



New Burns Unit for Red Cross

The C2 Burns Ward at Red Cross Children's Hospital, the only specialized paediatric burns unit in Sub-Saharan Africa, was reopened on 15 September, following a R16 million makeover.

Each year C2 treats more than 1300 children as in-patients. Another 2000 more are treated on an out-patient basis each year. The Burns Unit is also a referral point for children from areas outside the Western Cape that lack similar facilities.

Staff and supporters alike are enthusiastic about the new facilities. It has grown both in capacity and specialization, and is now a well-equipped 22-bed Burns Unit with state-of-the-art isolation cubicles, physiotherapy facilities, and a separate space for art, music and play therapy.

Amongst those officiating the launch were Red Cross CEO, Dr Lungi Linda, the Western Cape

Minister of Health, Mr Theuns Botha, Prof Heinz Rhode (Emeritus Professor), members of the Children's Hospital Trust Board of Trustees and many long-term supporters of Red Cross. At the launch Professor Heinz Rhode was honoured for his 36 years of dedicated service to burnt children.

Operational Manager for the Ward, Sr Revona Goosen said: "It was a great team effort, and we are very happy that we have adequate space and that the patients can be in a therapeutic environment. If the patients are happy, we are happy."

Phoenix Project Coordinator May Bleeker-Phelan attended the launch and said: "I was particularly heartened to hear both the Health Minister Mr Theuns Botha, and Dr Lungi Linda highlight the need for after-hospital follow-up care as the next challenge, which is the core focus of the Phoenix Burns Project's work."



New Phoenix toiletry kits a hit with mums

Parents often spend long hours in hospital at their child's bedside. This is encouraged, as severely injured children are reassured by the presence of their parents, and do better with a loved one close at hand. But rushing to hospital with a burnt child usually means leaving home without the essentials for personal hygiene. For many distraught parents, especially those who do not have a social network to support them, nights are spent at Red Cross Hospital without the basics of a toothbrush or soap.

As an answer to this basic need Phoenix provides a Toiletry Kit that contains personal toiletries and a small bar of laundry soap. Donated items such as complimentary in-flight toiletry bags and airline towelling slippers have also proved very welcome for moms and dads. These kits not only provide relief to carers, but also improve overall hygiene in the ward, a key factor where infection control is paramount.

To support this project, please contact May Bleeker-Phelan at 082 932 9504 or admin@pbp.org.za.



Phoenix celebrates 5 years of care

On the 13th of October the Phoenix Burns Project celebrated its fifth anniversary. The organisation was officially established on the 13th of October 2006. Since then we have grown steadily. In the montage below, we recall some of the highlights of the past five years.

We would like to thank all the many individuals and organisations that have supported Phoenix during the past five years. Through your generosity with your time, treasure and talents, you have given hope to many who would otherwise not have had hope of help.

PHOENIX BURNS PROJECT
5 YEARS
2006 - 2011

2006

2011

- Phoenix partners with other child safety organisations in joint campaigns.

2010

- Art therapy programme
- Phoenix receives donor deductible status

2007

- Phoenix Forum
- First issue of *Phoenix Update*

2008

- Fire Recovery Kits* launched
- UK office opens

2009

- Counselling programme launched
- School reintegration of burn survivors

PHOENIX FIRE MONITOR

Shack fires reported in Cape Town

1 April 2011 – 30 Sept 2011

- 27 Sept 2011, Cape Times
Sir Lowry's Pass, 5 die in shack fires
- 19 Sept 2011, news24
3 killed in Fisantekraal shack fire near Durbanville
- 10 Sept 2011, Sapa
Man dies in Asanda Village shack fire
- 5 Sept 2011, Cape Times
3 killed in Vrygrond blaze, 200 displaced
- 2 Sept 2011, Sapa
14 shacks destroyed in Vygieskraal (Athlone), Delft and Boystown. 20 people displaced
- 25 Aug 2011, Cape Argus
Khayelitsha mother of four dies of fire injuries
- 23 August 2011, Daily Voice
2 children die in Belhar shack fire
- 20 August 2011, Sapa
2 children die in Nyanga shack fire, 4 displaced
- 18 Aug 2011, Cape Times
Khayelitsha shack fire kills woman, injures man, 3 homes destroyed
- 17 Aug 2011, Sapa
Parkwood shack fire (near Muizenberg) displaces 25 people
- 16 Aug 2011, Cape Times
Mother and 3 children die in blaze near Phillipi
- 8 Aug 2011, Cape Argus
4 children killed, mother injured in shack fire, Makhaza (Khayelitsha)
- 4 Aug 2011, Sapa
1 year old boy dies in Khayelitsha, Site B fire, 4 homes destroyed
- 2 Aug 2011, Cape Argus
70 shacks destroyed in Vygieskraal (Athlone), 300 homeless
- 19 July 2011, Cape Argus
child dies in Mbekweni (Paarl) safe house fire
- 31 May 2011, Cape Argus
3 dead, 150 homeless after fire at Witsand informal settlement, Atlantis
- 7 May 2011, Sapa
man dies, 115 people displaced after 30 shacks razed in Khayelitsha; another man deceased in shack fire in Tambo Village near Manenberg.
- 1 May 2011,
1500 shacks destroyed in fire at Masiphumelele, more than 2000 displaced, 1 killed, 1 injured
- 18 Apr 2011, Cape Times
3 killed, 13 buildings gutted by fire in Cape Helderberg area, fire in Redhill kills 1, fire in Eerste River kills 2
- 6 Apr 2011, Cape Argus
Candle fire kills 2 children on Kraaifontein farm

Total: 42 deaths, 2869 homeless

We extend our heartfelt condolences to all who lost their loved ones or their homes and possessions in these tragic events.

Phoenix helps with treatment request

Phoenix supported the Burns Unit at Red Cross Hospital with the purchase of a new gel product that dramatically decreases healing time in severe burn wounds.

The product was developed in 2009 to remove "biofilms" from chronic wounds.

Biofilms are thin layers of bacteria, often resistant to antiseptic ointments and antibiotics, which form on the surface of chronic wounds and burns. This blocks the normal healing process, resulting in chronic non-healing burns and high skin graft failure rates.

The company distributing the product donated some samples to the Burns Unit. The results in two patients were dramatic, with significant healing in under a week for wounds that had been present and non-healing for more than 6 weeks.

Treatment with this product was started on two more suitable patients, but the unit ran out of the samples. Staff requested the hospital to procure this product on tender, but this process takes time and it would have meant stopping treatment for these two patients.

Phoenix sponsored twenty more vials of gel so that these two patients could also reap the full benefit of the treatment. Both patients are doing exceptionally well and this treatment may well, in their specific cases, save them from the need of further skin grafts.



Images taken six days apart show the same wound before (inset) and after application of the new gel treatment.

Action for Burns Hike/Bike Charity Challenge

Over 20 bikers and hikers from the United Kingdom are coming to South Africa on 22 October for the ABC (Action for Burns and Children) Charity Challenge - a dual hike/bike event in aid of Phoenix.

James Haskell – the England back row forward rugby player – has shown his support of the event, as has the Paraffin Safety Association of South Africa, and the international Oil and Gas newspaper *Upstream*.

The hikers, led by Carolyn Cripps OBE, who represents Phoenix in the United Kingdom, will be arriving from the UK and touching down at Cape Town International Airport and then transferring to the Cederberg to begin their 6-day trek.

Sponsoring the event, Mike Cripps of Cripps Sears & Partners, will be leading the team of bikers. They will be flying to Johannesburg and then Port Elizabeth, and thereafter they will begin their 6-day cycle tour through the Garden Route.

The event has been timed to precede the 18th Africa Oil Week, which runs from 31st October to 4th November. A number of oil and gas company executives attending the Oil Week have shown their support for the ABC Charity Challenge event.

The event culminates with a dinner at the Africa Café on the evening of 28th October. This dinner will give supporters of the event an opportunity to meet participants and have a chance to hear first-hand accounts of their journeys. It will also be an opportunity to share information about the work that the Phoenix Burns Project does and the vulnerable communities that will benefit from the funds raised by the hikers and bikers.

Action for Burns and Children have also organised several events in England as a lead-up to the hike/bike, including a London concert featuring the *A Capella* group *Gentlemen of St John's College*, Cambridge.

The entirety of the efforts and fundraising that have gone into making this event a success will be greatly beneficial to the work done by the Phoenix Burns Project in the area of burns prevention and assistance to child burn survivors and their families.

For more information about the event visit the website <http://www.abc2011challenge.com/>

You can also follow the event on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/#!/PhoenixBurnsPrj>



Thank You, donors!

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