



What is the Phoenix Education Grant?

By Tom Hessel, ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

My how time flies. I can't believe it is already the end of April. In January we sent out membership renewals to our members. Thank you to those of you who have already sent in your dues. We strongly encourage those of you who are financially able, to join in this fund drive that supports the continued growth of The Phoenix Society and the services we provide.

The Phoenix Education Grant (PEG) is the first national scholarship endowment fund created for burn survivor students. PEG also happens to be the name of the mother of the woman whose vision and dedication is making this program possible, Barbara Kammerer Quayle. In March 2000, The American Burn Association honored Barbara, who was burned in an automobile accident in 1977, with one of their most prestigious awards, the Curtis P. Artz Distinguished Service Award. Barbara made a promise that if she received this award she would do something significant with the honorarium for the burn community. "Having been a teacher in some capacity almost all of my life, I decided there is no better way to use the money than to create a scholarship fund for young burn survivors to further their education." Barbara's visionary gift along with contributions from herself and her husband Ken, totaling \$10,000.00, laid the foundation for the PEG scholarship. The Phoenix Education Grant scholarship

can be used to help a burn survivor attend college or a technical school.

We are proud to report the first PEG scholarships were awarded to four very deserving recipients, Erin Aucoin, Ryan Douglas, Christine Jurus and Laurie Sulfaro. Each student received \$2,000.00. The awards were presented at the 2002 World Burn Congress. A PEG committee reviews applications and grants scholarships based on academic ability, response to four essay questions, reference letters and financial need. As Barbara states, "reading the applications of these candidates has been so amazing. It gives us great hope for the future." Students who receive the scholarship are encouraged to help other burn-injured students by contributing to the PEG scholarship fund when they are established and able to do so.

Since the PEG scholarship program began, through various fund raising efforts, we are a quarter of the way to our goal of \$200,000.00. Truly the greatest gift we can give young burn survivors is the gift of education. If you have not yet received a letter from us asking for a donation for PEG, you will be seeing it in the mail shortly. Please keep your eyes open for it. 100% of the money raised for PEG will go directly to the scholarship endowment. I am inviting you to join the thousands of people who have already made their PEG scholarship fund donation. Please give today.