



Burned children
need your help.

(But this is not for everyone)

How
helping
burned
children
changed
my life

Dear friend,

Over 30 years ago, as a young resident doctor working in Chile, I was heartbroken when I encountered for the first time a young patient that had been severely burned. Because this young girl came from a very poor family, the prognosis for her rehabilitation was grim. My colleagues at the hospital bluntly told me that there was “no hope for someone like her.” The resources needed for her long-term healing were simply non-existent.

I decided I wouldn't take “No” for an answer and set out instead to find a way to treat this child no matter what it would take. This was no easy undertaking. Burned children are extremely complicated cases because in youths, scar tissue doesn't grow in the same manner as normal skin. And for severe cases, rehabilitation can take up to 15 years. Despite the complexity of the task, I found that with the implementation of innovative strategies, I was able to treat my first burned child patient successfully.

After this first small victory, I could tell a small shift had taken place inside me. This single event propelled me on a lifelong journey for the rehabilitation of burned children. I found myself wholly driven by a dream many still described as “impossible.” I had a purpose.

My vision was to create a non-profit organization, dedicated to the comprehensive rehabilitation of burned children, offering holistic treatments that involved plastic surgery, physical and psychological therapy—free of charge. I believed in this mission because in my heart I knew people would come together around the cause of helping these children. And I was right.

Today, I'm happy to share with you that our foundation, COANIQUEM, has treated over 100,000 children in South American countries and the Caribbean Islands, thanks to the generous support of our community of donors.

There's more, though. As you know, knowledge is power, so in order to expand our impact we created an innovative, comprehensive e-learning program for medical professionals. In addition, we're releasing year-round prevention and educational campaigns for the general public. And this is only the beginning. The rehabilitation of burned children is an urgent, global problem and our goal is to continue growing so we can touch more lives.

In urge you to discover more about COANIQUEM and invite you to imagine how you could impact the life of a burned child. As you now understand, this is not for everyone. Because this is such a unique problem, it takes a special type of person to help a burned child.

Helping burned children changed my life forever and for the better. If you're curious and would like to make a difference, please join us because I promise, it will change your life as well.

In friendship,

Dr. Jorge Rojas-Zegers, MD
COANIQUEM Founder

A Critical Need

Seven million children in Latin America suffer burn injuries each year due to risks within the home, like the widespread use of open fire for cooking, scalds, and fireworks.

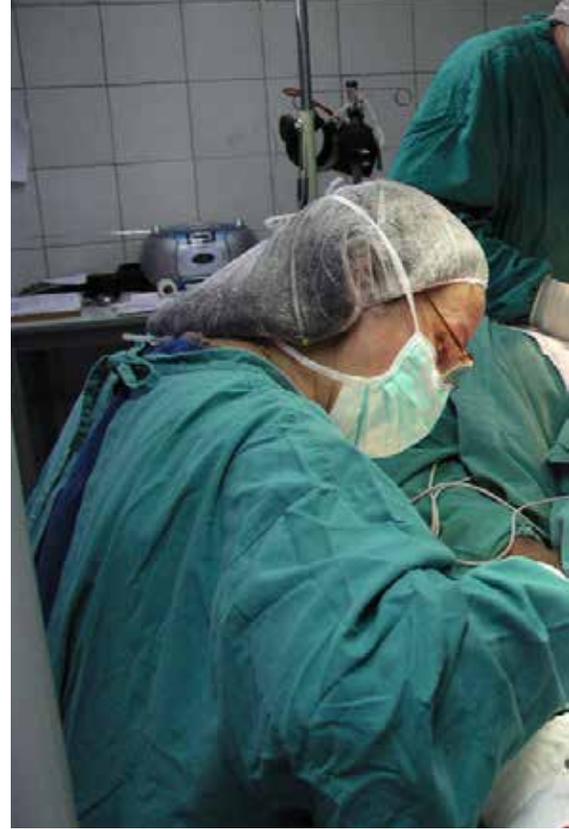
Without immediate and proper attention, they are left with physical and psychological damage they will carry with them in their entire lives.

For many years, these children had few options to help them through the long healing process. Many were unable to finish their schooling, get jobs or enjoy normal lives. Ultimately, most became a burden on their families or relied on meager public assistance just to survive.

In 1979, Dr. Jorge Rojas-Zegers established in Chile the Corporación de Ayuda al Niño Quemado COANIQUEM, a nonprofit institution that offers physical and psychological treatment and spiritual support to children without any cost.

Since its founding, COANIQUEM has provided treatment to over 100,000 Latin American children and today treats over 8,000 patients annually.





COANIQUEM currently operates three rehabilitation centers in Chile — One is in the Capital, Santiago, and the others are located 1,000 km north and south, in the cities Antofagasta and Puerto Montt. More than 150 professionals staff the facilities, including pediatricians, dermatologists, physiatrists, plastic surgeons, psychologists, physical, musical and occupational therapists, nurses, social workers, teachers and technicians. The staff is supplemented by hundreds of volunteers.

Inside COANIQUEM



In order to meet the needs of these young burn victims, Dr. Rojas-Zegers and his staff pioneered an approach called “integrated Healing” — a holistic program that includes:

- Physical healing, including plastic surgery, scar compression and rehabilitation using exercises and special devices.
- Psychological treatment of trauma, post traumatic stress disorder and anxiety disorders for both the children and the families.
- Education provided to school aged children by trained teachers, at bedside when required by the extent of the treatment.
- Spiritual support to help the child develop the inner strength and resolve necessary to deal with his injuries.

While children are being treated at the Rehabilitation Center, COANIQUEM provides teachers so that they do not fall behind in their studies. The children and their parents receive free room and board at Casabierta, one of the facilities of COANIQUEM.

In addition to medical services, COANIQUEM develops and circulates burn prevention literature. Also, in cooperation with government agencies and the private sector, COANIQUEM organizes and conducts campaigns to increase public awareness of fire hazards and burn prevention activities.

You can help in

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Sponsorship Program

One of the most meaningful ways to support the work of COANIQUEM is to sponsor the treatment of one of COANIQUEM's young patients. Each sponsor will receive progress reports, getting this way an update of the rehabilitation process. For information about this program, please visit our website:

www.burnedchildren.org

easy ways

To assist in raising funds necessary to provide treatment for more children you may contribute to COANIQUEM BCF, the Burned Children Foundation, a private nonprofit established in the US in 1998. Your donation may be deducted from your federal income tax according to COANIQUEM BCF tax exempt status - Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Tax Deductible Contributions

COANIQUEM BCF also welcomes cash contributions in any amount. Checks may be made out to COANIQUEM BCF and mailed to the following address:

Carolyn Schuetz, Treasurer/Director
29 Palm Beach Lane, Alameda CA 94502
USA

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Special Events

Throughout the year, COANIQUEM BCF sponsors special events and fundraisers in cities across the United States. To learn more about other ways to support the work of COANIQUEM BCF, email us at:

cschuetz@coaniquem.cl



Locations of Coaniquem & Partners

- US BCF Directors
- Chile Rehabilitation Centers

Helping & Healing

COANIQUEM & Friends

Since Exxon Mobile's sponsorship, the following Institutions and Organizations have been included as benefactors:

PADF- Pan American Development Foundation

PAHO- Pan American Health Organization

UNDP - United Nations Development Program

Probono Foundation

Vance Center Foundation

New York City Bar Association

Royal Caribbean

Art Center College of Design, Pasadena

Rotary Supporters

District 5170 California Clubs:

Alameda, CA. USA

Dublin, CA. USA

Livermore, CA. USA

Pleasanton North, CA. USA

Newark

Oakland #3

Los Altos

Scotts Valley

COANIQUEM's Relationships with Rotary

COANIQUEM continues to have warm relationships with Rotary Clubs in Chile and the USA. These relationships have resulted in considerable tangible help, both financial (Rotary Humanitarian Grants), and volunteers to support fund-raising and other activities. We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by the Rotary Clubs and District listed in the margin.

If your Rotary Club or District would like to join our growing network of supporters, please contact us to learn more.

Other Clubs:

Washington, DC. USA

Santiago, Chile

Antofagasta, Chile

Pigeon Forge, TN



It takes a special
person to help
a burned child.

You can help today, please visit
www.burnedchildren.org

for further information contact
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