

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Strength, Joy, and Community: LA General Medical
Center's Burn Survivor Holiday Party Celebrates Over 155
Families**

LOS ANGELES, CA — Los Angeles General Medical Center, home to one of Southern California's most renowned burn centers, brought holiday cheer to over 155 burn survivors and their families during its Annual Burn Survivor Holiday Party on Saturday December 21, 2024. This heartwarming event celebrated the strength and recovery of survivors while fostering a sense of community and connection.

As one of only three verified burn centers in Southern California, Los Angeles General Medical Center's Burn Center is recognized for its world-class treatment of burn injuries and holistic patient care. The center offers not only expert medical treatment but also vital rehabilitation services and community outreach programs, empowering patients to heal physically and emotionally.

A Celebration of Strength and Community

The Burn Survivor Holiday Party was an unforgettable day filled with laughter, connection, and support. Survivors and their families enjoyed a wide range of activities, including arts and crafts, live music, a photo booth, caricature drawings, and a delicious holiday meal. Santa's arrival and toy distribution, courtesy of Spark of Love and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, created magical moments for the youngest attendees.

A highlight of the event was a moving performance by Audra Bryant, a burn survivor and singer, whose story of resilience inspired everyone in attendance. The joy continued with music by Brian Frank and visits from character Storm Troopers and Fergus, a beloved therapy dog and burn survivor himself.

The event was made possible thanks to the generosity and dedication of community partners. The Children's Burn Foundation provided gifts, food, and entertainment, while the Art of Elysium contributed face painting and musical performances. Additional support came from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation, and student volunteers from the Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health. Panda Express and the Los Angeles General Volunteer Department also played key roles in ensuring the day was a success.

A Legacy of Excellence in Burn Care

Los Angeles General Medical Center's Burn Center continues to lead the way in burn care, treating hundreds of patients annually and serving as a national model for comprehensive treatment and recovery. The Burn Center's commitment to excellence extends beyond the hospital walls, offering patients and families the opportunity to heal and thrive through initiatives like the Burn Survivor Holiday Party.

"Events like these remind us of the incredible resilience of our patients and the power of community," said Dr. Justin Gillenwater, Burn Director, Chief of Burn Surgery "Seeing the joy on the faces of our survivors and their families reinforces why we do what we do."

For many survivors, the event represents a milestone in their recovery journey, offering them the chance to connect with others who have faced similar challenges and share their experiences in a supportive and celebratory environment.

