

# YOU + US

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## EXTRAORDINARY BURN CENTER

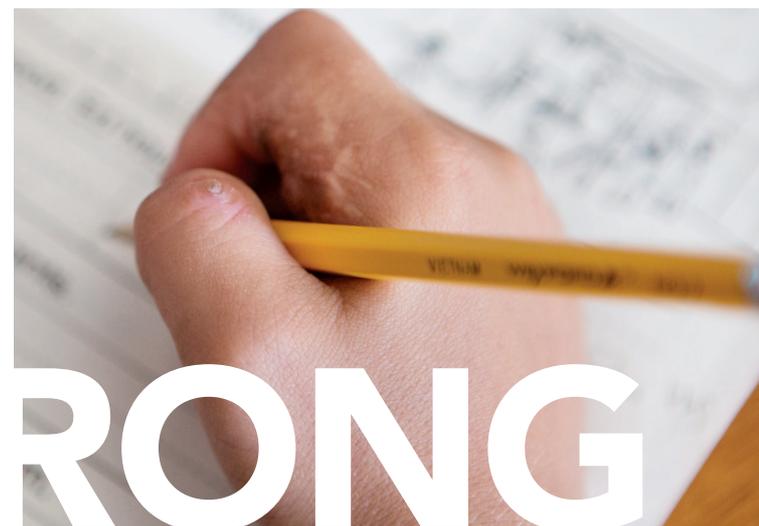
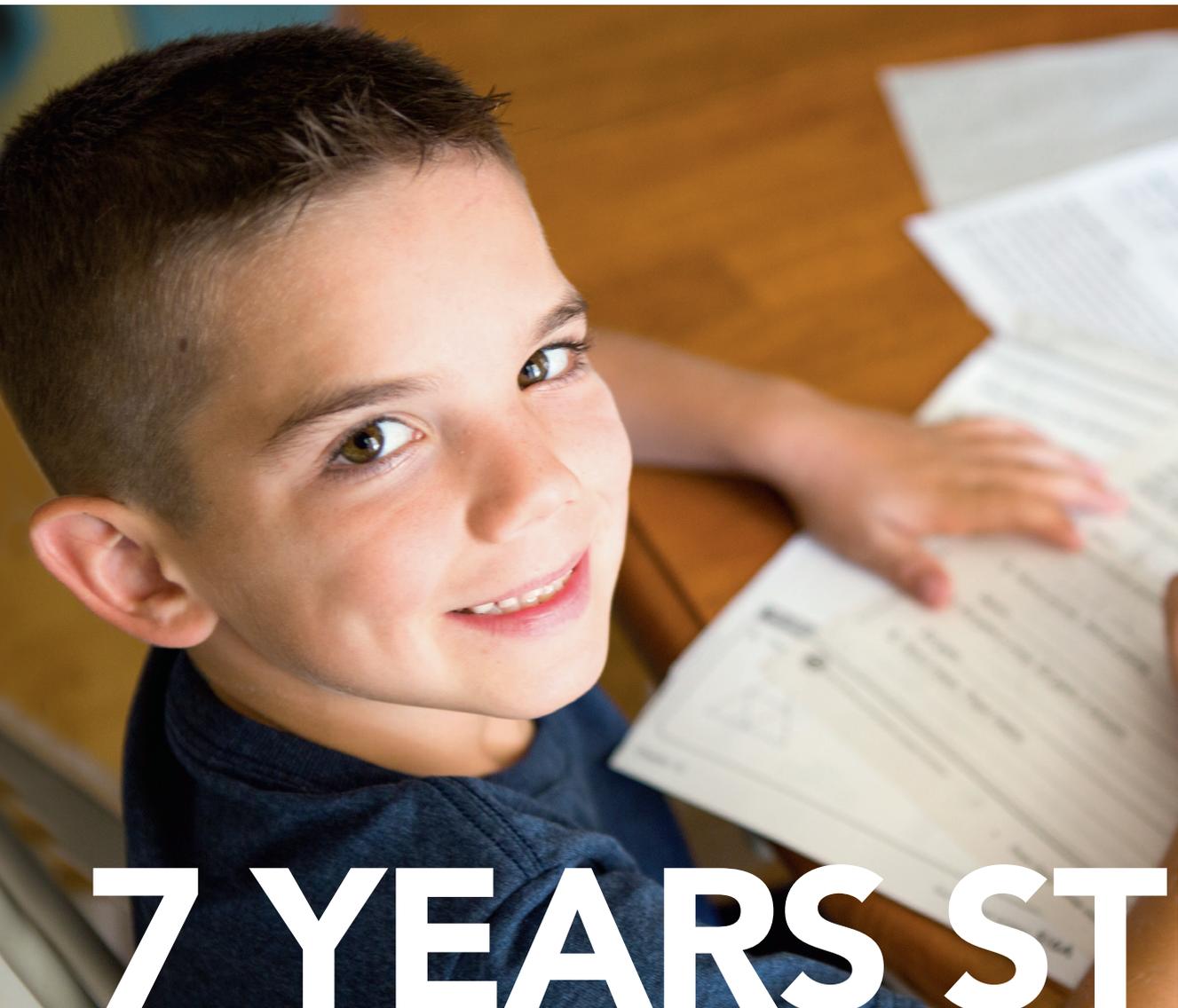
Tanner is thriving,  
thanks to SJCH's  
expert team

*San Joaquin Community Hospital*

 **Adventist Health**

**WHERE PASSION MEETS COMPASSION.**

*Read how SJCH makes a caring difference—near and far.*



# 7 YEARS STRONG AND COUNTING

*When Tanner was badly burned as a baby, The Burn Center at SJCH was there to give him specialty care—and it continues to provide that expertise today*

**Tanner**, like most kids his age, is a lively, happy boy. But the 7-year-old's story is far from typical. It includes this heart-stopping turn of events: a baby boy is badly burned and rushed to the hospital.

"Tanner was 11 months old and very active, more active than my other kids," says his mother, Jennifer Woodard. One evening, the family lit a fire in their fireplace to enjoy. Jennifer left the

room only for a moment. It was in that minute that their lives changed drastically.

"Tanner wasn't able to walk yet and was crawling and climbing on things," Jennifer says. "Somehow he managed to get his leg up on the fireplace and fell hands first into the fire and coals."

Tanner's brother, Wyatt, who was 5 at the time, pulled Tanner out of the flames and yelled for his mom. "I knew immediately that he needed medical attention," Jennifer says. "His little hands had swollen to two or three times what they normally were."

## **A new place with top expertise**

Jennifer recalls being taken by ambulance with Tanner to the newly opened Burn Center at San Joaquin Community Hospital (SJCH). In fact, Tanner would be only the second patient to be treated in The Burn Center.

When they arrived, Jennifer felt sure they were in the right place. "I had tunnel vision," she says. "I really only remember people from the knees down. It was such a blur. I remember a surgeon coming to talk to me, and he was wearing sandals. That's when I realized he had come in from somewhere else just to help my son."



**Did you know?** Nearly 3 out of every 4 burn injuries happen at home.

## Community support makes a difference

Bakersfield law firm Chain Cohn Stiles remains a major supporter of The Burn Center at San Joaquin Community Hospital (SJCH). In fact, the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at SJCH is called the Chain Cohn Stiles Burn Center ICU.

“The law firm represents people who are injured, including with burns,” says attorney Matt Clark. “We see firsthand the need for expert burn care in our community. Because of The Burn Center at SJCH, people who need burn care don’t have to travel out of town and can have their loved ones nearby.”

Chain Cohn Stiles is just one of the many incredible partners that continue to support Kern County’s first burn center. Other valued supporters include Aera Energy, Chevron, KGET-TV 17, Sturgeon and Sons, Hall Ambulance and the Bakersfield city and Kern County fire departments.



The doctor who came in that night was Brandon Freeman, MD, Medical Director of The Burn Center (pictured at right).

Dr. Freeman performed surgery on Tanner that night. “I knew then that they weren’t just going to bandage Tanner’s hands and send us home,” says Jennifer. “This was really serious, and it was going to be a long road to recovery.”

Over the years, Jennifer—not sure about the exact number, since there have been so many—estimates that Tanner’s had 10 to 15 surgeries. “As he grows, his fingers curl, and they have to straighten them to release the scar tissue so that they can grow straight,” she explains.

Tanner is looking forward to starting second grade and playing more baseball. He may not remember the night he tumbled into the fire, but his mother certainly does. Jennifer says she’s forever grateful to The Burn Center at SJCH for helping give Tanner his life without limits.

## A legacy of care in Kern County

The Burn Center at San Joaquin Community Hospital (SJCH)—the first of its kind in Kern County—opened in 2009. Before then, area residents in need of specialized burn care had to travel more than 100 miles for treatment—either north to Fresno or south to Los Angeles.

Since opening, The Burn Center has treated more than 3,400 patients—40 percent of those being children. While many things have changed over the years, SJCH’s commitment to providing world-class burn care hasn’t.

### The Burn Center at SJCH features:

- A specialized ICU for treating severe burns
- State-of-the-art technology, including a hydrotherapy suite
- Board-certified plastic surgeons who use advanced burn treatments to reduce scarring
- Outpatient treatment and rehabilitation at The Aera Clinic
- Financial assistance for child burn survivors through The Chevron Fund

### Brandon Freeman, MD

Medical Director,  
The Burn Center at SJCH

Michael Brandon Freeman, MD, is a board-certified plastic surgeon. Dr. Freeman specializes in caring for patients with burns, hand injuries, craniofacial traumas and deformities, as well as those who need reconstruction procedures following cancer treatment.



# ON A MISSION FOR SACRED WORK

*Helping and healing those with little or no access to health care*

**It's her passion,** her mission and her way to share God's love.

Every year for 22 years, Deanna Salyards, a nurse practitioner, has traveled to Guatemala on medical missions with HELPS International.

"I've seen the stories in the Bible come to life," Deanna says. "I've seen the lame walk. I've seen the blind see. I've seen the deaf hear and I've seen people who are near death come back to life. After my first trip, I couldn't go into a store for three months. There are people there who survive on only a tortilla a day. We are truly so blessed."

## **SJCH's dedication to the cause**

During these mission trips, volunteers—including dozens from San Joaquin Community Hospital (SJCH)—help those in desperate need of health care. The hospital also donates the medical supplies needed. "If it weren't for San Joaquin Community Hospital, these mission trips wouldn't happen," Deanna says.

From gloves, gowns and face masks to medications and IV fluids, SJCH fills requests from several organizations who provide care to people



**GIVING SMILES:**  
SJCH employees pose for a quick photo while serving in Guatemala.



# SERVICE

**CARE ACROSS BORDERS:** In May 2016, **93 volunteers** served on a mission trip for **10 days**, typically working **18 hours** a day to help more than **2,800 people** in Guatemala.

in Guatemala, the Philippines, Africa and Nepal.

SJCH recognizes it is part of a family of global health care providers and urges employees to participate in national and international mission projects that are medical- or construction-related. For its employees, SJCH provides matching paid-leave hours for up to 20 hours per year. Volunteers pay their own travel expenses.

### Important and rigorous work

Many SJCH employees volunteer to be a part of mission trips. Not all of them are medical staff, but they all play a vital role in helping people in these countries where access to health care is so limited.

In May 2016, for example, 93 volunteers traveled to Guatemala on a 10-day mission. "This was the largest group of SJCH

employees to go on the Guatemala mission trip," Deanna says.

By the end of the second day of the trip, the group had helped more than 800 patients, including 80 people who received much-needed surgeries. Hundreds of people had eye surgeries to restore their vision. All of the eye surgery patients returned home on the same day. In a large group setting, they all received care instructions and were able to take off their eye patches.

Many of these people hadn't been able to see for years; some for decades. "It's truly one of the highlights of mission work," Deanna says. "It moves you to tears along with them...they are so grateful."

To touch as many lives as possible, the team works 18-hour days. "You are so tired; everything in your body hurts. But the help we give people truly changes you and your perspective about what is important in life," Deanna says. "On a mission trip, you can see how Jesus is actively involved in our lives today."

## Changing lives

**A WORLD IN NEED:** Every year, San Joaquin Community Hospital (SJCH) employees embark on mission trips around the globe.

Mission trips are encouraged at SJCH. Employees are given time to use specifically for mission trips. The hospital also donates thousands of dollars in medical supplies each year for mission trips.

In 2015, SJCH employees embarked on dozens of mission trips across the globe. In 2016, hospital employees have been a part of numerous trips so far.



## DEDICATION



### Get involved

To support or volunteer on a future mission trip, visit [HelpsIntl.org](http://HelpsIntl.org). You can even join or directly support Team Salyards.



### SEEING IS BELIEVING:

In Guatemala, hundreds of people had sight-restoring surgery.

# GONE **BUT** KNOT FORGOTTEN



*ICU nurses offer families sweet gifts of remembrance*

**With caring hands,** two Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nurses at San Joaquin Community Hospital (SJCH) spend an afternoon cutting and tying knots in polar fleece. They chat as they work. It's a labor of love for these nurses who hope to bring a little comfort to their patients and families while helping heal hearts after a loss.

They're creating blankets for patients to use in their final days. The project, Forget Me Knot, is the mission of two ICU nurses, Kelly Shirley, RN, and Allie Martin, RN. They started it for SJCH's comfort care patients.

Comfort care is medical care that helps or soothes a person who is dying. When a patient at SJCH enters comfort care, families can choose a blanket, a handprint and even a lock of hair from their loved one as keepsakes.

Families often cherish the blankets because they may be one of the last things their loved one uses before they pass. After a death, loved ones can take the blanket home and snuggle with it themselves. It's a way to comfort family members in their grieving process, and it's also very therapeutic for the nurses who make the blankets and care for these special patients.

"It gives you something else you can do for a family in a helpless situation," Kelly says.

*"We feel so blessed to be a part of this incredible project."*

—Allie Martin, RN (at right), and Kelly Shirley, RN, founders of the Forget Me Knot project at SJCH.



## YOU CAN HELP TOO

If you'd like to donate time or money to the Forget Me Knot project, please contact the San Joaquin Community Hospital Foundation by calling **661-869-6570** or clicking on "Giving Back" at [sjch.us](http://sjch.us).

To watch Allie and Kelly's story, go to [sacredworkstories.org](http://sacredworkstories.org).



## Providing a comforting gift of compassion

When Gene Garibaldi passed away rather suddenly, his family received a hand-tied blanket and handprint.

Gene seemed healthy before he was rushed to San Joaquin Community Hospital (SJCH) with a tear in his aorta, the major artery carrying blood from the heart. It was incredibly difficult to lose a loving husband and father, but the Garibaldis were consoled knowing he had been comfortable and well cared for in the ICU.

### SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO

"It meant the world to us knowing my dad had incredible care while at San Joaquin Community Hospital. Not only did the nurses take care of him, they gave us something to hold on to," Mark Garibaldi recalls, talking about the handmade blanket.

"After he passed away, the nurses also made a handprint and were so gentle and caring—just amazing care. It meant a lot to my entire family. We can't thank the nurses and staff enough."



*I thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday, and days before that too. I think of you in silence, I often speak your name. All I have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is my keepsake, with which I'll never part. God has you in his keeping, I have you in my heart.*

**TOP:** From left are Mark Garibaldi, Gina Belluomini, Gene and Joan Garibaldi, Anne Meert, and Angie Kobliska.

**BOTTOM:** The family of Gene Garibaldi received his handprint from the ICU nurses.

### With purpose and passion

"Everyone in the ICU is involved in the Forget Me Knot project," Kelly says. "Some people help make blankets, while others donate money for supplies. We've even had families of previous comfort care patients send checks to support our project. One family wrote a letter to the ICU staff stating, 'I have seen a side of nursing that I didn't know existed.'"

Volunteers for the Forget Me Knot project have made hundreds of blankets, and many more are in the works. Nursing students from California State University, Bakersfield, have helped tie knots for the cause. The ICU nurses also hold bake sales to raise money for blanket materials and paint for handprints.

This project is special, not only for the families of the patients but the nurses as well. "I feel so blessed to be a part of this incredible project," Allie says.

Allie and Kelly started giving the blankets to patients in September 2015. Since then, they have handed out some 300 blankets and even more handprints.



## YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

Somewhere within *YOU + US*, we've hidden a pattern of teal and orange diamonds. Find them, take a selfie with the page and post it along with the hashtag **#MeAndSJCH** to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram—and you could win a...

Kindle Paperwhite e-reader



#MeAndSJCH



San Joaquin Community Hospital

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