

# Inspire

NEWSLETTER

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## A Powerful Connection

How Jaime Mendes and PenTeleData give back

A PASSION FOR BETTER MEDICINE.™





**ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE**—It's what inspires Union Historical Society Members (right) Martha and Michael Kush to support Lehigh Valley Health Network and local firefighters like (left) Steve Munsch and Michael Humes from the Allentown Fire Department.

## Support for Burn Care

Union Historical Fire Society is dedicated to burn patients

The Union Historical Fire Society members are bonded by a common interest—the history of firefighting. Members include those interested in the history of fire service, such as collectors, historians, authors and restorers, as well as those who own or appreciate firefighting apparatus, equipment and memorabilia.

One other important interest members share is burn care and prevention.

Retired fireman Mike Kush, membership director for the Society, saw firsthand the trauma burns can inflict. “I was a fireman for 25 years, and I saw people who were burned,” Kush says. “I was interested in seeing our money go to help them.”

To achieve that goal, the society supports Lehigh Valley Health Network’s Regional Burn Center. With support from organizations like the Society, the burn center can provide advanced, leading-



edge care for adults and children with serious, even life-threatening, burns.

The Society's support has included funding for medical equipment, such as a DermScope to magnify and evaluate burns; a laser Doppler and cooling unit for laser treatments, which aid in scar management; and a treatment chair. The Society also contributed funds to name a patient room in the burn center.

Through a fund established with the Burn Foundation of Philadelphia, the Society also helps our youngest burn patients recover from their injuries. Pediatric burn patients receive "burn buddies," special dolls that help them feel less anxious about dressing changes. Through play therapy, the children use bandages to wrap the areas on the doll where they were burned. The impact these burn buddies make inspire Kush.

"When you see children suffering, you want to help them recover," he says.

The Society raises funds through a fire memorabilia show and auction held every April at the Agri-Plex at the Allentown Fairgrounds. The impact makes the work worth it. "We want to help burn victims heal and give them a better quality of life," Kush says.