



Touching Lives and Supporting the Journey

Burn Community Events

St Florian Burn Community Meetings

Saturday January 20, 2018
Coralville, IA

Service of Remembrance

Sunday January 21, 2018
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Cedar Valley FOOLS Bash

April 7, 2018
Waterloo, IA

American Burn Association Annual Meeting

April 10-13, 2018
Chicago, IL

Miracle Burn Camp

July 8-14, 2018
YMCA Camp Foster
Spirit Lake, IA

Phoenix World Burn Congress

September 12-15, 2018
Grand Rapids, MI



The St. Florian Fire & Burn Foundation Board of Directors wish you and your family merry Christmas, happy holidays and the best for the new year!

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St. Florian Fire & Burn Foundation Meetings

The Foundation will be holding its Annual General Meeting and other meetings on the weekend of January 20 and 21, 2018. On Saturday, any interested Burn Community members are welcome to attend and participate in the meetings. If you interested please contact one of the Board Members.

This has been a difficult year for the Foundation due to loss of funding that had paid for the majority of the costs of Miracle Burn Camp for many years. We need your ideas, thoughts and help to chart a path for a sustainable future for all of St. Florian's programs. Your input at the meetings or in writing would be greatly appreciated.



4th Annual Service of Remembrance

The Service of Remembrance will be held Sunday, January 21, 2018 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. It will take place at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, to honor the memory of all who have died during the past year as the result of a wound or burn injury.

To honor your loved one, we invite you to send a story, poem, or photo as a tribute that will be displayed at the service. Photos will also be included in a slideshow. Please note: we will not be able to return photos or tributes. Please send your tributes and/or photos by Friday, January 12th to:

Nancy Johnson, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Office of the Patient Experience, 200 Hawkins Drive, Iowa City, IA 52242

Cedar Valley F.O.O.L.S. Bash

The annual Cedar Valley Fools Bash will be held April 7, 2018 at the Electric Park Ballroom in Waterloo, Iowa. (310 Conger Street) Doors open at 6 pm. There will be live music, door prizes, a raffle and their own Brotherhood Bourbon Stout by Singlespeed Brewing. Check the [Cedar Valley F.O.O.L.S. facebook](#) page for further information a few weeks prior to the event.



Family Burn Camp

The purpose of Family Burn Camp is to provide an opportunity for burn survivors and their families to spend time together in a supportive environment in order to build relationships, encourage one another and have fun!

Sixteen burn survivor families gathered at YMCA Camp Foster in Spirit Lake, IA the weekend of August 18th-20th to participate in the fourth annual St. Florian Family Burn Camp. The participants enjoyed a weekend of fun activities such as horseback riding, canoeing, archery, and riflery. The event also provided the families of Miracle Burn Campers (and burn campers of the future) a chance to glimpse the magic of Camp Foster.

The theme this year was "Celebrating Our Burn Family Tree." We honored each family's journey and celebrated the fact that the burn community is like one big family – bound together by shared experience, strengthened by mutual understanding, and nurtured by care for one another.



What Family Burn Camp Means to Me

Angie Brand

I first heard about Burn Camp in outpatient clinic after our son was released from the University of Iowa Burn Unit. He was a little over a year old at that point, so it would be several years before he would be old enough for camp. At that time, I thought there was no way I would ever send my beautiful baby to a camp full of “victims”.

When Jesse was 4 years old, our family was invited to the first ever Family Burn Camp at Camp Foster. We went back and forth on it, but finally gave in and decided to go. We didn't have a lot of expectations that first year. We really went more for something to do over Labor Day Weekend. Little did we know that that weekend would change our lives. It was the beginning of a whole new family.

It rained our first weekend of camp. And I mean it RAINED. The camp talent show was that night, but the five families there for Burn Camp were all nice and cozy in the leadership lodge, and we chose to skip the talent show and just get to know each other. That is a night I will never forget.

The kids made a fort out of extra mattresses in one corner and played. The adults sat around and shared our stories, our concerns, and our hopes. We laughed, cried, hugged, and cried some more. We went from strangers to family in a couple of hours.

Since that first year, we have been to every Family Burn Camp, four of them in all. Some people have come back year after year like us, and some aren't able to make it back. And we come home each year with a new set of people to add to our growing family. Family is really what we are. If I'm scared about something going on with Jesse's scars, I have a whole network of nurses, caregivers, and other moms who can help. If he's struggling with being picked on because he's different, I know someone out there understands. Even more important for me after that first year, I realized that there were other moms who felt the same fear, sadness, and especially guilt. Moms (and dads and grandparents) who “get it”.

Family Burn Camp has become the most important part of our summer. Our three kids wouldn't miss it for the world. Remember earlier when I said I would never send my son to a camp for “victims”? Because of our experiences at Family Burn Camp, for the first time this summer Jesse went for an incredible week at Miracle Burn Camp. What I learned from Family Burn Camp is that these kids are not “victims”. They (and their families) are SURVIVORS.

IAFF International Burn Camp

Every year each of the regional burn camps across the United States and Canada chose one counselor and one camper (age 13-15) to participate in the International Burn Camp. International Burn Camp is a one-week long camp at Camp Wabanna located near Washington, D.C. and hosted by the International Association of Fire Fighters. The IAFF [International Burn Camp](#) honors the teamwork and leadership skills that the campers and counselors show while attending their regional burn camps. Selection as a participant in the International Burn Camp is a great honor and exclusive opportunity.

During Miracle Burn Camp July 9-15, 2017 camp counselor Julie Popelka and camper Zoie Evans (15 year-old burn survivor from the Omaha area) were nominated by the campers and counselors to attend the International Burn Camp September 23 through 30. St. Florian Fire & Burn Foundation sponsored them and paid their expenses.



Julie is a Cedar Rapids firefighter and St. Florian Fire & Burn Foundation volunteer. She provided the following comments regarding their week at International Burn Camp. See the St Florian facebook page for Miracle Burn Camp, Family Camp and International Burn Camp photos.

Wow what a week!

By Julie Popelka

I can't express what an amazing week we had. First off, I would like to give a big shout out to all of the staff that worked so hard at putting this together. Thanks too to IAFF Charitable Foundation, St Florian Fire and Burn Foundation, and all the locals that hosted us.

We started the week off running. Sunday after a quick orientation, we enjoyed a baseball game between the Orioles and the Rays, followed by a BBQ sponsored by Metro FFBCF, including some awesome pictures on their tiller. The evening included our first campfire and some awesome teambuilding exercises.

Monday was not going to be any different, we were up early and rolling to the Pentagon, we learned a lot especially about Security. Not to be outdone we had lunch at a DC Firehouse where we were greeted by and gauntlet of army personnel, guns and all. We were serenaded by an Army field band and watched an amazing performance by their Drum and Fife band as well as their Color Guard. Free time that afternoon was to choose one of the Smithsonian Museums to visit, we chose the Holocaust Museum which was very sobering.

I think Tuesday was one of my favorites, we learned so much at Annapolis at the Naval Academy. Christian a former camper and soon to be graduate of the Academy spoke to us about his journey. He was so encouraging for all the campers. I think he may have gotten Zoie thinking about becoming a Naval Cadet. Oh yea we also got to see Bill the goat there mascot. Local F121 treated us to pizza and games at Annapolis Harbor where they joined in on the games with us. We had a boat ride and supper at Buddy's Crabs. Zoie instructed me the correct way to eat crab legs, I failed.

Am I tiring you out yet? Wednesday was another amazing day, some of our campers got to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We learned so much about true dedication and sacrifice today! The evening was spent touring the Monuments, there is nothing like the Washington Monument in the Reflecting Pool.

Thursday may have been Zoie's favorite she was chosen to do a reading at Washington's tomb when we visited Mt Vernon. We finished the afternoon and evening back at camp with a carnival that included kettle corn, snow cones and funnel cakes as well as bouncy games, bracelet making and pinball. Oh yea Mission BBQ {yum} for supper.

Friday once again Zoie showed me what a courageous young lady she is by doing all kinds of crazy stuff on the high ropes, Zip line, Flying Squirrel. Leap of Faith. We finished the evening with a lovely elegant meal and dance in formal attire. Somewhere in this week Zoie also sang One Tin Soldier beautifully at campfire. What an amazing group of young adults and counselors our future looks bright with kids like these.

Saturday I must say was very tearful with many sad farewells to new friends who will not be forgotten! Thanks again to everyone who had a hand in this amazing journey.



Thank You to the 2017 Donors and Volunteers

We can't tell you how much we appreciate your support for St Florian Fire & Burn Foundation furthering our purpose to assist burn survivors and their families in maintaining a high quality of life. Thank you. You have made a real difference in the lives of many of the burn community members. Your assistance means the world to us!

The St. Florian Fire & Burn Foundation Board of Directors

2017 Donors

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| Brune Family | Krause's Tap - Subdeck Trucking Inc. |
| Cantilever Hotels | Lely North America |
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| Craftworks | North Liberty Fire Fighters |
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| Hennepin County Hospital | Sioux City Fire fighters local 7 |
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| Johnson County Sherriff's Office Jail Division | |

MORE INFORMATION

The St. Florian Fire & Burn Foundation website provides information about the Foundation, its programs and how to help. You are welcome to contact the Board of Directors for additional information through the "[Contact Us](#)" page on the St. Florian website.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Firefighters, healthcare personnel and others interested in our efforts are welcome to participate in the St. Florian Fire & Burn Foundation activities. [Online donations](#) are accepted. All funds raised are used to fund the survivor support and other activities of the Foundation.

By donating you are helping survivors spread their wings and soar!



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