

More for the Parents

When your child receives negative reactions from anyone in public, help them learn how to respond without anger. Learn to say only positive reactions. In the beginning the parents should respond the reaction then discuss the interaction with child. Parents, Try to let your child slowly ded themselves. This will give them the confince to take control of their own life experiences. is will build pride!

There will be many surgeries your child must endure. And with that will be their continued education. Parents! The best chance your child will have after they leave the hospital is to return them back to the same school ASAP. Continue with their education during their hospital stay. The parent must contact their child's school so you can be sure that your child will not fall behind and be set: back a grade.

Parents must introduce a more spiritual belief in the child and family. Did you ever hear that beauty is skin deep? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder? Having scars on your child's body will not be a big thing unless the family makes it a big thing. Life must continue to move forward!

Contact the Burned Children Recovery Foundation and then search for support in your community, church, burn support organizations, burned camps, other burned survivors, athletics, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, band, drawing, etc. Involve them in life! No indoor activities or they will close down and hide from the world!!



Providing Hope & New Beginnings to burned children and their families since 1989

280,000 children are burned every year in America. How many do you see? Our goal is to bring these children out from hiding, and to help them live a full and productive life. The Burned Children Recovery Foundation provides:

- Transportation, meals and lodging costs for medical appointments and surgeries
- Financial assistance for out of pocket medical costs and counseling
- Toll free burn survivors help line: 1.800.799.BURN
- Phoenix House Recovery Center for high trauma children
- The National Burned Children's Camp Phoenix
- School re-entry program that prepares the school so the child can return to a safe environment
- Funds for clothing that helps to build self-esteem in the child
- Costs for activities and hobbies outside the home that prevents reclusion



BCRF is a proud member of the Federation of Burn Foundations, the American Burn Association & the International Association of Burn Camps
www.burnedchildrenrecovery.org



For Burn Survivors and their Parents

What Everyone Should Know

The BCRF has been helping burned children and their families since 1989 and has assisted over 130,700 children from the nightmare caused from burn injuries.

We provide support for burned children living in the United States and is age 17 and under and their families through support programs, education programs, and Camp Phoenix, our annual summer camp where kids can be kids.



You do not have to walk this road alone!

800-799-BURN (2876)
BURNEDCHILDRENRECOVERY.ORG
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For Burn Survivors

The social perception of a burn survivor is that they are socially discriminated against more than any other group in America. In public they are stared at and followed around in stores by discriminating people.

As a burned survivor myself I realized when I was young that I needed to change my own perception of how people respond to my scars. When I was young and still in trauma from my recovery, I was very angry when people would stop and openly stare. I thought that they were being mean, however after 50 years behind scars I have learned that we all stare at stuff that is not the norm. When I am in public and I see something that is different (I am human also) my mind tells me to stop and LOOK! Why? Because we are curious creatures by nature.

As a burn survivor, you will need to change your perception that everyone is being mean to you! Most will look until their mind understands what their eyes are seeing. Sometimes this type of reaction makes burn survivors feel that we do not belong in society. However, never let anyone hurt your feelings by their reaction to your burn scars.

Burn survivors must separate their scars from the person and spirit inside of them. When strangers try to make you feel bad, separate yourself from your scars. Stand tall and look into their eyes and show them that there is a wonderful loving person inside. Then most people will get over it and move on.

In school burned children are called names and laughed at. It is also very difficult to find friends, because children choose friends based on their looks and financial status. However this is the time of your life that you can become a teacher of courage and hope for others that also don't fit into that beauty mold that society puts on children. When names are called, just let them go and be proud of the great spirit that you are.

There are two most common ways that burn survivors will respond with name calling. They will either fight or flight. NO! Stand tall and believe in yourself! There are many ways that society will discriminate against burn survivors and other things (gender, race, religion, weight, height, financial status, etc). We all belong here, so never let anyone make you feel different. Living with scars will become very difficult to deal with at times. However try to understand that it is not about your scars. Everybody feels bad at times during their life, whether they are too short, too fat, too tall, too skinny, their hair doesn't look right, they have an illness they are battling or many other reasons. I ask every burn survivor to step outside of your box and try to see and feel what the public is feeling when they see you. What do they see first? Your scars! This is a first impression society and you need to understand this fact and learn to deal with it. It is not about your scars. Beauty is from within, we all will someday, age and lose what we thought was so important. It is the spirit of a person that is the most important. The sooner we all learn this, the better this world will be!!!

~Michael Mathis, Founder of BCRF

For Parents of Burn Survivors

The parent has the most important role in the recovery of their child's burns through the long and scary days at the hospital to support their child. However, the rest of the family will be without one parent for many years of reconstruction surgeries.

Most families will go through bankruptcy or huge financial and emotional trauma. Everyone in the circle of the child will be changed forever, hopefully for the better. Then when the child is able to return home, it is to a different world, a stressful world of compression garments, public reaction, school, rehabilitation, surgeries, and emotional trauma.

Relationships and friendships are going to be difficult until the child can overcome the many obstacles of recovery. You must become the teacher, parents! You need to learn to completely control your emotions about the way that the public will react to your child's burns.

***Remember Parents
YOU are their teachers!!***

