



**BURNS  
RECOVERED  
SUPPORT GROUP  
AND ITS MANY  
MEMBERS WISH  
TO EXTEND OUR  
ASSISTANCE TO  
YOU, THE BURN  
SURVIVOR AND  
TO YOUR FAMILY.  
YOUR COURAGE  
AND SURVIVAL  
SKILLS INSPIRE  
AND  
ENCOURAGE US  
TO CONTINUE TO  
EXPLORE NEW  
WAYS OF  
SUPPORT.**

## FOND FAREWELL

After sharing the leadership of Burns Recovered Support Group for 21 years, Gary and I are retiring. Many of you may already know our story, but we feel we need to start at the beginning as we come to the end.

Our lives changed forever on May 9, 1991 when Gary sustained a life-threatening burn injury in a car fire. We both say it was the worst day in our lives, but... it was the best day in our lives. This is not a story of 'my burn was worse than yours'. As I have said many times, "when you stub your toe, your toe hurts." Our lives became about the opportunity to 'pay it forward'.

We don't have the need to go on and on about all that we have accomplished during these years. It is simpler to say that we

both became members of the Burns Recovered Support Group Board of Directors in 1994. Gary has served as President since 1995. I was Secretary/Treasurer until 2002 when I became the Executive Director. During these years, Gary and I have worked countless hours as volunteers and, in my case, as paid staff. We ran BRSBG from our home the first seven years we were involved with Burns Recovered Support Group and then we opened the office where BRSBG is today.

We have been honored and blessed to have had the opportunity to meet,

become friends, work, counsel, and mentor many wonderful people. There are so many stories that fill our memory banks and fill our hearts. Some of the stories are heart-breakingly sad (and, still make me cry, but no one has ever seen me cry), while other stories are moving, touching, and funny.

We have traveled a road we never dreamed we would take those many years ago. We have learned more about burns and burn prevention than we ever imagined. Every day, every minute has been a gift. Perhaps you have heard us say that we have received much more than we have given.



All things must come to an end and we believe this is the right time for us to say 'thank you' to each of you for allowing us into your lives. We thank you for allowing us to provide counseling to you in

your time of need. We thank you for making us part of your family. We thank you for financially supporting BRSBG and thereby providing the funds which have allowed us to provide so much to so many. We don't want to try and name the names of the many people who have given us special help over the years as we would surely leave someone out, so we simply wish to say THANK YOU.

We know you will welcome the new Executive Director and that you will continue your financial support. Gary and I are not Burns Recovered Support Group. Every one of you are. We were just fortunate to have been the face of BRSBG for these many years.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015

Can you believe that it is 2015? Where has the time gone. It seems like we were just getting ready for our annual bowling party and then it was time for our Spring Family Picnic, then it was time for Missouri Children's Burn Camp. After camp was our annual Trivia Night which was a huge success, and our 2014 Fall Fashion Presentation. From there, we tried to catch our breath and got ready for our Holiday Party.



Our annual Holiday Parties were fun for all! We had over 80 people grace us with their presence at our St. Louis party. In attendance were adult burn survivors & their family's, MCBC campers & their family's, MCBC counselors, & we were glad to have many new friends that attended for the 1st time.

A special thank you to Tina Sullenger for all the hard work in the kitchen and for the delicious salad & mostaccioli. We had a ton of fun with our annual bingo game, and some very happy winners from our TV & Tablet raffles.

The Kansas City Holiday Party had more than 25 attendees, with plenty of food to go around. Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make this party possible.

Some families say that coming to the BRSO Holiday Party has become a regular part of their holiday season. The warmth & good cheer is felt by all.

If you have not attended the Holiday Party before, put it on your calendar now - Saturday, Dec. 5.

## HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Burns Recovered Support Group has been making holidays better for burn survivors for 16 years. We do this by adopting families of burn survivors, who are in financial need from the hundred neediest cases.

This year, BRSO adopted 14 families, with a total of 38 people in an effort to help make their holidays brighter. Each family has a burn survivor and is part of one of the many agencies working within the welfare/needs system. BRSO provides each family with gifts of clothing, shoes, some personal items and, of course, toys for the children. Food and other necessary pantry items such as cleaning supplies, paper products and personal care items are supplied to each family.

Fortunately, many of us take for granted having gifts to open on Christmas morning or having enough food to feed the family.

As with all the efforts done by BRSO, it takes many volunteers to support this special program. These

wonderful people give their time to help wrap and deliver the 100's of gifts that are given away.

There is no doubt in your mind what it means when you read these words from Ruth. "I thought this Christmas would be sad just like the last few years. But, you all showed me love and kindness and truly made this year special. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you."



BRSO helped one family who needed assistance with their Laclede Gas and Ameren Electric bills. Thanks to our BRSO family, we were able to donate two twin beds and dressers to a family who were

sleeping on the floor, and a queen bed to another family in need.

It can be easy to take for granted all that some of us have. The holidays seem not to be very joyful when you are so much in need.

BRSO is fortunate to make the holidays better for others and to have this opportunity that reminds us of what the true meaning of giving is all about.

# THANK YOU

The generous gifts of individuals, corporate sponsors, civic organizations and many others give Burns Recovered Support Group the ability to provide our diverse programs. We would like to take this time to acknowledge those who have given to us and help us to continue our diverse programs.

## \$50,000-\$99,999

Sarli Family Foundation

## \$25,000-\$49,999

Fill the Helmet

Edward G. & Kathryn E. Mader Foundation

## \$10,000-\$24,999

Camps for Kids

Children's Mercy Hospital

IR Tua Victor E Speas Foundation

## \$2,500-\$9,999

Ameren Union Electric

Dana Brown Charitable Trust

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David B. Lichtenstein Foundation

Sharon Freeman

George Von Hoffmann Foundation

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Lion's Club Southside

Polisky Family Charitable Foundation

Pott Foundation

Simmons Employee Foundation

Siteman Family Foundation

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Sprinkler Fitters Local #483

Volunteer Service Council

## \$1,000-\$2,499

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Staenberg Family Foundation

Truman's Bar & Grill

Wind & Fire Kansas City MC #9

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Joey Ford

Bill Fox

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Kiwanis Club of Hampton Midtown

Kenneth & Nancy Kranzberg

John & Cheryl Mudd

Osage Community Elks #2705

Craig & Nancy Schnuck

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #313

Two Nice Guys Pest Control services

Our thanks to the many donors of less than \$500, whose gifts are equally important to the continued success of Burns Recovered Support Group. We regret that these contributors can not all be listed. Every effort is made to list donors accurately. This donor list represents donations made during 2014.

## BRSRG ANGEL



BRSRG is proud to honor Kevin Groh as the BRSRG Angel for the 1st quarter of 2015. Kevin is a good friend to BRSRG and has a heart of gold. In case you have not

had the pleasure of meeting Kevin, now is the time to hear about this special guy.

Kevin has been through a lot. He took a hit of 7,200 volts of electricity and fell three floors from a roof in a work-related accident over 10 years ago. He was then put in a drug induced coma for two months and eight days. He built his strength back up with physical therapy and within three weeks, Kevin was walking.

Kevin was featured in BRSRG's Book, "Beauty Is..." He is quoted in the book as saying, "For the most part I feel pretty good. I feel lucky to be alive. I take everything as it comes up every day. There's a great saying: Yesterday is

history, tomorrow's a mystery, today is the present—it's a gift so enjoy it!"

Kevin is a semi-retired carpenter and an avid sports enthusiast. Since he is no longer able to play softball or hockey, he coaches his slow pitch softball team, and has for over 10 years.

Kevin has truly put his heart and soul into helping fundraise for BRSRG. It all started in 2012 when Kevin wanted to create a fundraiser to help support Missouri Children's Burn Camp. He partnered with Kendrick's Meat & Catering and started a meat raffle, which has been a successful fundraiser for the past 3 years. But, for Kevin, that wasn't enough. In 2014, he thought of something all new.... A washer tournament held at Jefferson Barracks State Park. With the success of both events, Kevin has helped raise over \$12,000!!!

Join us as we recognize and Thank Kevin Groh for all that he does and continues to do for BRSRG.



## A STAR STUDDED WEEK...

Time passes by so quickly and before you know it, it will be time for Missouri Children's Burn Camp. The date for camp this year is **Monday, June 1 - Sunday, June 7.**

Last summer there were 73 campers who enjoyed all the fun, joy, and friendship that comes with attending this incredible week. Of course, we anticipate MCBC to be filled with the same amount of fun and exciting adventures. We anticipate 75-80 campers this summer who will enjoy every special minute too.

Camp could not exist without campers, but besides having campers, there must be counselors too. Many counselors keep returning to MCBC to share in this special experience. It is hard to know who has a better time — the campers or the counselors!

Camp is for burn-injured children, age 6-17, who were hospitalized a minimum of 4 days because of their burns. Camp is a place where the opportunity to build self-esteem, make new friends and have fun is what it's all about.

There are many activities—swimming, fishing, sailing, archery, arts & crafts, water-skiing and other

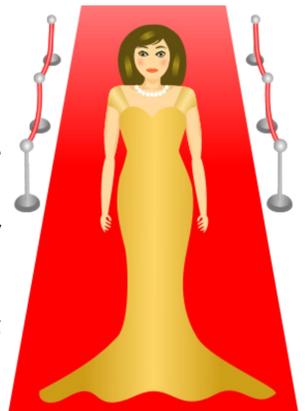


activities that fill the days and nights. There is never a dull moment. The nights are full with campfires, pool parties and everyone's favorite — The Saturday night dance.

Everyone has a special story about what camp means to them—campers, counselors and parents. You don't want to be left out. If you have never come, then make this your first year. We have campers, too old to come as campers, who are now CIT's (Counselor in Training). We even have counselors who used to be campers! It is hard to believe that this is the 19th year of camp.

Application packets for camp will be mailed March 1st. If you plan on coming to camp, please return your application as soon as possible. If you want to come and volunteer, it is not too late to apply to be a counselor. Return your application or call 314-997-2757 for more information.

**Get ready to "Walk the Red Carpet" at MCBC 2015!**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are the dates for BRS&G events in 2015. Put these dates on your calendar now so that we can see you there! Many of these events get larger every year. We love it and love to have you with us. Friendship & laughter is what BRS&G is about.

Attend a support group meeting if you have never been or haven't been in a while. Remember, there are meetings in St. Louis and Columbia.

The BRS&G family events such as the Bowling Party, the Back to School Family Picnic or the Holiday Party are great events to bring your family. **Notice:** Some these events are in the Kansas City area, too. We want the BRS&G/MC&BC family on the west side of our state to be a part of these events.

Show your support and attend a fundraising event. BRS&G is able to provide help to burn survivors and teach burn/fire prevention education because of the donations we receive. Not all fundraising events are expensive. Bring your family and friends and show your support.

We look forward to seeing you in 2015!



**\* Please Note:** The Spring Family Picnic that is normally in May has been changed to the Back to School Picnic that will be held in August.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### February

February 5 Support Group meeting  
February 10 Columbia Support Group

### March

March 5 Support Group meeting  
March 7 Bowling Party - St. Louis & Kansas City  
March 10 Columbia Support Group

### April

April 2 Support Group meeting  
April 14 Columbia Support Group  
April 25 & 26 Counselor Orientation/Training

### May

May 2 & 3 Fill the Helmet - fundraiser  
May 7 Support Group meeting  
May 12 Columbia Support Group  
May 31 Counselors leave for camp

### June

June 1 Missouri Children's Burn Camp  
June 4 Support Group meeting  
June 7 Missouri Children's Burn Camp  
-Everyone comes home.....  
June 9 Columbia Support Group

### July

July 2 Support Group meeting  
July 14 Columbia Support Group

### August

August 6 Support Group meeting  
August 8 Back to School Family Picnic - St. Louis & Kansas City  
August 11 Columbia Support Group

### September

September 3 Support Group meeting  
September 8 Columbia Support Group  
September 11 Trivia Night - fundraiser

### October

October 1 Support Group meeting  
October 13 Columbia Support Group

### November

November 5 Support Group meeting  
November 10 Columbia Support Group

### December

December 3 Support Group meeting  
December 5 Holiday Party - St. Louis & Kansas City  
December 8 Columbia Support Group



**BURNS RECOVERED  
SUPPORT GROUP, INC.**

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*A Problem Shared  
Is Only Half A Problem*

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## GARY'S GOINGS ON

The lyrics of one of Linda's favorite songs is:

Everything must change  
Nothing stays the same  
Everyone will change  
No one stays the same

The young become the old  
And mysteries do unfold  
'Cause that's the way of time  
Nothing and no one goes unchanged

There are not many things in life  
You can be sure of

Except rain comes from the clouds  
Sun lights up the sky  
And, humming birds do fly

Well, this is a time of change. For 21 years I  
have helped with Back-to-School



presentations, taught burn safety at corporations, worked with the Youth Fire Prevention Team (the BRSBG juvenile fire-setter program), and met with thousands of burn patients and their loved ones. In addition I have been the 'Mr. Fix It' for the BRSBG office, the computers, washed the van, delivered gifts for the Holiday Giving program, and the 'camp dad' at Missouri Children's Burn Camp.

As I step down from my roll, I ask that you continue to volunteer for BRSBG. I ask that you continue to come to the monthly support group meetings. And, I ask that you continue to be burn/fire safe.

Gary's goings... gone.