

CHILDREN'S BURN FOUNDATION

Summer 2025 Council Newsletter



Children's Burn Foundation
Prevent Heal Empower

Children's Burn Foundation provides child burn survivors and their families with comprehensive healing, from life-transforming surgeries to psychological support until the child is 18 years old, while educating communities on how to **prevent and treat burns. Child burn survivors don't just survive. They thrive!**

30th Anniversary Giving New Hope Benefit raises \$2 million!



Honorees Charles & Barbara Pratt

Children's Burn Foundation hosted its 30th Annual Giving New Hope Benefit on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at the Beverly Hilton. Presented by the Foundation's Council and chaired by Heidi Jackson, the evening was made possible with the generous support of Dinner Chairs Carol & Doug Mancino and Debbie Klein Schwartz & Robert Schwartz. Thanks to their leadership and the extraordinary generosity of attendees, the event raised an incredible \$2 million to support CBF's mission of preventing burns, healing children, and empowering families.

The evening honored the remarkable generosity and service of Barbara and Charles Pratt, Jr., recipients of the Giving New Hope Award, and Wallis Annenberg, President of the Annenberg Foundation, who received the Spirit of Humanity Award. The moment was especially meaningful, as Wallis was the very first honoree 30 years ago, bringing the evening full circle.

One of the most touching highlights came when 30 years of past honorees were recognized on stage in a powerful celebration of legacy and impact. The presence of so many longstanding supporters served as a moving tribute to CBF's history and the community that continues to propel its mission forward.

Almost 500 guests gathered for the celebration, including members of the Beverly Hills Fire Department, all united in support of CBF's life-changing work. The evening served as a powerful reminder of what's possible when a community comes together to uplift children and families in crisis.

Beloved retired NBC4 weathercaster and Foundation Board Member Fritz Coleman served as emcee, bringing warmth and heart to the program. Young burn survivor Wendy shared her story onstage, leaving a lasting impression and reminding everyone of the difference their support makes.

The evening also featured a special auction of a collaborative artwork created by renowned muralist Man One and teens from CBF's Support Group. The live auction, led by Anna Couvrette, included remarks from Chief Gregory Barton of the Beverly Hills Fire Department, honoring the everyday heroism of first responders.

The Foundation also unveiled its new logo and tagline: Prevent. Heal. Empower. Each word reflects a core element of CBF's mission—preventing burns through education, providing comprehensive care for survivors, and empowering families to thrive. The updated branding also introduces bright, child-friendly colors designed to resonate with the young people we serve.

The Council extends its heartfelt thanks to Dinner Chairs Carol & Doug Mancino and Debbie Klein Schwartz & Robert Schwartz, Benefit Chair Heidi Jackson, and the entire CBF team for making the evening such a success. It was a celebration of how far we've come and a powerful reminder of the hope we can continue to give together.



Kathy Toppino, Heidi Jackson and Barbara Pratt



Carol Mancino and Lily Annenberg

2025 Giving New Hope Benefit

“Receiving the Giving New Hope Award is incredibly meaningful to me. I’m honored to support Children’s Burn Foundation in its mission to help children and families—not just in moments of crisis, but throughout their entire healing journey. The strength and resilience of these children inspire me every day. I’m proud to stand alongside so many dedicated individuals working to prevent burns and ensure every child survivor receives the care, compassion, and hope they deserve.”

— Barbara Pratt



CBF leadership and past honorees take the stage to celebrate 30 years of empowering burn survivors and transforming lives



Shannon Minor and Lily Crummy



Elinor & Rubin Turner



Ted & Kandus Simpson



Ruth Gilliam and Larry & Sandy Post



Dorrie Markovits, Dana Reston, Linda Altus, Rosetta Purcell and Marie Krueger

2025 Giving New Hope Benefit



Patty Nickoll



Doug & Carol Mancino and Barbara & Chuck Pratt



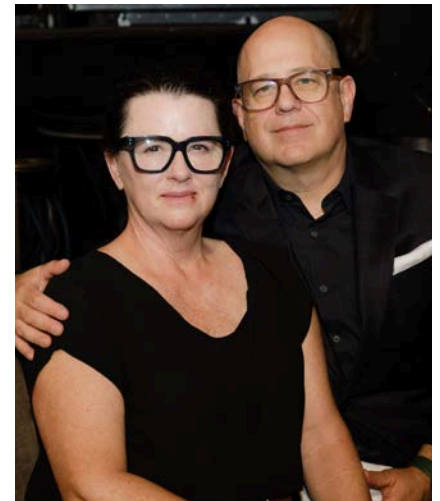
Lynda Fadel



Sandra Rosenbaum & Howard Banchik



Matt & Jessica Pashkow



Kathleen & Robert Dohrmann



*Beth Lane, Adriana Balaban, Anne De Salvo
and Tami Lowensohn*



*Laurie Sischo, David & Robin Swartz, Pamela Hausman,
Mitch Port and Jill Stein*

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members

In May, Membership Chairs Lily Crummy, Andrea Jordan Walker, and Rosetta Purcell, along with Kandus Simpson, hosted a lovely luncheon at LACC to welcome new and prospective members. The event included meaningful conversation, an overview of the Foundation's mission, and opportunities to learn about involvement in upcoming programs and initiatives.

This year, the Council introduced a new "Member Mentors" role, with Nina Ohern and Andrea Jordan Walker supporting new members by keeping them informed about events and volunteer opportunities.

Twelve applicants expressed interest in joining. For those unable to attend the luncheon, a follow-up gathering is being planned. Many others have already jumped in to support upcoming events and are eager to build connections with fellow Council members.

Confirmed new members include Rachel Edwards (sponsored by Cindy Gaytan and Kathleen Dohrmann), Gretchen Theodore (Tricia Converse, Julie Barker, Cindy Gaytan), Linda Altus and Yvette Argueta (both Rosetta Purcell and Elaine Hawkes), and Karen Levine (Heidi Jackson and Angela Mabon). Interests range across committees, with several excited to help with Camp Gung Ho, the Annual Children's Holiday Celebration, and Giving New Hope.

All these inspiring women bring fresh perspectives, generosity of spirit, and a deep passion for making a difference. Council members are encouraged to reach out to the Membership Committee with names of potential new members who may be a great fit for the Council and its mission.

Thank you to contributing writer, Andrea Jordan Walker.



Membership Chairs Andrea Jordan Walker, Lily Crummy and Rosetta Purcell

"I joined the Council this year knowing I was becoming part of a life-changing cause - what I didn't realize was how deeply it would impact me, too. I've met inspiring people, witnessed the impact of our work, and felt truly connected to a mission that changes lives."

— Linda Levie



A wonderful afternoon learning about the inspiring work of the Council at the New Member Luncheon



Kathleen Dohrmann, Rachel Edwards and Cindy Gaytan



Linda Altus and Elaine Hawkes



Yvonne Skillings, Carol Mancino and Heidi Jackson

Wildfire Relief and Teen Mural Project: A Canvas of Hope

CBF Donates \$300,000 to Support Wildfire Relief

This spring, Children's Burn Foundation proudly presented a \$300,000 donation to the California Community Foundation's Wildfire Relief Fund, supporting families and communities impacted by the growing threat of wildfires across California.

The funds were raised during our 30th anniversary Giving New Hope Benefit, a meaningful celebration of healing, prevention, and hope. The donation represents a continued commitment by CBF to respond not only to individual burn injuries but also to broader fire-related crises that affect vulnerable communities.

This contribution also aligns with CBF's prevention efforts, including the *Fire! Science & Safety* exhibit at the California Science Center, which offers wildfire education to the public at no cost. Together, we are helping survivors heal—and communities rebuild.

"This gift reflects the heart of our mission—not just to help children heal, but to respond with compassion and purpose to the challenges facing our greater community," — Carol Mancino



Teen burn survivors pose in front of their canvas of hope



Matt Pashkow, Man One, Jessica Pashkow and Scott Sourdough Power

Celebrating Creativity and Connection

CBF's Teen Support Group collaborated with renowned muralist Man One to create a powerful mixed-media artwork—handpainted by teen survivors as a reflection of their journey, identity, and resilience. What began as an art activity blossomed into a vibrant, large-scale mural that was later auctioned at the Giving New Hope Benefit. In a touching gesture, the winning bidder gifted the piece back to the Foundation so the teens' creativity could be permanently honored and shared. The project offered a rare opportunity for the teens to connect with one another, build confidence, and express their stories in a bold and visual way.

"Art gave our teens a way to express their strength and individuality in a way that words sometimes can't," said Council member Jessica Pashkow, who coordinated the project. "This mural became more than a piece of art—it became a symbol of healing, identity, and community."

October and January General Meetings

On Thursday, October 10, 2024, the Council of Children's Burn Foundation gathered for the October General Meeting at Bloomingdale's Century City, hosted by Kate Kennedy and Sherri Sylvester. Attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast and an exclusive preview of fall fashion trends by Gucci, presented by Bloomingdale's stylist Nima. As a special treat, everyone received goodie bags filled with Bloomingdale's gift cards and Gucci products. But the day's focus remained on discussing critical fundraising efforts to support young burn survivors.



Ladies of the Council showcasing their Bloomingdales favors



Minoo Simantob, Sherri Sylvester and Kate Kennedy



Patty Nickoll and Nina O'Hern

The January General Meeting, hosted by Kathleen Dohrmann, Mary Kayne, and Angela Mabon on January 23 at Hillcrest Country Club, kicked off the year with inspiring updates. Kirstin Clink shared exciting Foundation milestones, Heidi Jackson previewed plans for the upcoming Giving New Hope Benefit, and Carol Mancino outlined this year's Wish List goals. The meeting also honored Sherry Tunnell, Sally Kanin, and Tracy Berliner Smith with induction into the Loyalty Circle for 10 years of dedicated service.



Fay Bass and Lauren Katz



Heather Shuemaker and Heidi Jackson



Andrea Jordan Walker, Lily Crummy, Angela Mabon and Mary Kayne

Golf Tournament Salutes First Responders



Charlie & Kathy Toppino

On a beautiful fall day at El Caballero Country Club, Children's Burn Foundation hosted its Annual Golf Tournament on October 21, 2024. Co-chaired by Council Board members Tracy Berliner Smith and Kathy Toppino, this year's event honored first responders and the incredible Charlie Toppino for his unwavering dedication to our mission.

Participants enjoyed a day filled with spirited competition, delicious breakfast, and lively libations. A highlight was the moving speech by burn survivor Wendy, whose powerful story of resilience resonated deeply with attendees.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our financial and in-kind sponsors, dedicated players, and Council volunteers. Your support makes a lasting impact on the lives of burn survivors and their families. We can't wait to see you on the green next year!



Rod Gordy and F. Ron Smith



Barbara Pratt and Christine Ofiesh helping greet the golfers for a day of fun



Wendy and Doug Mancino



Christine Ofiesh, Barbara Pratt, Tracy Berliner Smith, Kathy Toppino, Heidi Jackson and Kirstin Clink



Winners Charlie Hazlehurst, Charles Pratt, Jr., Michael Bacon and Mike Riordan

Save the date for



Children's Burn Foundation
Prevent Heal Empower

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025

El Caballero Country Club
HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS

Children's Holiday Party



On December 7, 2024, the Children's Burn Foundation hosted its Beary Merry Holiday Party at the Burbank Fire Training Center, transforming the venue into a festive wonderland themed around holiday bears. The event was chaired by Ester Demorest and Yvonne Skillings, who worked tirelessly with Council volunteers to create a memorable celebration for young burn survivors and their families.

"The Beary Merry Holiday Party was truly the best holiday party yet! It was heartwarming to see the children's faces light up with pure joy. Witnessing them experience the magic of the day reminded us all of the profound impact this season of giving can have. The happiness and laughter shared among the kids, their families, and our volunteers truly encapsulated the spirit of the holidays, reinforcing the importance of community and connection." -Yvonne Skillings



Lindsey Gordon, Ester Demorest, and Yvonne Skillings with young guests and Burbank Fire Department members

The party featured a variety of activities, including crafts, games, and delicious food, ensuring a joyful experience for all attendees. Families enjoyed special moments, such as photos with Santa and festive music, fostering a sense of community and holiday spirit.

The venue was beautifully decorated, creating an inviting atmosphere for over 400 attendees. The smiles and laughter of the children filled the air, reminding everyone of the importance of togetherness during the holiday season.

As families departed, they left with arms full of presents and hearts filled with joy, making this year's Beary Merry Holiday Party a truly unforgettable experience.

CBF Holiday Party is Saturday, December 6, 2025

Children's Holiday Party



Yvonne Skillings and Lainie L'Orange



All smiles, snacks in hand, and ready for fun



Tanya Sorkin and Jackie Park Kim



One of the celebration's youngest guests



Lindsey Gordon bringing beary big joy to our holiday party!



Burbank Fire Department members bringing cheer to the festivities



Theodora Dolotta, Heidi Jackson, Andrea Jordan Walker, Lily Crummy, Cindy Gaytan and Jessica Pashkow



Kirstin Clink, Joan Mangum and Ruth Gilliam

Camp Gung Ho: A Summer of Joy and Healing

Last summer, Camp Gung Ho kicked off with a vibrant pool party at the home of Adriana and Jay Balaban in Calabasas, followed by a trip to Dave & Busters, a private movie screening, and the annual family beach and surf day. These camps provided safe spaces for children with burn injuries to connect, learn swim and surf skills from lifeguards, build friendships, and simply be kids.



Camper JD with loved ones at family beach and surf day

Interviews with campers revealed that Camp Gung Ho was the highlight of their summer, with many describing CBF as a second family that brings safety and hope. Council members and volunteers also participated in the CBF interviews for social media, sharing their joy in getting to know these heroic children and watching them thrive.

The camp's success is due to the dedication of the Council of Children's Burn Foundation, generous board members, and committed volunteers, including State Farm staff. Special thanks to the CBF office team and Camp Co-Chairs Susan Lynch, Laurie Sischo, and Jill Stein for creating these memorable moments. Together, we are paving new paths for these young survivors.



Jill Stein shares a joyful moment with a young camper

"Camp is truly magical—seeing these kids find joy, confidence, and friendships with others who understand their journey is beyond rewarding." - Adriana Balaban



Adriana Balaban shares a splash of fun with a camper at the inflatable water dragon



Minoo Simantob and Janna Lowensohn



Tami Lowensohn all smiles as she helps a camper gear up for pool time



Susan Lynch and Dorrie Markovits

Heroes for Hope

"Sometimes real superheroes live in the hearts of small children fighting big battles."

Last [INSERT MONTH], the Magic Castle in Hollywood once again set the stage for the Children's Burn Foundation's Heroes for Hope Annual Donor Recognition Dinner—a night filled with heartfelt stories, gratitude, and a touch of magic. The event honors donors who contribute \$10,000 or more annually to support CBF's life-changing programs. Event Chair Carol Mancino curated a meaningful evening celebrating the heroes behind the Foundation's mission—our donors, partners, and the brave children they help empower.

One of the most moving moments came from Grace, a CBF mom and support group participant. Once afraid to share her story, Grace spoke with strength and pride about her family's journey and the confidence she's gained through CBF. Now, she uses her voice to spread burn prevention messages and help save lives.

The evening concluded with a private magic show and the chance to explore the legendary rooms of the Magic Castle—a perfect ending to a night that reminded us all of the resilience of children and the transformative power of hope.



Doug and Carol Mancino



Joan Mangum and Fritz Coleman



*Errol Stambler, Margaret G. Graff and
Marilyn Stambler and Virginia Stevenson*



*Kandus Simpson and
Dr. Vimal Murthy*

What kind of *hero* do you want to be?

Eternal Hero • Epic Hero • Dynamic Hero • Noble Hero • Super Hero
Heroes for Hope membership is reserved for donors who provide a minimum of \$10,000 in annual funding for Children's Burn Foundation.

Funding supports 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 Programs and International Medical Training & Burn Prevention Education.

Spring Luncheon and Shopping Boutique

On Tuesday, May 27, 2025, Council members and friends gathered once again at the Skirball Cultural Center for a vibrant day of community, creativity, and giving back—all in support of Children's Burn Foundation. Hosted by Jessica Pashkow, Carol Mancino, Barbara Pratt, and Sandra Rosenbaum, the annual Spring Luncheon featured a delightful mix of boutique shopping, elegant dining, and heartfelt connection.

As always, 20 percent of all vendor sales were generously donated back to support CBF's mission of prevention, healing, and empowerment for child burn survivors. The event continued its dual purpose as both a friend-raising and fundraising celebration—one that beautifully showcases the warmth and dedication of the Council community.

This year's luncheon featured guest speaker Cate Thurston, Curator of Diane von Furstenberg: Woman Before Fashion, Skirball Cultural Center's exhibition celebrating the iconic designer's life and work. Her inspiring presentation brought a fresh and meaningful touch to the day's festivities. The luncheon was such a special event; a lovely way to reconnect with Council friends and the perfect way to introduce new friends to our wonderful organization.

Thank you to contributing writers, Barbara Pratt and Jessica Pashkow



Chairs Barbara Pratt, Jessica Pashkow, Carol Mancino and Sandra Rosenbaum



Barbara Pratt, Yvonne Skillings and Ester Demorest



Heidi Jackson and Sherri Sylvestrer



Lauren Katz



Sandra Walder, Kathy Toppino, Dana Kitaj and Adriana Balaban



Kathleen Dohrmann and Rosetta Purcell

History of the Mystery and A Gift for Healing

The History of the Mystery: Unwrapping the Tradition of Mystery Boxes

It's finally time to shed some light on a mystery that has puzzled guests for more than 20 years—the story behind the mystery box!

A signature element of the Giving New Hope Benefit, mystery boxes are a beloved and whimsical way to support Children's Burn Foundation. Each box is guaranteed to contain items worth double its purchase price, and they often sell out before most guests have arrived.

When the tradition began, all boxes were wrapped uniformly in white paper with red ribbon. That changed when Council Member Mildred Lacovetti brought her creativity and flair to the table. Today's boxes feature everything from ornate papers and ribbons to playful themes like tea parties and wildlife scenes.

Throughout the year, Council members collect unique toppers, ribbons, and decorations. Then, in the weeks leading up to the event, members gather for a festive wrapping session—chatting, bonding, and preparing more than 200 boxes. The mystery may be solved, but the joy and impact of this tradition remain as strong as ever.

Thank you to contributing writer, Dana Kitaj



Barbara Deming and Dana Kitaj



Council members like Shawna Clark have helped make mystery boxes a beloved (and beautifully wrapped) tradition

Fueling Healing and Hope: The Colleagues Support CBF Survivors



Smiles, laughter, and strength—our Support Group meetings help young survivors find joy on the journey to healing.

Children's Burn Foundation is honored to be the recipient of a generous \$100,000 grant from The Colleagues, an organization dedicated to "philanthropy through fashion."

The Colleagues' mission supports underserved women, children, and families across Los Angeles, and their gift will directly fund CBF's Psychosocial Support Groups—an essential part of the healing journey for young burn survivors.

These support groups provide a safe, nurturing environment where survivors can build resilience, confidence, and lasting peer connections. We are deeply grateful to The Colleagues for their partnership and their commitment to empowering children and families on the path to recovery.



Message from the President

Reflecting on this past year at Children's Burn Foundation, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and pride. It has been a year of incredible growth, renewed hope, and life-changing impact, and none of it would have been possible without you. We began this year facing many challenges. Our community was reeling with uncertainty and loss. But in true CBF spirit, we came together, united by compassion, and turned tragedy into triumph.

Our dedicated Council members gave generously of their time, energy, and talents. Whether you were wrapping holiday gifts for our children, lending a hand at Camp Gung Ho, or supporting behind the scenes, you made a difference. Every smile you brought and every

moment you shared helped our young burn survivors and their families feel seen, supported, and strong. Because of your efforts, we were able to serve more children and families than ever before, extending our reach both locally and globally. And perhaps most importantly, we reminded each other that even in the face of adversity, hope prevails and healing is always possible.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey.

Kandus Simpson



Message from the Executive Director

The Council's 'Giving New Hope' benefit event was a remarkable success this year. In response to the devastating Los Angeles Wildfires, the Council demonstrated its commitment to the community by incorporating the urgent needs of Los Angeles into the event. The benefit raised \$2 million in proceeds, a testament to the Council's dedication. We also took the opportunity to honor our longtime supporters, Barbara and Chuck Pratt, and philanthropist Wallis Annenberg.

The Council's thoughtfully curated auctions and popular mystery boxes were crucial to the event's success. The funds raised from these activities significantly impact the families of burn survivors, providing access to essential treatments. This support is vital for helping survivors focus on the strengths they have gained from their experiences, such as resilience, bravery, and perseverance, thereby developing the confidence needed to navigate a positive path forward.

The dedicated and hardworking members of the Council place the mission of the Children's Burn Foundation at the heart of all their efforts. We are immensely grateful for their unwavering commitment, not only in fundraising but also in organizing Camp Gung-Ho and holiday celebrations that support the recovery of our young burn survivors. At events, they embrace our burn survivor families with kindness and compassion, demonstrating their dedication to providing opportunities for healing.

This year alone, the foundation's services have positively impacted 164,212 individuals. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Council for their steadfast partnership in our mission to heal and protect, and we look forward to continuing this vital work together.

With Appreciation,

Kirstin Clink
Executive Director

The Council of Children's Burn Foundation Board of Directors 2025-2026

Founding President Carol Mancino	President Kandus Simpson	Vice President Heidi Jackson
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Children's Burn Foundation's
Giving New Hope Benefit March 3, 2026

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