

Creating Awareness

When an Organisation embarks on an awareness campaign requesting support for a situation of which the public and authorities are unaware; every opportunity must be utilized to its fullest extent. The shortage of willing volunteers and funding towards relative expenses compound the difficulties and challenges that are presented.

It takes persistent hard work, with long hours planning and implementing events.

Burn Survivors are an unknown sector of our society, and they are generally ignored.

Endeavours to obtain acknowledgement and recognition from the general public and Government authorities are an enormous task; Further challenges are faced when endeavouring to rehabilitate Burn Survivors back to School, into society as a whole, and to assist in uplifting adult Burn Survivors from poor and destitute situations, teaching them new skills after experiencing the trauma of devastating fires, obtaining suitable employment for the physically challenged and burn scarred, and in many cases the uneducated Survivor, is a most challenging mission.

When we organized an Edu-camp for 25 facially scarred Burn Survivors during November 2006 (Camp Protea) we decided to invite two Fire Fighter, Station Commanders, from the public education division of the Emergency Management Services Johannesburg, (Jocelin Flank and Harry Annandale) to assist us with the educational activities at the Camp as well as giving presentations on early childhood education on burn prevention on behalf of Burn Foundation, at three important meetings before and after the camp dates.



Our first presentation lasted for almost an hour at the Mitchell's Plain Municipal Council offices. About twenty councilors, (members of the Protea Sub council) attended the meeting. They experienced a small hitch with their Lap top computer, and Jocelin was able to solve the problem while Harry was discussing serious matters with the Chairman.

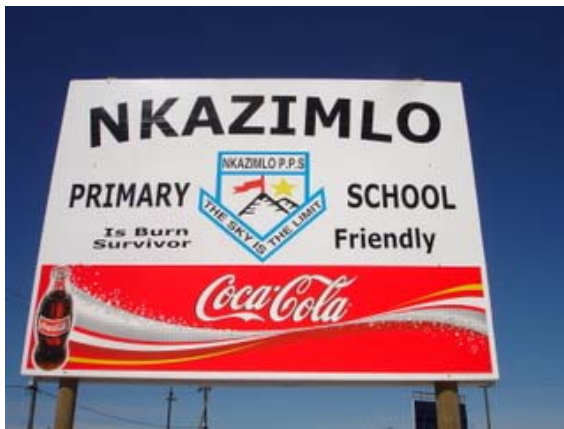
The other two meetings scheduled for after 'Camp Protea' activities were cancelled by the authorities concerned. We took the opportunity to call on various Burn unit staff and visited Burn Survivors in the hospital wards.

We toured the Khayelitsha Township where over a million people reside, making sure to avoid the informal and overcrowded areas for safety reasons.

It was important to introduce our esteemed visitors to the Management of Nkazimlo Primary School, who was courageous enough to be the first School in the entire South Africa to declare themselves Burn Survivor friendly.



Sharing a moment of appreciation
Ester- Cancer Association
Mr. Fezi- Deputy Principal
Jocelin and Harry-JHB Fire Dept.



The Peninsula Beverage Company distributors of Coca Cola were kind enough to erect a board on the School premises advertising, that Nkazimlo Primary School is Burn Survivor friendly, although the slogan is not clearly visible from a distance, it has in any event drawn much attention from the passing public.

Inside the School premises, on the walls of the visitors and Staff meeting room, we were shown a display of Johnson and Johnson posters which has attracted much interest and discussion from School Inspectors and education Management Staff as well as foreign tour groups.



Some parents of Burn Survivors, have already applied for their children to attend this School, in the New Year.

With greater initiative from people who care, tremendous awareness and successful rehabilitation of Burn Survivors can definitely be achieved.



This Poster is proudly displayed in the entrance Hall next to the reception.

VIVA NKAMZIMLO PRIMARY SCHOOL

VIVA BURN SURVIVORS

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

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Blessings

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