

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Rich Casias

Rich Casias is a Phoenix SOAR (Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery) Instructor, Peer Supporter, Online Chat Moderator, Phoenix World Burn Congress Volunteer, and, more recently, assisted in doing virtual peer support for the Maui wildfire survivors. He always steps up when needed!

Rich survived a severe airplane crash and was treated for his burn injuries and traumatic brain injury at the Oregon Burn Center. While he was still in the hospital, his surgeon connected him to a former patient of his, Pam Maxon, who sustained similar leg injuries. Pam listened to Rich and introduced him to the upcoming stages of his recovery process. Rich was so appreciative of her friendship and the hope she brought him during visits that he later trained to become a burn survivor peer supporter through the Phoenix SOAR program.

Today, Rich has made it his mission to be there for other burn survivors, listen, and help guide them and their families to cope with and begin their recovery journey. He finds participating in a survivor's burn recovery as a trained Peer Supporter very rewarding. Peer support allows him to help the "newbies" and long-time survivors alike develop their own approach for successful and productive burn recovery.

Photo provided by Anna Webber.

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Bill Hinton

Bill Hinton served 23 years as a firefighter for the Prince George's County Fire Department before joining the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Development team and has spent 10+ years volunteering with Phoenix Society.

Bill has connected us and directly worked with many regional and national fire service departments, as well as local organizations, to help with the logistics, personnel, staffing, apparatus, communication devices, and safety measures for various events throughout Phoenix WBC, especially the Walk of Solidarity and Opening Ceremony. These signature events were made possible by Bill's efforts and many volunteers like him. Thank you, Bill, for your commitment to the burn community and for helping to ensure events at Phoenix WBC 2023 ran smoothly and safely!



Anne Scott

After being burned 27 years ago in an auto accident, Anne Scott is now leading a thriving aftercare program as the Aftercare Coordinator at Oregon Burn Center, a Phoenix SOAR Coordinator, and Phoenix SOAR Peer Supporter.

"Before long I was visiting recently burned patients and their family members. And, to my surprise, I got more out of it than they did. To be vulnerable in front of others at their most vulnerable time. Physically revealing my scars and emotionally sharing my burn truths. Setting the expectation that there are no bad questions or wrong feelings. Who knew one of the most healing things is to share your story? And so began my journey as an aftercare supporter." - Anne

We thank you, Anne, for all that you do to support burn survivors and their families!