

MEMBERS HELPING OTHERS

Varshock Family Update and Holiday Magic

by Karin Wick

Many of you have asked how the Varshock family, particularly Richard, has been doing since the devastating fires in October. I'm pleased to tell you that the final tally came to \$10,200.00 which our very generous CASD members donated to The Varshock Family Foundation and/or Dianne Varshock individually. The Varshock Family Foundation has created a website at: www.varshock.org which is very easy to navigate and allows anyone still interested in donating to do so online. I encourage anyone who is able to please donate to this deserving family who lost everything in the October wildfires.

I caught up with Dianne recently and she remains very grateful for the outpouring of support from the entire community, including our group of very generous CASD members! She told me that after Richard was released from the UCSD Burn Unit in January, she and Richard recently settled into an apartment close to Valhalla High School where, against so many odds, Richard has been able to return to school for the spring semester! He was burned on more than half of his body so this is truly amazing.

According to Dianne, Richard is doing remarkably well and has regained much of his stubborn "teenage boy" spirit – especially when dealing with his ongoing therapy which is a very painful process for him. While the donor sites on his legs have healed beautifully and his muscles remain intact, he is having some trouble regaining full motion of his arms because of the numerous skin grafts. Richard continues to wear a full burn suit and gloves which make it difficult for him to write in school and he is currently awaiting a fitting for a "clear-mask" that will be more comfortable for his facial burns -- as donor grafting was done over most of his face as well.

Although Richard's road toward recovery remains long and painful, Dianne is very grateful to have her son with her and together they continue to face their future without Richard's father and Dianne's husband, Tom Varshock, with grace, optimism and hope.

Good Time Charlie's: Over the holidays, our own **Dan Krinsky** and Shawn Kelly took part in their yearly guest bartending gig at "Good Time Charlie's" in Pacific Beach. Bar owner, Charlie Somal, donated all tip proceeds from Dan and Shawn's efforts to benefit the youth at Father Joe's Villages. CASD members and plaintiff attorneys who were either present or made donations were: **Ajay Kwatra, David Sullivan** and **Eric Rivera** and total donations raised were: \$2,642.00! This year, a matching donation was also made by the former owner of Metabolife here in San Diego, and Dan was able to hand deliver the final check for **\$5,284.00** to Father Joe while on the Roger Hedgcock radio broadcast! Our organization has long history with Father Joe, and in next month's issue I'll talk more about the upcoming Red Boudreau Dinner which also benefits Father Joe's Villages and St. Vincent de Paul!

In the meantime, please keep using the list serve to let all of our CASD members know about charity events and/or organizations we are involved in that could use volunteers, donations, or fundraising efforts. You may also forward information about any such efforts to me directly: kwick@kwicklaw.com, or call at 619-544-9425.