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# TRAUMA FOUNDATION

## MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN:

### Over 25 Years of Injury Prevention



The Trauma Foundation, founded in 1981 at San Francisco General Hospital, was established by, and continues to be directed by, Andrew McGuire who was severely burned as a seven-year-old child. Andrew began his injury prevention work in 1974 in Boston, Massachusetts, where he developed and directed *Action Against Burns*, the first survivor advocacy organization for burn victims and their families. This organization, was instrumental in the establishment of a federal fire resistance standard that helped eliminate pajama-related burn injuries to children.

Upon returning to California in 1975, Andrew established the Burn Council. Dr. Donald Trunkey, then Director of the Burn Center at San Francisco General Hospital, offered support for this new organization by inviting the Burn Council to open offices at San Francisco General Hospital.

Among other activities, the Burn Council set up self-help groups for patients and families in the six burn centers in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1981, the Burn Council expanded its mission to include the prevention of all traumatic injuries, including those related to burns, domestic violence, firearms, transportation, the workplace, youth violence, and all injuries involving excess alcohol use. It was renamed the Trauma Foundation.

Today, staff of the Trauma Foundation continue to work with injury survivors who wish to bring meaning to their painful experiences by becoming survivor advocates. The breadth of activities includes data collection and research to support injury prevention policies; policy development; and policy education and information dissemination. With its focus on collaboration, the Trauma Foundation has become an internationally recognized leader in injury prevention and an “incubator” of projects and organizations committed to the prevention of traumatic injuries. Advocates, policy makers, community leaders, educators, the media, and many others have come to rely on the Trauma Foundation’s expertise and experience in the field of injury prevention policy.

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## PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

### Making Policies That Make a Difference

In collaboration with survivor advocates over the past 25 years, the Trauma Foundation:

- 2001** Became a United Nations Non-Governmental Organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, thus enabling the Trauma Foundation to advocate more effectively for injury prevention policies internationally.
- 1999-March, 2001** Created the first national survivor-led effort to prevent gun trauma and to support its victims and survivors, entitled The Bell Campaign. In 1999, this national chapter-based organization was responsible for coordinating the Million Mom March in Washington, DC and in 72 sites around the nation. In 2000, The Bell Campaign was renamed the Million Mom March.
- 1997-present** Provided technical and organizational assistance to a woman, who, after having been locked in a car trunk at gunpoint, advocated for internal release mechanisms to be installed in all car trunks. In 2001, the federal government issued a regulation requiring trunk releases in all cars, starting with 2002 models.
- 1993-present** Served as the policy center (Pacific Center for Violence Prevention) for a ten-year statewide Violence Prevention Initiative to reduce youth violence in California. The Pacific Center's technical assistance to community leaders and policy makers contributed to the passage of five gun bills in 1999, including a ban on the sale and manufacture of junk guns in California.
- 1986-1992** Worked with a bereaved mother to convince the California legislature and Governor to enact a motorcycle helmet law; the law has resulted in significant decreases in deaths and disabling head injuries among motorcyclists.
- 1981** Served on the first Board of Directors and wrote proposals for initial funding for the survivor-led organization MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving); MADD has spurred a nearly 50% reduction in drunk driving deaths and injuries.
- 1978-present** Advocated for fire-safe cigarettes, in collaboration with burn survivors, doctors and nurses, burn centers, fire service organizations, and tobacco control organizations. This coalition worked for the passage of the nation's first fire-safe cigarette bill in New York State, which takes effect in 2003.

collaboration

# compassion

## CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

### Creating Safety Nets for Prevention

Today the Trauma Foundation is:

- Developing a national Survivor Advocacy Network, a comprehensive nation-wide program for survivors of all injuries.
- Working with activists to establish state funding for youth violence prevention in California.
- Coordinating the Violence Prevention Initiative's Academic Fellows program which prepares young health professionals to be effective policy and media advocates for violence prevention.
- Working with community-based organizations in California to form a statewide youth and adult advocacy movement to reduce alcohol-related youth violence and injury.
- Educating the general public about the dangers of leaving children unattended in and around cars, through the Trauma Foundation's Kids 'N Cars program.
- Educating hospitals and healthcare professionals on the use of safe needle devices, to prevent accidental needle-stick injuries and contamination among health care workers.
- Working at the local, state, national, and international levels on the issues of guns and small arms control.
- Promoting a national fire-safe cigarette standard based on New York law.

## LIBRARY SERVICES:

### Providing Information for Change

Information can empower people, but it must first be made accessible to them.

The Trauma Foundation's Library—the largest injury and violence prevention resource in the nation—provides information so that people can advocate for sound injury and violence prevention policy changes. We provide access to both scholarly and lay publications on injury and violence prevention, answer requests for information, and create and distribute fact sheets, information guides and bibliographies. We also provide a clearinghouse of information to an international audience through our suite of web sites.

- Trauma Foundation:  
[www.tf.org](http://www.tf.org)
- Pacific Center for Violence Prevention:  
[www.pcvp.org](http://www.pcvp.org)
- Gun Victims Memorial:  
[www.gunvictimsmemorial.org](http://www.gunvictimsmemorial.org)
- Alcohol-Related Injury and Violence:  
[www.tf.org/tf/alcohol/ariv](http://www.tf.org/tf/alcohol/ariv)
- Survivor Advocacy:  
[www.tf.org/tf/advocates/advocate1.shtml](http://www.tf.org/tf/advocates/advocate1.shtml)
- Kids 'N Cars:  
[www.kidsncars.org](http://www.kidsncars.org)

empowerment

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The Trauma Foundation's mission is to reduce the number of injuries and deaths due to injuries, through prevention, improved trauma care, and improved rehabilitation.



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The Trauma Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and all donations to the Trauma Foundation are tax-deductible.