



Mission

The Knapp Burn Foundation was established in 1989 by the family and friends of Rick Knapp. He was injured in an automobile accident in 1975, inflicting severe burns and other traumatic injuries. Throughout the ordeal, it became apparent that burns can also have a victimizing effect on family and friends. Drawing on our experiences, we (Rick and his family) came to a disturbing realization: current support systems are not adequate to cope with the losses suffered through burns. Therefore, the Knapp Burn Foundation was created as a not-for-profit organization committed to:

- Assisting burn victims and their families to cope with the temporary and/or permanent physical, emotional, social, and economic changes.
- Educating others in allowing survivors to return to socially fulfilling and occupationally productive lives.
- Equipping the public with burn prevention information.

We strive to provide the support and resources to prevent burns, improve awareness, and allow survivors to move past their burns and to continue with their lives. Some of our most requested and rewarding programs are:

- John Bennett-Saviano/Knapp Burn Foundation Educational Grant.
- John A. James/Knapp Burn Foundation Pressure/Compression Garment Grant.
- Working with fire and medical professionals to understand the lifelong commitments of survivors and their families.
- Educating professional organizations and schools.
- Being available.

For more information, please contact us:

The Knapp Burn Foundation
P.O. Box 1135
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-1135

(309) 663-1008

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Rick's story

I come from a small, family farm near Cissna Park, Illinois. In addition to crops, we also raised and trained Appaloosa horses, frequently spending weekends trail riding with family and friends. My spare time was spent exploring and awed by nature, working with other farmers, and employed at our local John Deere dealership.

On the night of May 14th, 1975 I was critically injured in a fiery automobile crash, trashing a telephone pole, cement culvert, my car, and myself. Among my numerous injuries were severe burns from the flames, scalding fluids and melting vinyl. The Cissna Park Fire and Rescue Squad transported me to a hospital in Champaign, Illinois. From there I was flown by helicopter to Foster McGaw Hospital, Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois. I received excellent care at Loyola over basically the next 2 years, the first 6 months in the Burn Unit. My injuries brought incredible pain, a plethora of medical procedures; over 30 major surgeries (including skin grafting and multiple amputations) countless localized procedures, physical rehabilitation, and the realization that my life had dramatically and permanently changed. Although blessed with significant social reinforcement, and personally possessing a durable instinct for survival, I met many unexpected physical, social, financial, and professional challenges.

Networking with other burn survivors I discovered that many of us face similar challenges. After 20 years and numerous, unsuccessful career attempts, I graduated from Illinois State University in 1995. Today I am a Systems employee in the insurance industry.

Although it took decades to refit into society, quitting was never really a viable option. For me, the ongoing adaptation requires a sense of humor and significantly different view of reality. Although I cannot take credit for the saying, I concur with the simple statement on my favorite T-shirt:

"Scars are tattoos with better stories."

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My name is John James and I am a burn survivor

I farmed near Reynolds, IN and to supplement my farm income I drove a gasoline transport for Amoco Oil Company of Brookston, IN. On May 15, 1975 as I was nearing Stockland, IL, with a full load of gasoline, my right side wheels dropped off a very deep shoulder and this caused my load to splash and threw the truck out of control. It rolled over three-quarters of a turn, pinning me in the cab. The tank on the transport ruptured sending 7500 gallons of gasoline through the cab of the semi and soaking me in it for an indefinite amount of time. A gentleman and his wife were returning to their home in the area and happened to come upon the accident scene. The couple contacted the fire and rescue squad of Milford, IL and the Stockland fire department. Many precautions had to be taken because of the flammability of the spilled load.

I was a victim of chemical burns and not fire burns as my body had lain in the gasoline for a time. The burns are similar, other than in a fire the nerve endings are burnt away and with a chemical burn they are not.

After a lengthy rescue, the ambulance took me to the Iroquois County Hospital in Watseka, IL. There they stabilized my condition and started the first treatment of the burns and other injuries that I had received. Later that morning I was transported by helicopter to Foster McGaw Hospital, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, IL. Upon arriving at Foster McGaw my care was supervised by Drs. Raymond Warpeha and Juan Angelots in the critical care burn unit. Eighty percent of my body was burned with twenty-eight percent being second and third degree. There were also fractured ribs and my left hand had three deeply lacerated fingers. My back, neck and left shoulder were also severely strained from the accident.

The doctors started treating the burns first then in a few days did surgery on the injured hand. The middle finger had to be fused at the joints due to the severity of the damage to the tendons. But they were able to repair the tendons in the ring finger well enough that I have a usable hand.

I feel that the medical care I received at Loyola Medical Center was best care to be had. I was dismissed from the hospital after three weeks but had to return on a set schedule for Occupational and Physical therapy plus visits to the Pain Clinic for a period of four years. I also did exercises at home to strengthen my shoulder, neck and back.

The lasting results of the accident were loss of hand movement, heart attacks, back, neck and shoulder damage, teeth were shattered, and arthritis.

In 1986 the doctor released me to work if I could find an inside job with no stress and no heavy lifting. On my own I had enrolled at Ivy Tech. for electrical training and a computer class. I was lucky enough to pass my tests for a position with the United States Postal Service. They have retrained me by sending me to postal schools for electric, industrial electric, and various postal sorting machines. The Postal Service has also provided me with training in the heating and air-conditioning field.

In March 1997 I was promoted to Supervisor of Maintenance Operations at the Lafayette, IN area processing and delivery facility. I enjoy my work very much (even though it isn't completely stress free).

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John Bennet Saviano Educational Grant

The Knapp Burn Foundation was established to provide emotional, social and economic support to burn victims and their families; The Foundation desires to help students with tuition expenses by making funds available through the Knapp Burn Foundation - John Bennet Saviano Educational Grant for up to \$6000 per calendar year.

The Educational Grant program was originally funded with contributions in memory of John Bennet Saviano. John was a one year old toddler who died of scald burns sustained in a bathtub accident.

The Educational Grant program is to assist qualifying students seeking a degree or other career training.

Eligibility Criteria for Applicants:

1. Applicant must be a burn survivor.
2. Applicant must be a citizen of the USA (A passport, birth certificate, or naturalization certificate are acceptable documents of proof of citizenship.)
3. Applicant must be accepted into either an accredited institution or licensed institution.
4. An applicant must take at least 4 credit hours per semester and after the first semester maintain a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. on a 4.0 pt. grade scale or 3.5 GPA on a 5 pt. grade scale. Students attending must maintain good standing at that institution.
5. If tuition is paid by another resource (Scholarship), you are not eligible.

Applicant's Responsibility and Understanding:

1. Proof of acceptance and registration into an accredited or licensed institution by providing a letter of acceptance.
2. Completion of a new grant application for each semester
3. A copy of your grades at the end of the semester.
4. **Applications must be submitted at least one month before tuition and fees are due to the institution.**
5. During your training: Statement and completion of 250 words or less indicating how you can support the Mission of the Knapp Burn Foundation going forward (How can you provide emotional, social, and economic support to burn victims and their families in the future?) Please provide this during each calendar year you receive the grant monies.



John Bennett Saviano Educational Grant Application
THE APPLICANT MUST MEET ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PREVIOUS PAGE).

Date _____

1. Is the applicant a burn survivor? YES _____ NO _____

Information on Applicant (Burn Survivor):

2. Name (last, first, middle initial) Please print

3. Street Address: _____ Zip Code _____

5. Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

6. Birthdate (mm/dd/year) _____ Age at time of Application _____

7. Birth Place: City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

8. Is the applicant a U.S. Citizen? Yes___ No___ Please attach proof of U.S. citizenship.
(copy of passport, birth certificate, or naturalization certificate)

Burn Information:

9. Please describe your burn injuries. How and when did you get burned?

You may attach a separate sheet of paper, if needed.

10. Where were you hospitalized and for how long

You may attach a separate sheet of paper, if needed.



John Bennett Saviano Educational Grant Application

11. How did you find us? (Internet, referral, etc.)

12. Name of Training institution, school, college or university you are attending:

13. Contact Person at Admissions Office who can verify matriculation:

Name _____

Street Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

14. GPA at end of semester _____

15. Please attach a copy of your grades indicating semester and year:

Semester and year applying for _____

17. Student ID number _____ Due date for tuition _____

I believe that the facts stated in this application are true. I also understand and consent that this information may be shared with the Knapp Burn Foundation Board.

Applicant's signature _____

Print name _____

Parent /guardian's signature if applicant is under 18.

Print Name _____



Please print and submit completed application to:

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