Giving New Hope Reaches New Heights
Raising Over $1.8 Million!

Close to 500 Children’s Burn Foundation trustees, Council members, friends and family joyously gathered in person at the Beverly Hilton Hotel to celebrate 27 years of “Giving New Hope” at our annual Benefit on March 8, 2022. The evening, which is planned and presented each year by The Council, was a spectacular success and grossed over $1.8 million to support the Foundation’s all-inclusive approach to healing child burn survivors, from life-transforming surgeries to psychological support, as well as prevention and education programs to educate communities on how to treat and prevent burns. CBF honored Board Chair Kathy Toppino and her husband, Charlie, with the Giving New Hope Award for their ongoing generosity and vigorous support of the Foundation and our mission.

Council Benefit Leadership Committee members Pamela Fluor, Lynda Fadel, Dana Kitaj, Carol Mancino, Barbara Pratt, Kandus Simpson and Kathy Toppino began planning for the potential of a live and/or virtual event in early June 2021. The Committee and CBF Staff team members decided to go live but to offer a virtual presentation as well, providing gift baskets to non-attending table purchasers. The enthusiasm began to build.

Personal messages from presenting sponsors Adriana & Jay Balaban, Patty & John Nickoll, the Madeline and Marvin Gussman Family Foundation and Kathy & Charlie Toppino greeted guests upon arrival and in-depth informational material covered the Foundation’s many accomplishments and substantial program expansions. Guests could also bid on Silent Auction items and buy Mystery Boxes and chances for the $10,000 Wheel of Opportunity.

Mystery Box chairs Dana Kitaj, Minoo Simantob and Kandus Simpson spent months recruiting box donations not only from all Council members but also from Foundation friends and family, and then bought, organized and arranged the magnificent wrapping of the 200-plus boxes for a successful and final sale at the event.
Wheel of Opportunity chance purchasers received a delicious bottle of wine generously donated by Styler Wines, friends of Board and Council member Adriana Balaban, for each purchased “chance.” Congratulations to Lester Bass, whose wife Fay has been an active member of The Council since 2008.

The Beverly Hills Ballroom buzzed with the excitement of a once-again in-person event and glittered with twinkling lights and stunning coral and peach flower arrangements. The formal program began with a video highlighting CBF’s partnership with The California Science Center and the establishment and opening of the collaborative Fire! Science & Safety permanent exhibit. Retired NBC4 weathercaster and Board member Fritz Coleman served as master of ceremonies and guided attending supporters through the emotionally charged night, which included inspirational stories and heartwarming thank you remarks from burn survivors Yara Heredia, Alexi Pyles, and Manal Hindawi. Kathy Toppino and Dana Kitaj presented Foundation and Council highlights and achievements in a short video. Fritz directed the tremendously fruitful appeal and auctioneer Chuck Dukas conducted bidders through four outstanding Live Auction items. Jeremy Stanford Productions produced the live event as well as video content and other material for a simultaneous virtual presentation.

In a surprise announcement at the event, Friars Charitable Foundation presented CBF with a $25,000 matching gift to help burn-surviving Ukrainian children with acute care, medical transfer and accommodations. The Caruso Family Foundation instantly matched that gift, awarding Children’s Burn Foundation the opportunity to raise $100,000.

What a tremendous evening! The Council thanks CBF staff team members collectively and individually -- Sharon Townsend, Kirstin Clink, Tanya Sorkin, Yekaterina Vaganyan, Kami Collins, Lainie L’Orange, Debbie Karaman, Mara Palmer Madsen, Linda Garcia and Marc Osadchey-- for your efforts, talents, time and conviction in making this extraordinary event so successful. Thank you to honorees Kathy & Charlie Toppino, to the Council members serving on the Benefit Committee and to all of our loyal, ongoing CBF family and supporters for making the 2022 Giving New Hope Benefit our most successful event and for allowing us to continue giving new hope to our child burn survivors and to educate communities throughout the world.

Thank you to contributing writer Lynda Fadel.
2022 Giving New Hope Benefit

Elinor & Rubin Turner

Kathy & Charlie Toppino

Lexi Fadel and Lynda Fadel

Ruth & Howard Gilliam

Frank Bass and Sandi Kramer and Fay & Lester Bass

Alexandra & Michael Brand

Fritz Coleman in action

The Beverly Hills Fire Department

Dana Kraft Kitaj spinning the wheel of opportunity

Ellen Danna, Paul Douglas, Lauren Katz, Lessley Deshotel and Shawna Clark

Patricia Musitano, Yvonne Skillings, Tiffany Jamison, and Ester Demorest
New members, led by Co-Chairs Lily Crummy and Kandus Simpson, jumped right in and rallied together to raise funds for vital Children’s Burn Foundation programs and worked to maximize efforts to prevent burns and heal children. From active participation at meetings and special events to incredible volunteer turnout at Children’s Holiday Party gift wrapping and Giving New Hope mystery box wrapping, the newest women of the Council showed an unwavering dedication to supporting the work of CBF.

"Being a part of the Council has been a meaningful and rewarding experience. I enjoyed making new friendships and learning about burn prevention. I was thrilled with the success of the opening of the Fire! Science & Safety exhibit. When I toured the exhibit, I was surprised to have a young girl explain how to make and extinguish a fire in great depth. She had already learned so much in one morning!" - Sherri Sylvester

"Working along some of the most compassionate, intelligent, dedicated Council women has been the greatest joy and honor. I'm inspired by the success of the California Science Center exhibit opening, furthering the education of the community and working towards burn prevention. As well as the success of the Giving New Hope Benefit, furthering the mission to provide important comprehensive care to child burn survivors." - Shana Veiseh
Garden Luncheon and Calligraphy at Legendary Home

In May, Ron Kline, Sherri Sylvester and renowned interior designer Ron Collier hosted a garden luncheon and lesson on the art of calligraphy. Participants enjoyed a delicious spread of salads, specialty egg dishes, baked breads and refreshments while learning about modern calligraphy with talented Claire Braby. Guests also had the opportunity to tour the former love-nest of Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy in the hills above Sunset Boulevard. Today, this gorgeous estate is a treasure-trove of unique and fascinating collections and is owned by Ron Collier.

Violet Luncheon

In April, Ruth Gilliam generously hosted a lovely luncheon at Violet, a charming Cali-French bistro, full bar, cooking school and shop in the center of Westwood Village. The day included an educational and enriching cooking demonstration made complete with Children’s Burn Foundation signature aprons! The event was perfect for the many Council food enthusiasts excited to advance their skills.

Texas Hold ‘em Poker Tournament

The annual Texas Hold ‘em Poker Tournament hosted by Kathy and Charlie Toppino on May 12th raised over $70,000 for the kids and families served by CBF. It was a beautiful night under the stars with cards dealt by the Dealer Dolls and dinner served by Jon & Vinny’s. Over 50 guests attended and 34 players fought it down to four winners.
The October General Meeting, co-chaired by Adriana Balaban and Lynda Fadel, was held on October 21, 2021, at Nerano restaurant in Beverly Hills. The group was updated on important Foundation business, Giving New Hope plans, programs and marketing efforts. Two Council elves even dropped by to build momentum for the year’s Elf-themed Children's Holiday Party in December. Lindsey Gordon was also inducted into the Loyalty Circle and honored for her commitment and loyalty to the Council for the past 10 years. During lunch, stand-up comedian, speaker and published author Wendy Hammers gave a special presentation that had the women laughing and bonding with one another. The event closed with words of wisdom from Carol Mancino that left everyone feeling inspired and glad to be a part of such a strong, caring Council of women.

The January General Meeting was held virtually and hosted by Mary Hambrick, Carol Mancino and Sandi Rosenbaum on January 27, 2022. Everyone received a delicious Chinese New Year-inspired lunch and fun facts on the upcoming Year of the Tiger, which Mary and Sandi explained in more detail. Council President Dana Kraft Kitaj warmly welcomed everyone and reminded them of the purpose of the general meeting. Members listened to reports on the Foundation, Council activities and events, including plans for the highly anticipated return to an in-person Giving New Hope Benefit. Following tradition, Carol Mancino donned her infamous boa to raise funds for the Council wishlist and generous Council members jumped in to complete auction items and packages.
Our Annual Golf Tournament honoring first responders was held at the beautiful Pelican Hill Golf Club on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2021. The memorable day had lively competition with supporters playing alongside first responders, including Chiefs and firefighters from LA City, Beverly Hills, Pacific Palisades, Glendale and South Pasadena. The players, donors and sponsors brought their positive spirits and competitive camaraderie to the tournament. It truly is a special day for us at CBF as we recognize the dedication of our first responders and the loyalty of our supporters who make our mission possible.

CBF Board member and Co-Chair of the Prevention and Education Committee Chief Greg Barton spoke eloquently about education’s impact on preventing burn injuries. The day’s highlight was recent Children’s Burn Foundation graduate Yara Heredia’s brave and honest story of turning survival into triumph.

The event was chaired by Suzanne Bonafede from the Council and Kate Freeman from the CBF Board. Their expertise has guided the tournament since its inaugural year in 2018. We salute our Top Flight Sponsors: Oak Pass Capital Management/Kathy & Charlie Toppino, Pacific Western Bank/Tom Whitesell and Smith & Berg Partners/F. Ron Smith & David Berg. Our Eagle Sponsors bought competitive foursomes to play: Acore Capital/Kyle Jeffers, Cushman and Wakefield/Rob Rubano, Eastdil Secured/Patrick Deming, Jonathan and Samantha Firestone, PAG/The Keese Family, Rockefeller Capital Management/Pedro Marti, and Steve and Sue Silk. Our generous Birdie Sponsors included Lily & Kevin Crummy, Lynda & Al Fadel, Christine & Jordan Kaplan and Wells Fargo Private Bank/Matthew MacDonald. Many of our CBF family of donors supported First Responders: Adriana & Jay Balaban, Deb & Alan Barbanel, JLL/Paul Brindley, Kearny Real Estate Company/Jeff Dritley, Barbara & Chuck Pratt, Christine Ofiesh, Wells Fargo Advisors/Susan Inwood and Fritz Coleman.

The winning foursome who received Garmin Rangefinder watches, Apple Air Pods, crystal trophies, and bragging rights for the year included Joel Moody, Chief Greg Barton, Joel Blumberg and Matthew Ellis. Other winners were: Closest to the Pin winner, Pacific Palisades Station 69’s Todd Tsujimura, Longest Drive Women, Kate Freeman, and Longest Drive Men, Bobby Neely. Our raffle and silent auction generated lively bidding, especially for golf at Bel-Air Country Club and fire station tours at Glendale and Beverly Hills. We truly appreciate our donors who contributed to making the day special for our first responders and keeping our children’s spirit at heart.
"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear," said Buddy the Elf. This year, Buddy joined the Children’s Burn Foundation Council at Pasarroyo Business Center to sing loud and spread holiday cheer to hundreds of kids and their family members. We were able to host a walk-through event so that the kids and their families could stay a little longer and interact a little more. We ate spaghetti and syrup, took photos with Santa, played carnival-style games, ate lots of cookies and hot dogs, and danced or hula hooped to our awesome DJ. Before they left, EVERY child walked away with a present...and a big smile.

While it wasn’t our biggest guest turnout, the rooftop was overflowing with joy. Over 64 volunteers showed up to host 89 families (233 kids and 150 adults). Thank you to Laurie and John Sischo for allowing us to use Pasarroyo Business Center and the Pasarroyo Business Center staff for their support in planning and executing the holiday party. Thank you as well to the CBF office staff; we couldn’t do this without them! As Buddy says, “There is room for everyone on the Nice List.”

Thank you to contributing writer Yvonne Skillings.
2022 Children's Holiday Party

Yvonne Skillings and daughter

Kathy Toppino and team GUESS Cares

Lindsey Gordon reenacting a scene from Elf

Lexi Fadel helping with games

Barbara Pratt and Maro Palmer Madsen

Katya Vaganyan and Kirstin Clink

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THE CODE OF ELVES

1. Treat every day like Christmas.
2. There’s room for everyone on the nice list.
3. The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.
It’s almost summertime meaning Camp Gung Ho is around the corner! Camp serves as a wonderful opportunity for children to forget the stresses of medical treatments and just be kids. Children are able to make new friends, reconnect with friends from years prior and discover their passions in a safe place. Through various activities and fun-filled games, children discover courage, confidence and the strength to follow their dreams.

Susan Lynch, Annette Rasmussen, Laurie Sischo and Jill Stein will be generously donating their time and returning as Camp Co-Chairs. Once again, this dynamic group of women will be using their imagination and enthusiasm to make this year’s camp the best yet. And there is still time for you to get involved as Council volunteers to help bring joy to child burn survivors and their siblings!

Council member Mara Palmer Madsen detailed her first experience at camp last summer. "Camp was truly one of the best experiences of my life. Each day, I would come home teary-eyed with a new story about how one of the children moved me with their compassion or positive spirit. I remember one little girl telling me how her burn injuries do not define her. She described how she used to feel great shame and embarrassment about her scars, but Children’s Burn Foundation helped her get past those feelings. She even shared that camp is her favorite time of summer and expressed how grateful she is for CBF."

Renew your Council Membership today!
And don’t forget to sign up for the committees you want to work on:

- Giving New Hope Benefit
- Children’s Holiday Party
- Camp Gung Ho
Children's Burn Foundation honored its "Heroes for Hope" donors at a momentous recognition dinner on Thursday, November 4th, 2021, at the California Science Center. The evening was an exciting opportunity for donors to tour the newly opened Fire! Science & Safety exhibit. During dinner, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Kathy Toppino, shared how the "exhibit will bring the message of burn safety to more than 350,000 children each year, which quadruples our reach. It also raises the profile of CBF as one of the premier leaders of burn prevention, education and treatment for children in the world." Executive Director Sharon Townsend also detailed the long history of how the exhibit came to be and evolved from just a trailer to a seven-room interactive and innovative permanent exhibit. The evening closed with a moving speech from young burn survivor Yara Heredia, bravely sharing her story and explaining CBF's positive impact on her life.

The evening could not have happened without the expert guidance, skill and creativity of Heroes for Hope Chair Carol Mancino. A heartfelt thank you to her and all of the Heroes for Hope patrons, who have donated a minimum of $10,000 in annual funding for Children's Burn Foundation. These much-needed funds support vital programs such as Full Recovery Medical and Family Emergency Assistance, Family Camps, Camp Gung-Ho, Child and Family Support Groups, Teen Support Group, Children's Holiday Party, Safety Smart Babies, L.A. Troupe Safety Smart Presentations, Careful, That's Hot!, and International Medical Training & Burn Prevention Education.
"We've been waiting for you for over two years!" exclaimed our enthusiastic Co-Chairs, Adria Martí, Christine Ofiesh and Tracy Smith, at this year's Council's Spring Luncheon & Shopping Boutique. Held for the first time at the gorgeous Bel-Air Bay Club, the Council members and their lovely guests were greeted in the morning with tray-passed mimosas, coffee, breakfast treats, and stunning panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean. A well-curated selection of terrific vendors, stocked with various items to please everyone, was displayed as small shopping boutiques around the main room, making shopping and socializing a breeze for all. Guests delighted in a delicious afternoon luncheon elegantly served in another spectacular ocean-view room. A highlight was author/guest speaker Kim Adams, who energized the attendees with her inspiring remarks, moderated by TV and social media host Julie Chan.

Although not technically a fundraiser, Children's Burn Foundation received 20% of all vendor sales throughout the day. Some vendors even extended the 20% back to CBF to attendees interested in visiting their stores at another time during the week. Many attendees remarked how "relaxing," "classy" and "joyous" the event was, especially after two years of being unable to gather. A terrific time was had by all!

Thank you to contributing writer Tracy Berliner Smith.
Meet Ivana

The day after Christmas, four-year-old Ivana’s life was forever changed when a bucket of boiling water burned over 80% of her little body. Ivana was initially treated in her home country of Lebanon. After multiple skin grafts, she was left with scarring and limited mobility. Ivana’s mom brought her to the United States in search of the best possible care.

Through the help of a plastic surgeon, Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston and Children's Burn Foundation's Full Recovery Program, Ivana has undergone aggressive treatments, including skin grafting, lasers, and pressure garments. Treatment was provided at no cost to Ivana’s family. For the past six years, Children's Burn Foundation has helped not only pay for Ivana’s treatments but also for necessary air travel from Lebanon and within the United States so that she can receive needed procedures. Today, Ivana is a spirited, active girl who loves to play outside with friends.

Meet Jackson

It only takes one second for an accident to happen. Jackson was only two when he accidentally knocked a pot of boiling water onto himself. Although his mother was well-educated on the importance of treating a burn with cool water and immediately placed him in the shower while waiting for help, Jackson’s scald burns were severe.

After undergoing multiple life-saving surgeries, he still had residual scarring all over his body that affected his mobility. Children's Burn Foundation's Full Recovery Program helped pay for reconstructive surgeries and lasers to treat his scars and provide much-needed emotional and psychological support. Thanks to comprehensive care, Jackson is making strides in his recovery and loves attending the annual holiday party and other fun CBF-sponsored events such as Disney On Ice.

The 2022 Valentine's Day Teddy Bear Appeal put smiles on over 100 children's faces!

This Valentine’s Day, Children’s Burn Foundation asked donors to contribute a $50 donation so that a V-Day care package could be delivered to a young burn survivor undergoing treatment. Thanks to the support and generosity of our CBF Community, over 100 care packages were delivered. These gifts helped young burn survivors and their families cope with their medical challenges and helped ensure no child is ever turned away from life-saving burn care.

Special thank you to Vermont Teddy Bear for the snuggly bears and the Council members who added a personalized touch with their handmade cards!
In October, Children’s Burn Foundation announced the opening of the Fire! Science & Safety exhibit created in partnership with the California Science Center. On opening day, reporters from ABC, NBC, CBS and Spectrum News, amongst others, got a firsthand opportunity to play fire danger detectives and explore Casa Del Fuego, Apartment 911’s immersive environment. They learned about the science of fire, discovered fire hazards and practiced fire-safe behaviors, including fire-fighting skills with a fire extinguisher.

Days before the exhibit’s opening, Council members participated in a special Friends & Family Day. Members brought their loved ones to learn about fire and burn hazards and ways to make families, pets and homes safer. Children took part in live demonstrations and guided exhibit explorations, gaining essential knowledge on how to create a fire escape plan with their siblings and parents.

If you have not been yet, you must make a trip to this life-saving permanent exhibit!
Message from the President

Dear Council of Children’s Burn Foundation:

What an exciting and productive year it has been for the Council! We welcomed 11 new members, celebrated the opening of the Fire! Science & Safety exhibit at the California Science Center, had a hugely successful Giving New Hope Benefit, and once again got to gather in person at our Spring Luncheon.

We have served a record number of families and truly turned survivors into thrivers. Additionally, in response to the global crisis, our international program has been able to offer help and hope to young burn survivors in Ukraine.

Looking forward, please get involved in Camp Gung Ho. I am excited to see everyone at one of the Buy-a-Spot parties and at our General Meeting next fall. Thank you all for your hard work, dedication and commitment to the Foundation and its mission to heal and educate. Without you, the important job of offering services and hope to many would not be possible.

All my Best,

Dana Kitaj
President

Upcoming Buy-A-Spots
Consider joining these summer and fall events. Call the office to purchase.

- 6/24 Karaoke Dinner hosted by Lynda & Al Fadel, Dana & Lem Kitaj
- 8/10 Hibachi Outdoor Dinner hosted by Elinor & Rubin Turner
- 9/TBD Tapas History Hosted by Dana & Lem Kitaj, Kathy & Charlie Toppino
- 10/1 Fall Pizza Party hosted by Heidi & Alan Jackson, Angela & Roger Mabon, Rosetta & Gary Purcell

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Inspiring Ladies of the Council,

I continue to be inspired by your passion and the intense enthusiasm you share for our child burn survivors and their families. As we gathered in person at the Giving New Hope Benefit this March and the Spring Luncheon this April, I was again reminded how much you care and are dedicated to our future success so that we can prevent burns and heal children.

The CBF staff is blessed to work daily to support our mission and is grateful for your incredible diligence and fundraising skills. We are fully aware that many nonprofits had to pause their programs during Covid, and some did not survive. CBF, on the other hand, has been able to expand programs through the generosity of an anonymous donor in addition to your support.

Thank you for ensuring that our children and teens thrive and for stepping up to support burn survivors in Ukraine as we find ways to navigate this horrific war in support of children who need our help. On behalf of the staff at CBF, we salute you for your eagerness to make a difference in the lives of our children and their families.

With Warm Regards,

Sharon Townsend
Executive Director
The Council of Children’s Burn Foundation
Board of Directors 2021-2022

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Dana Kitaj

Founding President
Carol Mancino

Secretary
Tamara Lowensohn

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Benefit Leadership Committee
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Kandus Simpson
Kathy Toppino

Membership
Lily Fukuda Crummy
Kandus Simpson

October General Meeting
Lynda Fadel
Adriana Balaban

January General Meeting
Mary Hambric
Carol Mancino
Sandra Rosenbaum

Children’s Holiday Party
Lindsey Gordon
Mary Nguyen Kayne
Yvonne Skillings

Photographer
Jill Stein
Robin Swartz

Spring Luncheon
Adria Martí
Christine Ofiesh
Tracy Berliner Smith

Newsletter
Mara Palmer Madsen

Golf Tournament
Suzanne Bonafede

Members At Large
Fay Bass
Ellen Danna
Barbara Deming
Ruth Gilliam
Betty R. Hollingsworth
Sally Kanin
Kate Kennedy
Beth Lane
Minoo Simantob
Elinor Turner

Spring 2022 Council Newsletter

Grab your cape and soar at Camp Gung Ho 2022!

Camp Gung-Ho
Susan Lynch
Annette Rasmussen
Laurie Sischo
Jill Stein

Make a child’s summer super!
Help kids find their superpower at Camp Gung Ho!

Children’s Burn Foundation's 28th Annual
Giving New Hope Benefit March 2023

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