

# What is the Phoenix Burns Project?

The Phoenix Burns Project was formally established in 2006 in response to the devastating physical and social consequences of burn injuries on children in the Western Cape.

Phoenix serves burn survivors by helping to facilitate their physical and social rehabilitation, by advocacy on their behalf, and by raising awareness of their challenges. Phoenix is also contributing to burn prevention initiatives.

We have a team of committed and highly specialised volunteers, drawing from fields as diverse as medicine, public health, business, media, marketing, academia and youth work. They are backed up by a large Board of Advisors comprising eminent persons whose broad experience and expertise the volunteer committee and body can draw from.

Many young burn survivors are lost to follow-up treatment for a variety of reasons, and this compromises their recovery process. We aim to support the follow-up care of child burn survivors and their reintegration into normal life, a process that can take years, through close cooperation with the Burns Unit at Red Cross Children's Hospital, where most serious paediatric burns in Western Cape are treated.

In order to deliver the full spectrum of support services to burn survivors we have identified an urgent need to establish a dedicated Burn Rehabilitation Centre for children. This centre will cooperate closely with the burns units in local hospitals to provide a stepping stone between hospital and the community for child burn survivors and their care givers.

*The Phoenix Burns Project is a Voluntary Association registered as a Non-Profit Organisation (Reg. No. 57-154) in terms of the Non-Profit Organisations Act (Act 71 of 1997).*



## OUR PROJECTS

### AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

We have compiled a booklet containing information for parents of burnt children titled *My child is burnt – What happens now*. Together with partner NGOs we plan to establish a programme to train volunteers from the communities most at risk on issues of fire safety and burn injury prevention. Phoenix is also participating in the development of a new national burn prevention curriculum for primary school learners.

### REHABILITATION

Phoenix's long term goal is the establishment of a dedicated Burn Rehabilitation Centre where burn survivors can experience continuity of rehabilitation care and follow-up after discharge from hospital. The Burn Rehabilitation Centre will address the physical as well as psychological and social aspects of burn rehabilitation, and will work closely with local hospitals, who will refer patients in the post-acute recovery phase.

### FOLLOW-UP

Follow-up physiotherapy and occupational therapy are vital for a successful recovery from burn injuries. We have initiated the *Bear With Your Rehab* programme, whereby children receive a soft toy on discharge from hospital and on each return follow-up visit.

### INTEGRATION

Social reintegration is vital, especially at school. We will prepare schools to receive a burnt child, and provide the teachers and the child with support to ensure successful reintegration in school. We will also facilitate events aimed at increasing the social confidence of the child burn survivor, involving enthusiastic youth volunteers in these programmes.

### POLICY DOMAIN

In conjunction with other relevant NGOs, we seek to engage with policy makers on matters pertaining to burns prevention and the rights of burn survivors.

### COOPERATION

Through our round-table events, called the *Phoenix Forum*, we bring together stakeholders in the burns environment to discuss pressing issues and to facilitate a common purpose within the burns community.

### How to contact us:

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Constantia, Cape Town, 7848, South Africa

Tel: 021 447 4515 Fax: 086 517 5620

[admin@pbp.org.za](mailto:admin@pbp.org.za)



[www.burnsurvivor.org.za](http://www.burnsurvivor.org.za)

## PHOENIX BURNS PROJECT

*No burn survivor should stand alone*



Phoenix Burns Project is a registered  
Non-Profit Organisation. NPO 57-154

## BURNS: THE FACTS

We read about fires in newspapers – but do we ever wonder what happens to those who have suffered serious burn injuries in the flames? Do we ever stop to think about those who are burnt by scalding liquids? The number of burn injuries in the Western Cape, especially among children, is distressing. Tragically, society often discriminates against these children, through prejudice or ignorance.

Did you know that about 1 000 children are treated in the Burns Unit of the Red Cross Children's Hospital *alone* every year? Or that in South Africa, burn-related injuries are the third-most common cause of death in children under 14? Or that in Cape Town, most burn injuries occur in little children between 1-2 years of age.



Children are severely affected by burn injuries. Child burn survivors suffer not only physical, but also emotional and mental trauma. Having undergone medical treatment, they are often ostracised in their community, causing them to withdraw as active members of society. Ask yourself: "When last did I see a burn survivor in a public place?"

A great number of child burn survivors fail to obtain employment in later life because the social consequences of their injuries affected their schooling or because of prejudices about their physical appearance. Those burn survivors who have grown up to lead a fulfilling and productive life usually could rely on a strong support system in their environment. Most children who suffer serious burn injuries do not have such social back-up – and many fall through the cracks. *They become the invisible members of society, left to their own devices by state or society.*



**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**  
Support the Phoenix Burns Project by becoming a Friend of Phoenix, or by offering *pro bono* services.

## You can help: Become a FRIEND OF PHOENIX

The **Friends of Phoenix** campaign is intended to ensure that our generous donors will be kept informed about our activities, showing them how their generosity has made a difference, and giving them a direct line to communicate with us.

There are four categories of **Friends of Phoenix**:

- Contributor** (R250 to R2499 annually)
- Supporter** (R2500 to R9999 annually)
- Associate** (R10 000 and above annually; private)
- Partner** (R10 000 and above annually; corporate)

All **Friends of Phoenix** will receive our quarterly electronic newsletter, advising them of our latest activities, as well as periodical updates.

**Friends of Phoenix** will also receive our Annual Reports.

Associates and Partners will be automatically invited to Phoenix events. Our Partners also have the option to have their corporate logos displayed on most Phoenix publications.

Funds received through the **Friends of Phoenix** campaign will be used towards:

- A building and operational fund for our planned Burn Rehabilitation Centre.
- Media campaigns and literature on burn prevention and burns issues in several languages.
- Facilitating training programmes on burns prevention.
- Creating greater public awareness of the consequences of burns and the issues faced by burn survivors.
- Hosting events for child burn survivors designed to help integrate them into society.

**Friends of Phoenix** can be assured that every cent of their generous support will be used to accomplish the aims of the Phoenix Burns Project!

Yes, I would like to help the work of the Phoenix Burns Project by becoming a **FRIEND OF PHOENIX** as a:

- Partner** (corporate) R10 000 or more annually
- Associate** (private) R10 000 or more annually
- Supporter** R2 500 to R9 999 annually
- Contributor** R250 to R2 499 annually

I have included a cheque for R..... made out to **Phoenix Burns Project**

I have made a deposit/internet transfer for the amount of R..... in favour of Phoenix Burns Project account 07-626-238-3 at the Constantia branch of the Standard Bank (Code 02 53 09)

(please fax a copy of the deposit slip to 086 517 5620 or e-mail transfer details to admin@pbp.org.za)

I prefer to make a monthly contribution as a **Friend of Phoenix** via Debit Order.

I do not wish to become a **Friend of Phoenix**, but would like to make a contribution of R..... to assist the Phoenix Burns Project.

Title:..... Surname:.....

First Name:.....

Postal Address:.....

.....Code:.....

Telephone: (.....) .....

E-mail:.....

Please return this slip to:  
The Treasurer, Phoenix Burns Project, Postnet Suite 440,  
Private Bag X16, Constantia, Cape Town, 7848, South Africa