



Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation



Reprinted with permission from the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation, Inc. Formed in 1982 by a group of Atlanta area firefighters, the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation now serves all of Georgia. Our mission:

1. Educate the public in burn awareness and prevention.
2. Support medical facilities in the care of burns in Georgia.
3. Assist burn survivors in their recovery.

Some of our current programs include:

- Sponsoring Camp Oo-U-La, Georgia's only camp for burn-injured children.
- Implementing the Brant Chesney Memorial Grant program for fire departments throughout the State of Georgia.
- Sponsoring a fall retreat for adult burn survivors.
- Funding equipment purchases and underwriting program services offered at Grady Memorial Hospital's Burn Center and other hospitals in the State.
- Coordinating a special course on dealing effectively with the news media that is offered to fire departments through the Georgia Fire Academy.
- Organizing holiday parties for patients in the Grady Memorial Hospital Burn Center.

Highlights of past achievements include:

- Replaced all 29 beds in Grady Memorial Hospital Burn Center with state-of-the-art units.
- Donated several key pieces of equipment used in the treatment of burn patients.
- Sponsored the Foster Grandparents Program designed to make a burned child's stay in the burn unit more comfortable and less frightening.

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- Sponsored the Burn Support Group for burn survivors and their families
- Purchased and equipped three Georgia Fire Safety Houses, the first of such units to be available throughout the State of Georgia for teaching children how to escape a burning building.
- Developed the Georgia Fire Safety Theater, a unique mobile unit designed to teach fire safety and burn prevention to children and adults.
- Sponsored the Juvenile Fire setters Prevention and Education Workshop for several professional disciplines throughout the state.
- Hosted the 1999 World Burn Congress.
- Sponsored grant program for community hospitals throughout the state.
- Introduced the high school "Challenge for Life" program.

The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation, Inc. (GFBF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our Board of Directors is made up of 9 individuals from the fire and medical services. GFBF's funding comes from various sources, including the annual "Give Burns the Boot" drive, individual and corporate donations, and a successful year-round aluminum can recycling program.

Camp Oo-U-La is the first and only camp in Georgia for burn-injured children. This year's camp (2006) marked our 12th year serving Georgia's children. Over 100 children attended camp Oo-U-La with approximately 150 camp volunteers, primarily comprised of firefighters from throughout the state, adult burn survivors, burn center staff, and Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation volunteers. This year more than 35 departments from throughout Georgia participated in the camp.

"Oo-U-La" is derived from the Cherokee words for "cool running water," and is a reminder that cool water is the best initial treatment for a burn. Campers enjoy activities such as swimming, canoeing, fishing, arts & crafts, games, scavenger hunts, and ropes challenge course. There is also a talent show, blackhawk helicopter viewing, Wild west theme night with hayride, a carnival complete with games, prizes, and stilt walkers, boardwalk, scuba activities, fireworks and a dance. Some other unusual activities include, water games, with water guns, better seen than they are described.

Our primary goal at Camp Oo-U-La is to provide burn-injured children freedom for growth and experimentation outside of a society which emphasizes conformity and physical appearance. Luckily for one week out of the year, we are able to achieve that goal.

For more information on Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and Camp Oo-U-La®, please contact us at 2575 Chantilly Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30324; phone (404)320-6223 or 1-800-273-2876; fax (404)320-6190.



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