CITY OF CHULA VISTA

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Keeping the community connected to information, programs, and services.

Spotlighting Community Partners: Burn Institute

Since 1972, the Burn Institute has been dedicated to reducing the number of burn injuries and deaths through proactive fire safety education and prevention programs in San Diego and Imperial counties.

The nonprofit's mission includes teaching children about fire safety through the Fire Safe Kids Program, promoting fire safety in workplaces, and engaging college students through the Fire Safe Greeks initiative. The Burn Institute also provides and installs free smoke detectors for vulnerable populations, such as senior citizens.

The Burn Institute is also strongly committed to empowering burn survivors. This is achieved by providing financial assistance, mental health treatment, and access to support groups. Burn Institute-organized community events, such as Camp Beyond the Scars and holiday parties, provide a supportive environment where survivors can connect, heal, and support one another. The Burn Institute believes in the power of communal healing and ensuring that no survivor is ever alone in their journey.

The Burn Institute is proud of its strong connection with the City of Chula Vista. This helps foster a close partnership that significantly benefits the Burn Institute's mission and community outreach efforts. The Chula Vista Fire Department plays a crucial role in the Burn Institute's annual boot drive, helping raise essential funds for annual programs.

Additionally, the Chula Vista Fire Department is expected to participate in the Burn Institute's 32nd Annual Fire & Safety Expo and Firefighter Demolition Derby at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on July 7, 2024, showcasing their dedication and fostering additional support.

This year, members of the Chula Vista Police Department were also recognized at the Burn Institute's Spirit of Courage Awards, for their bravery and commitment to saving a life during a fire-related incident, assisted by the department's Drone as First Responder program. The collaboration with Chula Vista's first responders underscores the importance of community support in achieving our mission and highlights the invaluable contributions of these everyday heroes.

"The close relationship between the Burn Institute and Chula Vista's first responders exemplifies the power of community," said Tessa Haviland, the Burn Institute's executive director. "From fundraising efforts to impactful interactions with our campers, their support is invaluable in helping burn survivors heal and thrive."

This year, Camp Beyond the Scars campers will visit the Chula Vista Fire Department for an exciting "Day in the Life of a Firefighter" showcase, including a firefighter obstacle course, station tour, remarks from an inspirational speaker, and a lunch with firefighters. This visit will be especially meaningful as it will allow young burn survivors to interact with first responders in a positive and supportive environment, helping them on their healing journey. Many young burn survivors' first interaction with a first responder was on one of the worst days of their lives, so this connection is vital for their recovery and empowerment.

For more information, please visit the Burn Institute.