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2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Trauma and Burn Centers

At Children's Hospital Colorado



Children's Hospital
Colorado

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Welcome

Children's Hospital Colorado has two trauma centers. The first, an American College of Surgeons-verified Level 1 pediatric trauma center, is located at Children's Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora. The second, at Children's Colorado, Colorado Springs is a state of Colorado Level 2 trauma center. These trauma centers have an expansive reach that extends across our entire seven-state region.

In February 2022, we embarked on the journey of trauma center integration. As part of this, the institution established a system director of trauma programs with the goal of aligning trauma program functions between both the established trauma centers and the non-designated state facilities. This integrated program approach allows for trauma registry standardization, accuracy and efficiency. Additionally, it allows us the ability to analyze systemwide data, which is useful in identifying trends and enhancing operational decision-making.

Through these efforts, Children's Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus completed a successful trauma site survey in April 2022 while the Colorado Springs Hospital was reverified in 2024.

Children's Colorado is committed to supporting its trauma programs and is dedicated to the optimization of pediatric trauma care across the care continuum.



Regional Pediatric Burn Center

Our Burn Center was established in 1974. We deliver the highest standard of treatment for burn-injured children of all ages. Our transfer center arranges transportation as necessary to ensure every child receives optimal treatment for their burn injuries.

Our team cares for patients throughout their entire recovery journey, from acute inpatient care to outpatient and rehabilitative settings. We also offer consultations for other skin injuries including exfoliative dermatoses (such as Stevens Johnson Syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis), IV infiltrates and traumatic abrasions.

We offer education and family-centered care through aftercare programs, peer support groups, community gatherings, a school re-entry program and our Burn Camps Program. For questions or patient transfers, call OneCall at 720-777-3999 or our burn nurse cell phone at 303-549-4636.

In 2023, we had about 100 burn admissions and provided pediatric burn center support across our seven-state region. Some of the mechanisms of skin injury we saw in 2023 include: scald, contact, fire/flame, friction, electrical, inhalation burn, fireworks, road rash, chemical and grease.

Outpatient burn volumes

- In 2023, our outpatient clinic volume increased by approximately 11 percent (on average we saw 21 more clinic visits each month compared to 2022).
- We saw approximately 187 clinic visits each month in 2023, with a peak of 246 in August (June, July and August were our busiest months).

What our families say

Based on the Children's Hospital Colorado patient and family experience survey responses, our burn clinic continues to be rated five stars. The burn team consistently scores highest in the following statements:

- Nurses listened carefully to me
- I trusted providers with the care of my child
- I was comfortable talking to the nurse

Comments from families in 2023

"The nurses/doctor we worked with were wonderful. Perfect careers for them."

"The nurses and physicians there are very helpful and I trusted them with my son."

"Our care team throughout the process was great in the burn clinic. They showed tons of care and affection towards my son. Our child life specialist was our favorite she worked so hard to make sure my son was distracted when needed to be and was so gentle, caring and very thoughtful, she is a gem!"

"We were blown away by the quality and efficiency of care. Thank you so much."

"I'm very thankful for our burn nurse and the whole team overall! You guys are amazing and do a fantastic job with our kiddos!"

"Thank you for the importance timely manner you treated my son for his burns on his hands. Love this team at the burn center! Thank you."

"I hope you guys get your laser programing up and going! Thank you for all of your help with our daughter as she goes through this."

"Everybody at the clinic was awesome and super helpful with my son and my family and any questions that we had. And the treatments have been going phenomenally. And yeah, we're very happy that we brought him there. We're very happy with the care that we've received."

"My daughter burned her leg with hot ramen and was in some pretty bad pain with a large burn. The nurses and nurse practitioner were all amazing and gave my daughter the best care I could have ever asked for! They made all of us feel comfortable and answered any questions we had. I wish this never happened, but if it were to ever happen again, I would drive hours to be seen by this team time and time again!"



Burn Camps Program

The Children's Hospital Colorado Burn Camps Program is a suite of American Camp Association-accredited programs structured to meet the rehabilitative and psychosocial needs of children who have sustained a burn injury. Since its inception in 1983, the program has been designed to meet the specific needs of children who have sustained a burn injury by providing a residential camp program with world-class medical care, professional camp staff, dedicated staff from referring burn units and community service partners.

Our mission is to provide children who have sustained a burn injury, and their families, the opportunity to build courage and thrive throughout their recoveries and beyond. This is achieved through inspiration, rehabilitation and shared experiences in a safe, nurturing and supportive community. It is our vision to be a leader in quality outcomes and camper safety through innovative programming that delivers the burn camp experience to all children who sustain a burn injury.

We empower our campers and families to thrive through challenges in a safe and nurturing environment. Campers engage in intentional activities, including horseback riding, arts and crafts, rock climbing, games and swimming. These curated activities encourage boundless creativity, self-expression, newfound courage and adventure and create a positive self-image, all while allowing kids to make lifelong friendships. Our campers play with purpose and start to discover who they are as people. They learn that their scars are part of them, not defining who they are, and they begin to heal from the inside out.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Burn Ambassadors Program

Every two years, the community nominates a group of patients to represent Children's Hospital Colorado as patient ambassadors. Throughout their two-year commitment, ambassadors and their families will share their stories, help to raise money and represent Children's Colorado at community fundraising events. We are incredibly grateful to Ella and Will for representing the Burn Center and Burn Camps Program as Burn Ambassadors in 2022 and 2023. We would like to extend a huge thank you to them and their families for appearing at events, sharing their stories and raising much-needed funds for the Burn Camps Program.



2023 Program summaries

Winter Camp | February 6-10, 2023 | Steamboat Springs, CO

Winter camp 2023 was a huge success. We welcomed 23 campers and 11 staff and spent a fantastic week together in Steamboat. The campers were able to enjoy wonderful fresh snow, receive incredible instruction from the Steamboat Ski and Snowboard School, share plenty of laughs with friends and create priceless memories.

At Winter Camp, campers are challenged to translate their experiences on the slopes into real-life lessons to take back with them after the skis and boards have been returned. Our evenings were spent working on an introspective program which offered both campers and counselors the opportunity to learn more about themselves. Our theme was entitled, “Grounded for Greatness.” We used the visual metaphor of an oak tree to help us recognize our unique qualities and traits that give us strength and provide opportunities for growth. Recognizing each person’s unique traits and qualities can help us navigate challenging obstacles and reflect on the gifts you have to share with others.

Family Camp | June 10-14, 2023 | YMCA of the Rockies | Estes Park

When a person experiences a burn injury, the whole family is affected. It is for this reason that the Family Burn Camp has been part of the Burn Camps Program for over 30 years. Six families from Ohio, Colorado and New Mexico met up at the Estes Park YMCA in early June for a four-night camp.

Participants ages 1 through 60 created a camp community focused on connecting and continued healing. A staff of eight professionals crafted a program that included daily age-based breakout groups that focus on psychosocial support. A trip to the low-ropes course at Cheley Colorado Camps gave campers and families a taste of summer camp while also promoting communication, team building, problem-solving and fun. Everyone enjoyed a visit from Estes Valley Fire Protection District firefighters with two fire engines to explore, including spraying a real fire hose. Visiting historic MacGregor Ranch and enjoying free-time activities at the YMCA gave families a chance to play and heal as a family.

Reflecting on the Family Camp experience, one family wrote, “Getting to connect with other kids has improved his self-image a lot! He knows he’s not the only kid that got burned anymore. And other people have siblings like him too. The whole experience was very much needed and more so than I realized myself. Thank you for everything!”

Courage Classic | July 15-16, 2023 | Copper Mountain

Our Courage Classic fundraising team is excited to support the Burn Camps Program. S’more Courage is a group of dedicated volunteers raising money by hitting the road for two days of cycling over picturesque Rocky Mountain passes. This year’s tour had something for everyone with six route options from 12 to 79 miles through the beautiful Rocky Mountains, starting and ending in Copper Mountain. Whether you ride, fundraise, donate, volunteer or sponsor the Courage Classic, your support helps provide lifesaving care for children at the region’s only nonprofit pediatric hospital.

Summer Camp | August 14-20, 2023 | Cheley Colorado Camps | Estes Park

In 2023, Summer Camp celebrated its 40th year. We were happy to host 70 campers and 50 staff for this fast-paced, joy filled week. We were able to challenge ourselves physically and emotionally, reconnect with our camp community, make lifelong friends and enjoy an amazing week in the mountains. Campers were challenged to find their own strengths and skills to empower them on their journey to become their best selves. We are so proud of each camper as they all found a way to celebrate their uniqueness while making friends, learning new skills and challenging themselves.



40th Celebration | November 4, 2023 | Seawell Ballroom, Denver Center For The Performing Arts

The Burn Camps Program turned 40 years old in 2023 and our 40th Celebration was a truly special night. It was an incredible evening celebrating the last 40 years of Burn Camp. We are very thankful to those who joined us, made a donation, donated or purchased a live or silent auction item, and/or sponsored the event. We honored the past, created an event for campers and staff to reunite and ensured the future of Burn Camp by raising much-needed funds. We are incredibly excited to announce we more than doubled last year’s total by raising over \$315,000!

Thank you to everyone who joined to celebrate 40 years of burn camp. It was an incredible evening filled with friends, food, libations, auction and power of camp.

Thank you to our incredible 40th anniversary celebration sponsors:

Anniversary sponsor

Denver Fire Fighters Charitable Foundation

Platinum sponsors

Mark Martinez Family

Anne and Tom McGonagle

Gold sponsors

Cheley Colorado Camps

Keating Wagner Polidori Free

Crothall Healthcare

Trentel Family

D. C. Firefighters Burn Foundation

UC Health Burn Center

Children’s Hospital Colorado Department of Pediatric Surgery

Silver sponsors

Colorado Firefighter Calendar

Joey Irwin Family

Dennis Family

KM Sales

Integral Recoveries, Inc.

MTech Mechanical

Event Sponsors

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Occasions Catering

Community and awareness events

We provide and participate in a wide range of events, including community fundraising, prevention, awareness, conferences and continuing education for medical professionals. Annually, we host community support activities for families healing from a burn injury. In 2023, we were incredibly excited to be able to hold our annual ice skating community event at WinterSkate in Louisville, CO on February 18th. Our community events provide opportunities to connect families to other families, the fire service and community partners.

Burn Awareness Week, organized by the American Burn Association, is observed the first full week in February and is a window of opportunity for organizations to mobilize burn, fire and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our community. We set up a booth at the Children’s Museum of Denver on Thursday, February 9th as part of Burn Awareness Week. When it comes to burn first aid, there are a lot of myths and home remedies. It’s a great way for us to have conversations with caregivers of small children and start to dispel some of those myths. While at the same time, we can speak to burn hazards in the home while giving real world prevention techniques to caregivers.

We are members of the Colorado Risk Reduction Network focused on injury prevention and safety initiatives throughout the year.

We are members of the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors peer support program. Our volunteers, who have themselves navigated a burn injury and recovery, provided peer support to children, teens, siblings and caregivers across the acute and rehabilitative phases of care through the Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery (SOAR) peer support program.

Youth Firesetting Evaluation and Treatment Program

The Youth Firesetting Evaluation and Treatment Program was designed in response to the need for specialized community services addressing youth misusing fire. The program focuses on helping youth and families make safer decisions. We evaluate and treat patients with injuries from the misuse of fire, candles, electricity, lightbulbs, chemicals and fireworks, and help families develop safety plans. As part of our burn prevention efforts, we also work with children, youth and families who have not sustained burns with the hopes of intervening before injury, property damage or loss of life. We receive community referrals from fire departments, schools, mental health services, juvenile justice and parents of children exhibiting high-risk firesetting behavior. Families receive mental health interventions for these high-risk behaviors to help prevent burn injuries and enhance community safety.

Philanthropic support

Our work would not be possible without the philanthropic support of multiple partner organizations and individuals. Thank you to our corporate partners who contributed \$10,000 or more in 2023. We appreciate their volunteer efforts and financial contributions, which contribute to the growth and development of our Trauma and Burn Center and Burn Camps Program.



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EVENTS

BCER A-Basin Fire Hose Race

The 16th annual fire hose race was held on Friday, February 24, 2023, at Arapahoe Basin. Organized by BCER, a Denver-based engineering firm, this successful event brings together corporations and fire departments from across Colorado to compete in a unique slalom-style event. Teams of five race down a 15-gate slalom course while holding on to 50 feet of fire hose. And you can’t miss them — all participants must dress in bunker gear including a firefighter jacket and helmet. This year’s event raised \$25,000. With this donation, BCER and this event have raised over \$200,000 for the Burn Camps Program. We are incredibly thankful to BCER for once again hosting the event and to all the event sponsors and participants.

Colorado Fire Protection Association

The Colorado Fire Protection Association (CFPA) is one of our longest-running donors. Their annual golf tournament in support of the Burn Camps Program was held on Friday, September 8, 2023, at Arrowhead Golf Club and raised \$10,000. Please join us in thank the CFPA for their generous and continued support.

Contact us

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Burn Camps

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Youth Firesetters

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Children's Hospital Colorado

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