

# Elizabeth's Burn-Iversary

March 21, 2021 - Submitted by Roy Janke



This past Friday (March 19th,) was Elizabeth's 10 year "burn-iversary". It was a horrible day, a decade ago. You don't ever want to see your child hurt like that. So why take the time to acknowledge it? Well, it serves as a reminder that even when something horrible like that happens, there is always a chance that some very good things can come out of it.

As with any journey, you meet a multitude of people along the way. This has certainly been true over the past 10 years. From the amazing and dedicated staff at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, to the volunteers at **Camp BUCKO**, who work tirelessly to bring summertime joy to the child burn survivors, and to everyone in-between. We are truly fortunate to have found love and support in the burn community.

Elizabeth has certainly blossomed into a confident and outgoing young adult, and we give a lot of that credit to this extended family. There was

never any doubt in her mind that when she "graduated" from Camp that she would move into the VIT (Volunteer In Training) program and begin her new journey of helping the younger campers in the same way that she had been when stepping off the camp bus for the first time many years ago.

Elizabeth isn't the only one who has benefited from the experience. It has taught our entire family what it means to not just live IN society, but more importantly, what it means to be A PART of society, and this specific corner of it at that. As a family, we have become stronger and more involved as we too try to give back to the Camp and burn community wherever we can.

So, that is why I felt it important to recognize Elizabeth's 10th "burn-iversary". It's not all about what happened ON March 19, 2011, but rather what has happened SINCE, and how our lives have been enriched by what, at the time, seemed like (and really was) a tragic event. Not a bad thing to remember, especially with everything we've all been living through this past year.

P.S. I wanted to thank everyone who we've met along the way, but that list is long and varied and I fear I would forget someone.... Oh, and I honestly don't know how Elizabeth kept smiling in that picture while in the trauma bay at SickKids. Perhaps it was because she had been all bandaged up or maybe because the Child Life workers were currently breaking into the gift shop to liberate a Webkinz animal for her.



Morning Walk



VIT Group