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RANCHO SANTA FE FOUNDATION

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A community foundation serves many different purposes in a community, from providing grants from un-restricted endowments to local non-profit organization, to managing the permanent endowments of many of those same non-profit organizations. As of this writing, the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation manages the endowments of nearly 40 different non-profit organizations.

Last fall, we were contacted by The Burn Institute in regards to placing an endowment with us. After learning more about what this incredible organization does, the Jerry and Carolyn Davee Endowment at the Burn Institute was created to “help burn survivors in their time of need.” A portion of that endowment was placed with the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation as a way to spread the word to other parts of San Diego County, particularly areas where fire is an ever-present threat. Jerry and Carolyn Davee are the inspiration behind so much of what the Burn Institute does.

In 1978, Jerry and four other passengers were traveling in a private plane returning from a ski vacation when, shortly after take-off, they crashed. As fuel spewed from the plane, Jerry pulled his 15-year old son away and returned to save the pilot and a passenger from the wreckage. The plane suddenly exploded and as a result Jerry spent one and a half months in the burn center.

For more than 25 years, Jerry and Carolyn Davee have devoted much of their time, energy and financial support to the Burn Institute’s burn survivor support services and fire and burn prevention programs. Jerry has served as the Chairman of the Board since 1992.

The Burn Institute was founded to help establish a regional Burn Center some 30 years ago. The Board wishes to continue to expand its commitment to burn care and research, while still striving to end preventable burn injuries and to give burn survivors the helping hand they need to overcome the effects of their injuries.

Among the many areas in which the Burn Institute plays a vital part is a burn survivor support program called **Camp Beyond the Scars**. This year’s winter camp was held at Camp Oakbridge. Campers include those children, ages 6–15, who have suffered severe burns as a result of fire. Adult burn survivors, ages 16–18, volunteer as counselors-in-training and those over 18 participate as counselors/mentors.

“It is imperative that young burn survivors recognize early on how to focus on the positives in their lives and learn to not dwell on their injuries. By focusing on the future, they learn that their injury is not the end, but a beginning to a new journey in life. Most importantly they realize it is possible to reach ‘beyond their scars’.”

Please refer to the article on page----- of this issue of the Rancho Santa Fe Review to learn more about the local focus group that is being formed to assist the Burn Institute and the growth in the Jerry and Carolyn Davee Endowment Fund.

For information on the Jerry and Carolyn Davee Endowment Fund and how you can become involved, please call (858) 541-2277. The website is www.burninstitute.org.