



# Too Hot for Tots! Newsletter

*"IT ONLY TAKE A SECOND TO CHANGE A LIFE FOREVER"*

**FEBRUARY 2015**

**Continued . . . .**

education, to supporting burn survivors and their families. As a professional fire fighter I get the chance to help people every day, but it's the volunteer work that makes me feel like I'm making a difference. Calls involving children are always the most difficult, so the idea that I may be able to help save a child and their family from suffering means something to me.

I designed a Burn Awareness Kit, complete with lessons and visuals, which are geared to children of varying ages. The fire fighters' from our local visit schools and daycares, often going class to class until we get through the entire school. One year I made 49 presentations in 5 days, another year we reached 2,300 children in a single week!

We are also proud to present the "Too Hot for Tots" Educators Workshop to early childhood educators who work with children and families in our community. The "Too Hot for Tots" program is an excellent resource and a great way to get injury prevention messaging to the families in our community. Our mission is to reach as many families as possible, and hopefully save every single child from a serious and preventable burn injury. The feedback on the workshops has been overwhelmingly positive. Childcare workers and teachers alike are always happy to have us visit and make our presentation.

Aside from our ongoing efforts to provide injury prevention education, we support burn survivors and their families during the acute stage of their burn care treatment. Following a burn injury, children often require specialized care and treatment at a pediatric burn center. This can create a significant financial burden for families who do not live near the hospital. Through our fund raising efforts, we provide support with the purchase of groceries, fuel, and accommodation. One family we worked with needed a new car seat because the one the child was using was interfering with his new skin grafts. We were able to purchase and install a new car seat specifically sized to suit his needs.

Another way we support burn survivors, is through our volunteer efforts to build and maintain the annual Bright Nights Christmas display in Stanley Park. A significant portion of the revenues generated from Bright Nights will go towards building and furnishing the new Burn Fund Center on Main and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Vancouver. The Burn Fund Center will be a "home away from home" for burn survivors and their families while they undergo treatment at BC Children's Hospital or VGH.

It's a privilege and rewarding experience to be able to support the community in a meaningful way, not only through our job as professional fire fighters, but also by helping families on a more personal level.