

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fire department earns “top” sponsor award from Burned Children’s Fund Ongoing can drive helps child burn survivors



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Simpsonville, S.C. — The Simpsonville Fire Department has received the Top “FD” Sponsor award for raising more than \$10,000 for the S.C. Firefighters’ Burned Children’s Fund.

Simpsonville firefighters raised \$10,274.39 between 2017 and 2018 from aluminum cans donated by the public. Lt. Jon Thompson, who oversees the fire department’s can drive, said the effort was the first time more than \$10,000 was donated.

“The Burned Children’s Fund provides funding for the non-medical items and services that are critical to the recovery of pediatric burn patients,” Thompson said.

Those items and services include wound dressings and rehabilitation.

“If a child has gotten burned to the extent of making it hard for them to live, we pay for the rehab for them to try to continue a normal life as much as possible,” Thompson said.

Year-round the fire departments across the state collect aluminum cans from the public to turn in for cash. All five Simpsonville fire stations have trailers for collecting cans. Thompson stressed the fire stations are always collecting aluminum cans.

All money raised goes straight to the Burned Children’s Fund and its affiliate the Medical University of South Carolina.

Thompson said the Simpsonville Fire Department has “regulars” who continue to drop off their aluminum cans. If firefighters see someone dropping off the cans, they greet the person and explain the program.

“Once we explain to the public these cans benefit children who have been burned in South Carolina and throughout the Southeast, they’ll continue to bring their cans to us,” Thompson said. “That money doesn’t benefit the fire department or city one bit. What the money does benefit is children who have been burned.”

The public and businesses are also welcome to make cash donations.

Firefighter Corey Christian said a lot of families with burned child survivors lack the insurance and access to care they need after initial treatment.

“Those kids who go to the camps and get treatment come from very low-income families,” Christian said.

The Burned Children’s Fund also recognized Thompson for “exceptional service” to the Fund and Camp “Can” Do, a summer camp on Seabrook Island for children with more severe burns. Camp “Can” Do is for 6-17 year olds who get to fish, explore the beach, enjoy campfires, do arts-and-crafts and learn a very important lesson.

“We explain that whatever might happen throughout the campers’ lives, their scars don’t make them any different from anyone else,” Thompson said.



Simpsonville firefighters raised more than \$10,000 for the S.C. Firefighters’ Burned Children’s Fund through collecting aluminum cans. The Simpsonville Fire Department welcomes the public to drop off cans at any of the five fire stations to support the Fund.

Front row, left to right: Chris Schongar, Jon Thompson, Nathaniel Henderson, Michael Bishop
Back row, left to right: Chad Meyers, Kevin Young, Corey Christian, Jerry Tyssdal



Lt. Jon Thompson of the Simpsonville Fire Department was recognized for “exceptional service” to the S.C. Firefighters’ Burned Children’s Fund and Camp “Can” Do, a summer camp in South Carolina for children with severe burns. The Simpsonville Fire Department participates in the Burned Children’s Fund by collecting aluminum cans for recycling.

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**—Lt. Jon Thompson,
Simpsonville Fire Department**

The Simpsonville Fire Department sent Thompson and firefighters Robert Hurts and Jamal Mack to the 2017 camp. Camp “Can” Do Director Ryan Howard nominated Thompson to attend the 2018 International Association of Firefighters International Burn Camp.

Howard, the MUSC Children’s Health Surgical and Burn Program manager, wrote in a letter Thompson is an “exceptional asset” to Camp “Can” Do.

“(Thompson) has been with our camp for over a decade and prides himself with going above and beyond not only at camp but working daily within his community to raise awareness of our organization,” Howard wrote.

Thompson encourages the “regulars” to continue donating aluminum cans and invites those who have not yet donated to begin doing so.

“It’s great to know there’s somebody there to help who is outside of your family,” Thompson said.

For more information about the S.C. Firefighters’ Burned Children’s Fund and how to donate aluminum cans to the Simpsonville Fire Department, contact Lt. Jon Thompson at jthompson@simpsonvillefd.com.

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The public may drop off aluminum cans at the following locations:

- Simpsonville Fire Department headquarters: 403 E. Curtis St.
- Fire Station 2: 9 Capewood Road
- Fire Station 3: 839 Highway 14
- Fire Station 4: 1375 Neely Ferry Road
- Fire Station 5: 400 E. Standing Springs Road

Photo by Justin Lee Campbell



Simpsonville Fire Station 3 on Highway 14 has a trailer where the public can drop off aluminum cans to benefit the S.C. Firefighters’ Burned Children’s Fund.



Simpsonville firefighters Lt. Jon Thompson, Robert Hurst and Jamal Mack were counselors in 2017 at Camp “Can” Do, a summer camp on Seabrook Island for 6-17 year olds with severe burns.



Lt. Jon Thompson of the Simpsonville Fire Department with campers at Camp “Can” Do



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