the Vietnam War. While hiding in a temple, South Vietnamese planes dropped napalm bombs that caused third-degree burns over half of her body. After 17 surgical

procedures in 14 months by American doctors, she survived her burn injuries, calling her survival a living miracle. However, she faced life under the North Vietnamese regime as a propaganda tool, depicting the cruelty of the American-backed South Vietnamese government.



CT Burns Care Foundation Board of Directors honors Kim Phuc (“the girl in the picture” from the Vietnam War) as its Person of the Year.

Through a long spiritual journey, she was able to come to terms with her injuries and later converted to Christianity. Her spiritual awareness would eventually lead her to found the Kim Foundation and undertake her important lifelong work helping children in war-torn countries – many of those who are burn survivors. As the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Goodwill Ambassador

for Peace, Phuc works to promote peace. Today, Phuc lives in Canada with her two children and her husband.

Armand Cantafio, President of the Board of the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation, applauded Phuc for her courage and added that the Foundation was proud to honor her.

“It is with great pride that the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation honors Kim Phuc as its First Person of the Year,” Cantafio said. “In line with the mission of the Foundation, Phuc represents the compassion and commitment for burns survivors and children.”

Half Marathon (cont’d from page 1)

his son Brian, both running for the Foundation Running Team. Wade, who battled a nagging hip injury during training, set the goal of finishing the half marathon because it benefited the Burn Camp.

He has also been a long-time sponsor of the event, donating yogurts and drinks for the 4,500 runners. For his support, the Fairfield Half Marathon honored Wade at its volunteer dinner after the run.

“I’m glad I did it. I’ve seen all the runners down here and decided I wanted to give it a try,” Wade explained. “It was hot, but it was a great experience for me and my son. I’m thinking of doing it again.”



Doug Wade and his son, Ryan, both completed their first half marathons.

Waterbury FD Hunks Flex for Burn Survivors



The Waterbury Fire Department hunks posed for its annual “Hunk” Calendar to raise \$18,000 for the Arthur C. Luf Children’s Burn Camp. The Hunk Calendar has become a popular collector’s item throughout the state.

In the last four years, the Waterbury FD has raised a total of \$60,000 to support the Burn Camp. Waterbury Firefighter and Hunk Scott Breive said the firefighters enjoy posing for the calendar because it supports such a worthwhile cause.

The firefighters and their families and friends work hard to sell the calendar to the public throughout the state to raise funds that allows children ages 8-18 with severe burn injuries to attend the Burn Camp at no charge.

The Waterbury FD also contributes to the Burn Camp by raising additional funds in a golf tournament and selling a holiday ornament.

John Atcherson Served the Foundation with Honor



The Connecticut Burns Care Foundation lost a loyal supporter and wonderful friend in June with the passing of John Atcherson, a retired Bridgeport Firefighter and President of the Foundation Support Group.

Atcherson, 84, organized an annual Bingo event to raise funds for the CBCF programs. The fundraiser will now be known as the

John Atcherson Memorial Bingo For Burns. Atcherson was active in several groups and organizations in his community of Stratford, CT and surrounding area. He served as president of the Bridgeport Area Retired Firefighters and a member of the Germania Schwaben Seniors, the Germania Schwaben Mother's Club, past president and member of Our Lady of Grace Seniors, and the American Legion Post #143 and Bridgeport VFW #9460.

He served his country honorably in WWII as a quartermaster signalman in the U.S. Navy on the 439 LCI Gun Boat and LST 284. He was involved in the invasion of Layte and Okinawa.

Over the years, Atcherson was known as a friendly and warm person who always helped at several CBCF events. He leaves behind his wife Lillian of 31 years and nine children, his sister Ashley Chambers-Atcherson, 21 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

President of the CBCF Board of Directors Armand Cantafio said John's passing was a sad day for everyone who knew him. "Atch was just a great guy," Cantafio said. "Everyone from the Foundation will miss him and remember him as a loyal supporter, someone you could always count on."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 21 – Fourth Annual CT Burns Care Foundation Golf Tournament at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course, Fairfield. Beat the Pros on Closest to the Pin or Long Drive, Wine Tasting, Lunch & Dinner & Prizes. \$99 before August 9, \$125 after that.

Oct. 30 – The 30th Annual Gala Dinner/Dance at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport, CT. Celebrate the Foundation and Children's Burn Camp including Counselor of the Year Terry Francis and Camper of the Year Shawn McWhorter. Special Room Rates available at the Holiday Inn. Call the Foundation Office, 203-878-6744 for reservations.

TBA – Celebrate Fall with crispy pizza made by the **Big Green Truck** from New Haven. The 1946 green International Harvester equipped with a wood burning pizza oven will serve some of the best pizza in the state. Call the Foundation for information, 203-878-6744.

Newman's Own Foundation Presents Grant to Teen Smart Choices Program

For the second consecutive year, Newman's Own Foundation awarded a grant to the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation Teen Smart Choices Program.

The \$2,500 grant is earmarked to help sponsor Teen Smart Choices, which is offered to every high school in the state at no charge. Teen Smart Choices focuses on helping high school students make smart choices while driving a vehicle.

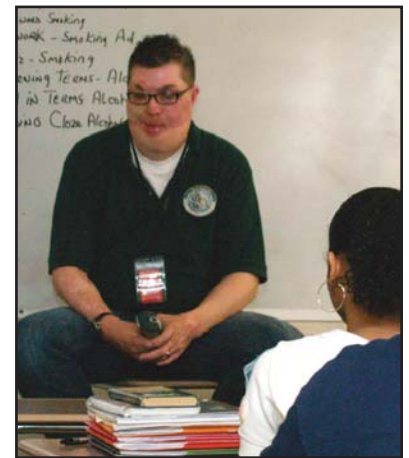
The program includes a powerful presentation by John Westhaver, the Foundation presenter, who as a teen was burned in a car accident that involved drinking alcohol and speeding. The Foundation has offered Teen Smart Choices for the last six years. In 2010, Westhaver visited 22 high schools throughout the state and spoke to more than 5,000 teens.

Westhaver delivers his dramatic recount of his car crash that he was involved in as a teen, leaving him burned over 75 percent of his body. The accident also took the lives of his three friends. After

surviving weeks in a coma, Westhaver began his amazing journey of healing and self-discovery which has inspired him to devote himself to helping others. Since his accident, he has undergone more than 20 surgeries.

His story grips student interest, best suiting juniors and seniors prior to the upcoming Prom season when too often we read in the news about the tragic accidents involving alcohol and speeding that claim lives. He dramatizes his talk with a powerful slide show accompanied by rock music that engages the students. John has spoken before an extensive list of groups, organizations and schools throughout the state as well as the U.S. and Canada.

"I enjoy bringing my message to teens for the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation," Westhaver said. "I believe I'm doing some good when I can impress on high school students that I was just a regular kid like them. I never thought anything like this could happen to me. Many of them think similarly. I hope my message can save lives."



John Westhaver speaks to more than 5,000 high school students per year through the CBCF Teen Smart Choices Program.

Burn Camp Counselor Mark Jordan Hosts Third Annual Dinner Dance

Mark Jordan, Burn Camp counselor, hosted his third dinner dance May 15th in Enfield, CT to benefit the Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp.

Once again, Jordan turned out about 200 people to raise funds for his favorite cause. A burn survivor, Jordan worked diligently to accumulate more than 50 donated raffle items. Pulling the raffle tickets is the highlight of the evening, Jordan said. Through his first two events, Jordan raised more than \$22,000.

The Connecticut Burns Care Foundation presented Jordan with a plaque, honoring his commitment and support for the Burn Camp. He also received a standing ovation from the audience attending the dinner dance.

"I'm at a loss for words, which is unusual for me," Jordan said. "This is an unexpected honor. I greatly appreciate it. But we're all here to raise money so the kids can attend Burn Camp. It's important; they get so much from it."

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY

Westport FD Tees Off For Kids

For the 12th straight year, the Westport Fire Department hosted its annual golf tournament at Longshore Country Club in Westport on May 24th, CT to benefit the Children's Burn Camp. The tournament was originally scheduled for May 2 but was postponed due to heavy rain.

Westport FD has raised approximately \$700,000 in that span to help severely burned children each summer. Bob Kepchar, Westport FD shift commander, thought all the hard work and planning that go into pulling off a tournament was all worth it.

Burger Bar & Bistro Beefs Up Support

Restaurateur / Chef Nick Bilello of the popular Burger Bar & Bistro in South Norwalk, CT and The Norwalk Fire Department teamed up to raise funds for the Children's Burn Camp.

The Fireman Burger was unveiled February 1st at Burger Bar & Bistro where samples of the tasty new burger were available. This special burger creation consists of 7 ounces of organic beef with a chipotle glaze, cherry peppers, and a creamy spiked cabbage slaw. For every Fireman Burger sold, \$1 is donated to the Children's Burn Camp.

Shelton Exchange Club Supports the Burn Camp

The Shelton Exchange Club has reached out to burn survivors by donating \$300 to the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation Children's Burn Camp at its May 19th meeting.

Tom Turner, president of the Shelton Exchange Club, said his organization was proud to help the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation and serve the community of burn survivors.

Camper Organizes Fundraising Event to Benefit Burn Camp

Bryttany Pauly of Orlando, FL, ranks the Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp as one of the most important influences in her young life.

Pauly, 17, appreciates it so much; she wanted to do something to give back. A natural crusader for causes, Pauly conceived the idea along with her friends to host a teacher Karaoke Sing Off contest at Timber Creek High School where she is a sophomore, and donate the funds to the Burn Camp.



Bryttany Pauly

She organized her school friends into the "People Who Care" Club, who created the buzz about the event throughout the school. For two weeks, the club put out jars in the school cafeteria with different teachers' faces taped to them. To show support, students were supposed to drop in leftover change from their lunch money into the teachers' jars. The teacher whose jar contained the most money was supposed to perform.

Michelle Kee, a Timber Creek High teacher, applauded Pauly and the People Who Care Club for their hard work that raised \$450 to benefit the Burn Camp.

"It was Bryttany's brainchild," Kee said. "But the entire club came together and worked hard to pull this off. It was a fun event. Bryttany deserves a lot of credit for what she's done. She's a natural leader."

Kee performed Taylor Swift's "You Belong With Me," wearing a wig and prom dress. Three other teachers Samantha Bell, Devan Hauck, and Carmen Rodriguez, sang along to the Dixie Chicks' "Ready to Run," wearing wedding gowns and tennis shoes.

The Timber Creek ROTC Program raised the most money for the event and Rudolph Lewis, an ROTC teacher, rocked out to Kool and the Gang's "Celebrate."

"It was a great time," Pauly said. "All my close friends pulled together which meant a lot to me. Camp has helped me so much. I wanted to be able to give back since it means so much to me. We want to do this again next year and raise more money."



BPT HOGS Ride for the Kids

The Bridgeport HOGs motorcycle club roared off on their bikes to raise more than \$4,600 this May to benefit the Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp.



The HOG chapters hosted their 11th annual Poker Run that drew more than 75 bikes and riders that rode for charity. Held at Bridgeport Harley-Davidson in Stratford, bikers enjoyed music and food on their return from their ride.

The HOG chapters handed out trophies for the chapter with the most participants, the rider from the farthest distance, the oldest and youngest riders, the three best poker hands and the worst poker hand. Riders stop along the route and draw cards to build their hands.

Karen Ligammari, director of the Bridgeport HOG chapter, congratulated the riders for the strong turn out and the record amount raised for the Burn Camp.

"We always look forward to supporting the Burn Camp," Lingammari said. "This year was great. We had nice weather and the riders turned out for the cause. It was a fun day."

Chili Cooks Bring the Heat for Charity

The Connecticut Burns Care Foundation partnered with Liquid Lunch Restaurant to present the 2nd annual Chili Cook Off April 24th at Liquid Lunch Restaurant, 6 Research Drive in Shelton.

If you thought chili was chili, the five teams of cooks disproved that myth, serving a variety of flavors from spicy



hot to a touch of sweetness. The public enjoyed samples of all the chili dishes and voted for the People's Choice.

First place winner was Team Mellow Yellow - Jeff McClure and Jason Mitchell. Mitchell is a volunteer firefighter from Shelton, CT. Second Place was Team McChili's - Chefs Karen Bentley and Eugene Grimes and third place was the father-and-son team Set Ya Free of Tim and Nick Cantafio, last year's winner.

Liquid Lunch Restaurant will sell Team Mellow Yellow's winning recipe for a month in 2010 and donate 50 cents per cup to the Foundation. Next year, the third annual Chili Cookoff will take place as part of Liquid Lunch's soup cooking contest, SoupStock.

Frank Gaudiano of Fairfield, CT turned in an outstanding job as chairperson of the Chili Cookoff. As people sampled chilis, T.J. Richmond, a Bridgeport firefighter, provided great music as the DJ and the acapella quartet Smooth Blend crooned old favorites.

Summer Camp (cont'd from page 1)

Counselor of the Year, Terry Francis, a Vermont Firefighter. Both will be honored at the Foundation Gala Dinner/Dance on October 30th at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport. McWhorter and Francis will have the opportunity to attend a one-week Burn Camp in Washington D.C., sponsored by the International Association of Firefighters where they will tour the White House and other D. C. area sites.

While the Burn Camp is a traditional summer camping experience, it differs from the norm because it allows children with burn injuries to build self-confidence and overcome any disabilities or injuries.

This year's Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp also had 85 counselors who volunteered their time to help mentor the children and operate the Burn Camp. The majority of counselors consist of firefighters, nurses and therapists who donate their time.



The Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp 2010 Counselor of the Year, Terry Francis (L to R); 2010 Camper of the Year, Shawn McWhorter; and Camp Director, Steve Lupinacci.

Red Knights Motorcycle Club Rides Again

This year, the Red Knights Shoreline Chapter IV motorcycle club rode a new course in its eighth annual ride to benefit the Children's Burn Camp.

For the first time, the Red Knights led more than 300 riders from East Haven and along the Connecticut Shoreline, ending at Firemen's Field in Guilford. Since



Rick Chadderton, president of the Red Knights, and his passenger Sara Welch, WTNH anchor.

2003, the Red Knights have raised more than \$65,000 for the Burn Camp.

Rich Chadderton, president of the Red Knights, was pleased with the turnout on a

warm summer Sunday on August 1st - perfect for cruising the Connecticut Shoreline area.

"We're all about the kids," Chadderton said. "This year we tried a new route, which was great; people said they enjoyed it. This ride has been growing every year. We'll be back next year as big as ever."

WTNH Anchor Sara Welch also took part in the ride and reported on the event for Channel 8 out of New Haven.

Throughout the afternoon, riders enjoyed food, beverages and music and shopped at several vendor tents for motorcycle merchandise.



Motorcycles come in all shapes and sizes.

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