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Dear District President:

The charity I've chosen this year is the MetroHealth Burn Fund.

In the 1960's the Shriners built the first two Children's Burn Hospitals, one in Boston and the other in Cincinnati. The MetroHealth Burn Center officially opened for patient care in 1969 as the 6th Burn Unit in the country, with Dr Richard Frattiane as Director.

At that time, Ed Easton, President of Al Koran Shriners in Cleveland met with Dr Frattiane. The Shriners were already aware of the difficulties of attracting and retaining quality medical staff for this specialty and presented personal checks from 3 individual Shriners, each in the amount of \$10,000 to seed a MetroHealth Burn Fund. The hospital had recently changed from a city owned facility to a county owned hospital and this fund helped purchase some equipment for the new unit.

In 1982 Alcoa Aluminum contacted Dr Frattiane to collect aluminum cans for recycling and project ACBC – Aluminum Cans for Burned Children began with reimbursement to the Burn Fund at 1 cent per can. Dr Frattiane reached out to firefighters from 5 Northeast Ohio counties to assist with the project and the first 4 years added an incredible amount to the Burn Fund.

Over the years, the Burn Fund has financed many worthwhile projects. Just to name a few, it pays for burned children to attend special camps; for the purchase of 2 'Traveling Firehouse' units where firefighters could talk one on one with children about how to recognize fire and how to escape safely; college scholarships for children who survive their stays in the Burn Unit; firefighters to buy and install smoke detectors in homes of the elderly at no cost; the ability to attract teachers, social workers, lawyers and doctors specializing in burn treatment; training by the Phoenix Society and annual retreats for the Burn Survivors Support Group.

Today Dr Frattiane is Director Emeritus of the Comprehensive Burn Care Center at MetroHealth Medical Center and leads the Burn Survivor Support group. He has donated every honorarium for speaking engagements to the Burn Fund, totaling somewhere between \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Each year, the American Cruisers Club in Cleveland holds a car show fundraising event to benefit the Burn Fund.

Frequently family and friends of patients who have died while in the MetroHealth Burn Unit make donations to the Burn Fund in lieu of flowers. Our family did that when my brother Brian died in early 2015.

Please consider a donation to this worthwhile charity and make checks payable to the 3rd District Association, indicating MetroHealth Burn Fund on the memo line and mail to State Secretary, Lynn Miller-Penegor.

Thank you, Bless you!