little over a year ago, Kim Anderson found himself in one of the best places on the planet to experience a horrendous life event.

A flying pan was left unattended on the stove in his Chapel Hill home and, in a blink, flames engulfed the area. Mr. Anderson suffered severe third-degree burns over half of his body and heat-induced injury to his lungs.

His good fortune is that he lives only minutes from the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center in UNC’s Memorial Hospital, one of the busiest and one of the best facilities of its kind in the U.S. and perhaps the world.

“If it hadn’t been for my son helping pull me out of the fire, the firefighters and EMT’s getting me to the Burn Center, and the proximity to the Center, I wouldn’t be alive today,” he believes.

Within minutes of arriving at the Burn Center, Mr. Anderson was triaged to the critical care unit and placed in a medically induced coma. His survival was in question for the first three weeks of his four and a half month stay.

“At that time, I believe they had only one other patient,” he says. “So we were one of the luckiest people in the world.”

Kim Anderson and his wife, Stephanie, who were raising funds to establish a Burn Center.

The first jar of jelly was purchased by John Stackhouse for $10,000. He was the father of the Burn Center idea, which celebrated its 30th year of offering statewide services to burn victims this past February. The Center since its founding has been a partnership of the citizens of the state and the resources of UNC Health Care, serving the needs of burn victims without regard for ability to pay.

“John Stackhouse was an inspiration to us. He had a vision for a Burn Center,” notes Dr. Cairns. “When that occurs, there’s enormous support and response in the Burn Center that is sustained after a patient is discharged, for as long as needed.

“Many burns in North Carolina (we would prefer to be put out of business) it really is possible to return to active, healthy lives.

“Kim Anderson and his wife, Stephanie, did everything they could to make sure I came back and recovered. And they continued to support the Burn Center.”

Kim Anderson, shortly before ending months of treatment in the Burn Center.

“Overcoming Burn Injuries

THE FRUITS OF JELLY

As a youngster growing up in Chapel Hill, Dr. Bruce Cairns remembers his family buying jars of jelly from members of the Jaycees, who were raising funds to establish a Burn Center.

The need for Burn Center treatment is extraordinary. Serving all of the state’s 100 counties, the Center averages about 800 admissions each year to its critical care beds, and provides outpatient clinical services to another 3,500 burn patients.

Kim Anderson and his wife, Stephanie, express their appreciation to the Burn Center by sponsoring a benefit dance-silent auction event that raised nearly $10,000.