

Education News & Notes

SHRINERS HOSPITALS PREP YOUNG ADULTS FOR LIFE AFTER BURNS

(NAPSA)—As a schoolteacher at the Cincinnati Shriners burn hospital, Lori Anderson met many teens who had either dropped out of school, had no vocational training or simply just did not know where to go with their lives.

Six years ago, Anderson and other members of the hospital's burn team developed the Transitions Committee to help youngsters at the Cincinnati Hospital manage these complex issues.

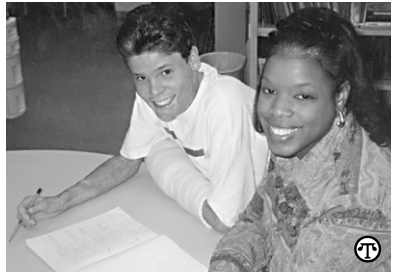
Young adolescents have many issues to deal with as they recover from a burn injury, so that focusing on school, vocational training and other issues are not seen as a priority. But, as their medical needs decrease, a sense of normalcy sets in and allows these patients to start considering their future.

Andrew Foy was 13 years old when he was burned in a gasoline accident. Anderson made sure Andrew's injury did not interfere with his schoolwork. The youngster recalled, "I was flat on my back and Lori was in my room asking me math questions. She instilled in me a desire to not let the injury get the best of me."

Today, Andrew, 17, is getting A's in his chemistry and math classes at Eau Gallie High School in Florida. He hopes to attend a Big Ten university when he graduates, majoring in architecture.

When Andrew and other patients with similar needs return to the hospital for inpatient stays or clinic appointments, Anderson maintains contact with them, sharing resources on scholarships, college applications and vocational opportunities. Recently, a student came to Anderson, seeking advice on college scholarships.

"We've done a lot of research and surveys, finding out what our current and former patients are



When he took part in the Cincinnati Shriners Hospital's transitions program, Andrew Foy, 17, left, said that Lori Anderson, transitions coordinator, motivated him to succeed.

doing in the real world," Anderson stated. "As a burn center, we helped these children survive a serious injury, but we needed to continue to support these life issues with them, well after the medical care has been resolved."

This year, Anderson moved from a role she has had the past eight years—as the patient education supervisor—to full-time transitions coordinator for the pediatric burn center. In this new role, she now has more time to devote to help kids like Andrew get all they can out of life.

For more information on Shriners' network of 22 hospitals that provide medical care and services totally free of charge to children with orthopaedic problems, burns and spinal cord injuries, write to: Shriners International Headquarters, Public Relations Dept., 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607, or visit the Web site at www.shrinershq.org. Treatment is provided to children under age 18 without regard to race, religion or relationship to a Shriner.

If you know a child Shriners can help, call 1-800-237-5055 in the United States, or 1-800-361-7256 in Canada.