

2017 LIGHT OF COURAGE LUNCHEON

With a crowd of over 460 guests the Lights of Courage Luncheon was held at River Oaks Country Club on April 25th. The luncheon honors children with cancer and their families who represent all the thousands of children with cancer and are our lights of courage and inspiration. Their inspiring stories of courage and hope are the highlight of the annual event.

The luncheon was led by our Chairs **Nathalie Cook** and **Stephanie Deverka**, and raised more than \$205,000 for the many families we serve. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to this luncheon!



As guests arrived they sipped on mimosas and shopped at the 19 boutique shops filled with stationery, jewelry, clothing, and decorating accessories. Featured stores included: Andrea Montgomery, Aspire Accessories, Elaine Turner, Emerson Sloan, Gris Designs, India Hicks, Kendra Scott, LC Designs Jewelry, LUCHO, Maison Pernoud, Memorial Design, Monkees of Houston, MUSE, Pomp and Circumstance, Pop Soap Co., Presmer, Santalisa and Shopaholic Sanctuary. Our thanks to these shops who donated 20% of sales in support of the luncheon.

Guest Speaker **Peter Van Sant** had the crowd laughing with his personal video of bloopers and mishaps on air. He then proceeded to share his personal experience with cancer with his mother and mother-in-law. He inspired the audience with his comparison of the Candlelighters community to the Redwoods in California: "Redwoods thrive in thick groves, where the roots can intertwine and even fuse together. This gives them tremendous strength against the forces of nature. This way they can withstand high winds and raging floods."

Carrie Richardson shared her own encouraging story of her family's journey through childhood cancer when her daughter, Peyton, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia-ALL. She spoke of how her family knows firsthand how important the emotional, financial and education services that Candlelighters provides are to parents, children, and siblings living with childhood cancer.

Dr. Frank Lin of Texas Children's Hospital and Dr. Doug Harrison of MD Anderson presented our 2017 Honorees with their awards. Their stories of courage and hope are highlighted in this newsletter. Please continue to page 6 for their stories.

Candlelighters wants to thank Jenna Jackson and her talented crew at P&R Productions for once again producing this year's video. The video was a touching tribute to the families we serve and the impact Candlelighters has made on their lives.

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CANDLELIGHTERS CCFA

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Surprises

The University of Texas MD Anderson
 Children's Cancer Hospital
 July 19, 2017
 Texas Children's Cancer Center
 July 26, 2017

Candlelighters Fun Walk - Royal Walk

September 9, 2017

Camp CLIFF - A Royal Retreat

October 6 - 8, 2017

Fall Festival**St. John's School**

October 22, 2017

Support Group Meeting at MD Anderson:

Every Wednesday 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
 MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital
 Pediatric In-Patient Unit
 Ronald McDonald House Room
 For more information call (713) 792-4891

**Support Group Meeting at
Texas Children's Hospital:**

Every Wednesday • 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
 Texas Children's Hospital - West Tower
 Ronald McDonald's Kitchen - 9th Floor
 For more information call (832) 822-1415

*To stay up to date on Candlelighters events, please check our website at
www.candle.org and follow us on Facebook at Candlelighters Houston*

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We're all settled in and would love for you to come visit our new space!

NEW ADDRESS

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12919 Southwest Freeway, Suite 100
Stafford, TX 77477

SAME NUMBER

(713) 270-4700

WELCOME YUVI!

Yuvisela Sifuentes is 31 years young. Yuvi is originally from Mexico but moved the United States in October 2005, and has lived in Houston ever since. She has been married to her wonderful husband Michael for 13 years. They have two beautiful children, Michael Jr. who is 12 years old and Michelle who is 10 years old. Yuvi is also expecting her third child, a baby boy, who will be here in July.

On August 11, 2010, her life drastically changed when she found out her daughter, Michelle, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). Today Michelle is a long term survivor who has been cancer free for the past 4 ½ years!

We are so excited to have Yuvi as our new Parent Consultant at The University of Texas MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. We are confident Yuvi and Jaynie will make a great team!

From Yuvi,

My mission in life is to help others like they have helped me. I wish to give back in any possible way that I can. Even if it means just bringing a smile to other families, or just to make their day a little better.



LIGHTS OF COURAGE

Cont. from Cover

In addition to shopping, the event featured a raffle which raised more than \$25,000. Congratulations to our raffle winners and many thanks to the generous individuals and businesses who donated the amazing prizes.

2017 LIGHTS OF COURAGE HONOREES:

Chelsea Everett - On Treatment Honoree

The Ballard Family - Sibling Honorees

Amanda Pena - Cancer Survivor Honoree

Morgan Jones - In Loving Memory Honoree

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE MISSION OF CANDLELIGHTERS:

Honors Sponsor:

Stephanie Deverka
Stanton Foundation

Champion Sponsor:

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Danielle Dearing
Christy and Webb Jennings
HG Ash Foundation
J P Morgan Chase
Texas Children's Hospital
Alex and Aron Will
Tiffany Wong





CHELSEA MICHELE EVERETT

Chelsea Everett has always been a bit of a fashionista. From the young age of 3, she had to wear a bow in her hair every day. Those bows had to match and coordinate with her outfit for the day. Once she was dressed, her hair combed and a bow put in the hair or pony tail, she would go to the mirror to be sure the bow she was wearing matched her outfit. She is, and has always been, a very independent young lady. At a very early age it was always, "I can do it myself" and she does it herself!



On August 5, 2016 when she was 9 years old, she was diagnosed with high risk stage 4 Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma. Sarcomas are cancers that develop from connective tissues in the body, such as muscles, fat, bones, the lining of joints or blood vessels. Rhabdomyosarcoma is a cancer made up of cells that normally develop into skeletal muscles.

Chelsea quickly absorbed her diagnosis and with self-determination decided – "I can, and will do, what I have to do to beat this cancer and get on with my life!"

Chelsea goes to every clinic appointment and listens to Dr. Huh and follows his directions. She walked into every radiation treatment with a winning smile, her shoulders back and her head held high.

After all these months, she continues to walk into every chemotherapy treatment, whether in patient or outpatient, with that same winning smile. She is an inspiration to others with her strength and courage as she fights her cancer.

Many times, Chelsea does not feel well, but she does not complain – she perseveres. Chelsea has the amazing strength of a winner. She leads her family and friends to find strength within themselves to walk this journey with her and to win her war. She meets every challenge with her "I can do it" attitude.

Chelsea loves school and is always eager to learn. She misses school, but through her home bound teacher she maintains a straight A report card and remains on task with her 4th grade class.

She likes swimming, playing with dolls, Littlest Pet Shop, girls Lego and spending time with her friends.

Though she has lost her hair due to chemo, she has still found a way to attach a bow, or some bling, to the knitted hats she wears. Always the fashionista!

**IT IS CANDLELIGHTERS HONOR TO PRESENT THE
2017 ON TREATMENT AWARD TO
CHELSEA EVERETT**

THE BALLARD SIBLINGS

In September of 2014, shortly after his 15th birthday, Jacob Ballard hurt his left hip in soccer practice. In November, Jacob commented that his hip was still hurting. He didn't tell his parents that the pain was so severe he was having trouble sitting in a chair or sleeping at night.

Finally, the pain was too much for Jacob and he was rushed to the ER. A pelvic x-ray was ordered. After seeing some abnormalities, an MRI was ordered. Jacob was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare cancer of the bone or soft tissue. The next day Jacob was admitted to the hospital to begin chemotherapy.

During his 10 months of treatment, Jacob had a total of 17 rounds of chemotherapy, spent over 125 days in the hospital, including every holiday and family birthday, received dozens of blood and platelet transfusions, and had several minor surgeries and one massive surgery.

Jacob's major surgery was done at MD Anderson. He had an extremely rare surgery to remove the entire left half of his pelvis. His left leg is no longer attached to his skeleton so he walks on a scar tissue "pseudo-joint." He had 14 months of physical therapy to learn to walk again and regain his strength.

When a child is diagnosed with cancer, the whole family is diagnosed. Siblings are often lost or feel hopeless with parents away for long hours. Despite the long days and nights of treatment, the missed birthdays and holidays, the Ballard siblings remained close.

Jacob's baby sister, Susie, was only 2 when Jacob was diagnosed. Jacob was in the hospital for his second round of chemo on her third birthday a few weeks later. While she didn't understand what was happening or why mommy was suddenly gone almost all of the time, she could always be counted on to give huge hugs and do silly things to make Jacob laugh.

Rachel celebrated her 6th birthday during Jacob's very first inpatient stay. Always the big helper, she helped clean the house while Jacob was in the hospital so it was clean and safe for him to come home.

Sarah was 7 years old and the big sister of the three little girls. She loved to nurture and help explain things to her little sisters. She had the most questions about what was happening and always wanted to know why.

Jonathan was 13, only 2 years younger than Jacob. He had to take on a lot of extra responsibility around the house. When Jacob was feeling well enough, they could play games, watch movies, or talk about their favorite books.

Emily was 17 when Jacob was diagnosed. She has epilepsy and has had to overcome a lot in her life. Emily took over many of the "mom" roles in the Ballard home. She not only continued her own education without any guidance, but also helped the girls with their homework, got them up and ready in the mornings, packed their lunches, and helped with bedtime. She also cared for Susie full-time.

During the year Jacob was sick, his oldest brother Timothy was living in Fortaleza Brazil as a missionary. He returned home one week after Jacob's treatment ended. It was hard to be so far away and only get to email once a week to hear updates. He continued to feel close to his brother and family through praying for Jacob and emailing weekly.

For the Ballard family, Jacob's cancer journey brought them closer together. All of the siblings had to be responsible, grow up fast, and work together as a family unit. They matured beyond their years, and were a comfort to their parents, keeping the family strong while facing childhood cancer together.



**IT IS CANDLELIGHTERS HONOR TO PRESENT THE 2017
SIBLING HONOREE AWARD
TO THE BALLARD FAMILY**

AMANDA PEÑA

In the summer of 1998, Amanda Peña was looking forward to attending junior high. She noticed that she was experiencing body pains and feelings of fatigue. After several visits to the family doctor, Amanda's parents became increasingly concerned.

In early September, just weeks before her 14th birthday, Amanda's parents took her to Texas Children's Hospital. After extensive testing, the doctors confirmed what her parents feared - "your child has cancer". She was diagnosed with ALL- Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. While other adolescents were preparing for an exciting school year, Amanda was preparing for her 2 years of treatment. Unexpected hospital visits, clinic appointments, and fatigue meant missing school and missing friends.

For Amanda, overcoming this battle meant not dwelling on what she couldn't do, but focusing on what she could do, now and in the future. Surrounded by doctors and nurses made her realize that she wanted to give back and one day become a nurse.

After 2 years of homebound school, Amanda's treatment was over and she was ready for high school. She worked hard to maintain her grades, and her hard work paid off when she was accepted at the University of Texas with a scholarship to nursing school.

In 2007, she graduated with honors and accepted a position as a Registered Nurse at Texas Children's Hospital. She was in the very hospital that treated her!

Amidst all the hard work, Amanda met the love of her life, Nicholas, and they married in May of 2014.

Never one to stay still, Amanda enrolled in the University of Texas to become a Nurse Practitioner. She graduated in December of 2016. She has focused her attention on nursing research and quality of care to better improve her patient's quality of life.

Amanda's cancer journey not only changed her life, her whole family was changed. They dedicated their lives to the health care industry. Amanda's sisters, Laurie and Annabelle, are also nurses at Texas Children's Hospital and her mother, Maria, is a Parent Consultant with Candlelighters. Her father, Ignacio, is an active volunteer at Candlelighters.

A diagnosis of childhood cancer can be a life changing event. For Amanda, it not only impacted her and her family, but all the patients she cares for each and every day with the positive outlook that sustained during her treatment. She is an inspiration to all the children and families she serves.

Amanda is a survivor – she survived cancer, she has dedicated her life to nursing, she married her Prince Charming and we are excited to share that Amanda is expecting a baby!



**IT IS CANDLELIGHTERS HONOR TO PRESENT THE
2017 CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVOR AWARD TO
AMANDA PEÑA**

MORGAN JONES

Morgan Taylor Jones, also known as MoJo, was born on April 21, 2004 in The Woodlands, Texas. At only 28 weeks gestation, Morgan came into this world weighing only 1 pound 6 ounces. She proved to be a fighter from day one and was put to the test several times during her first couple of years, always coming out on top! Morgan's heart was pure, her smile magnificent, her faith strong, and a personality as sweet as they come.

In life, Morgan surrounded herself with family and friends. She found her passion in competitive cheer and was known for her smiles and facials as she performed. Making others smile seemed to come naturally for MoJo.

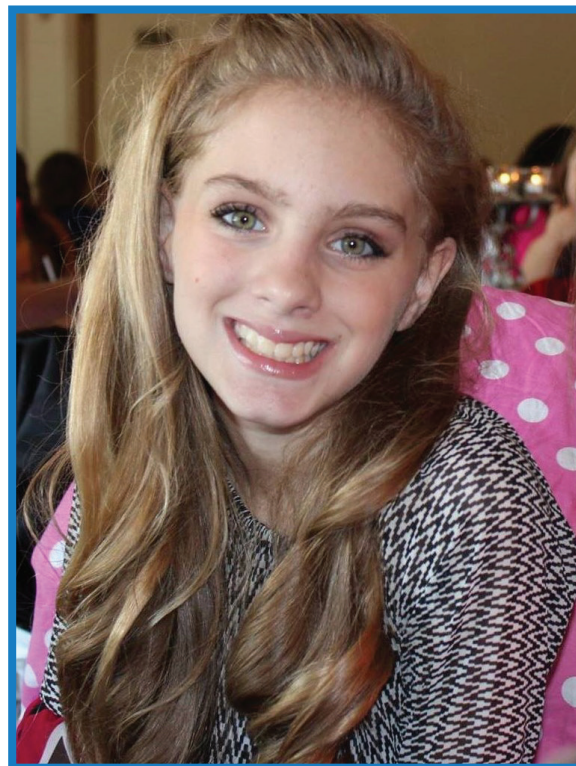
In September of 2014, at 10 years old, Morgan was struggling to tumble during cheer practice and having some pain on her right side. The pain would come and go, but was nothing very intense and she rarely complained about it. After running fevers and several doctor visits, a chest x-ray revealed that Morgan had a soft tissue sarcoma cancer, Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumor.

In true Morgan fashion, she chose to fight "Ralph" - the name she gave her tumor - with a massive team of supporters. Throughout her battle with cancer, she did not let a day go by that she didn't put a smile on her face and a bow high on her head. Morgan exemplified what is known as #positivemojo and the hashtag caught on quickly with her supporters on social media.

During her battle, she underwent surgeries, radiation, and two rounds of different clinical trial chemotherapies. However, her scans in June of 2015 showed the cancer was growing very aggressively.

She joined her family at home and with family and friends by her side, they made a summer of memories to hold onto. On August 5, 2015 Morgan passed away surrounded by love and faith.

Promoting Morgan's #positivemojo and inspiration helps her family and friends hold her close to their hearts and allows her memory to live on.



**IT IS WITH GREAT RESPECT THAT CANDLELIGHTERS PRESENTS THE
2017 IN LOVING MEMORY AWARD TO
THE FAMILY OF MORGAN JONES**

2016 Adopt-A-Family

Thank you to all of our sponsors for bringing holiday cheer to over 300 families. Your generosity brightened the season for over 1,300 family members.

Be on the lookout for 2017 AAF information in October

"We met our adopted family last night and showered them with lots and lots of gifts! They are such a wonderful family. So gracious and so kind. They made us homemade ceviche and even gave all our kids a treat when we left. We had a great time visiting with them."

From a Sponsor

"Thank you for allowing us to take part in this wonderful program. It was so nice to see our whole office come together to help give this sweet family a great Christmas. They were so kind and appreciative! We can't wait to participate again next year!"

From a Sponsor

"This is our first Christmas since our daughter has been diagnosed and we didn't know what to do. I am so appreciative to Candlelighters and our sponsor for helping my family have a Christmas this year."

From a Family

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PICTURES



FALL FESTIVAL

The Candlelighters 2016 Fall Family Festival was a huge success! It took place Sunday, October 30 at St. John's School. Our Candlelighters families enjoyed beautiful weather, music, games, a costume contest and a raffle.

The annual festival celebrated 23 years of festive fall fun and for the past sixteen years, the hosting duties have been overseen by students at St. John's School. The students plan, organize and execute the entire event making this not only a useful learning experience but also helps to plant the seeds of philanthropic endeavors. One of the most popular booths this year was the "Fishing Fun!" booth where contestants actually got to take home a goldfish. Sorry parents!

A special thanks to our sponsors!

Central Bank
The Evans Family
Pam Hennessy
Iberia Bank
Jenna Jackson

Thanks also to our in-kind sponsors: Amy's Ice Cream, Ditta Meat Food Service Company, Coca Cola, Linda Evans, Robert Linares, and St. John's School.



Candlelighters is very grateful for the amazing volunteers who made Fall Family Festival such a special day for our families. Thanks to longtime volunteer and former board member Kay Kempken for her hard behind-the-scenes work and to April Hampton for the many hours they spent volunteering at the Candlelighters office in preparation for the event.

Save the Date for our 2017 Fall Festival: Sunday, October 22nd!

PLANET TEXAS BAR-B-QUE COOKOFF 2017

Our largest crowd EVER of Candlelighters families arrived in four luxury busloads to enjoy the festivities in the Planet Texas Team tent at the 2017 Houston Livestock Show Bar-B-Que Cookoff on Saturday, March 4, 2017. Jim Petree and his chefs provided delicious bar-b-que sandwiches and had cupcakes that made everyone happy.

Jay Beasley, Joanne Crouch, Ray Carter, and Marty Wells organized this year's event including live music and a welcoming committee that included the Houston Texans Cheerleaders.

At the close of the event each child was given a book of rodeo carnival tickets! Thanks to Jay Beasley and the 100 Planet Texas volunteers who helped make this a special day for our Candlelighters' families.

"The first year we hosted Candlelighters, we had 7 people attend. Here we are 14 years later and are hosting the largest crowd we've ever had! It's wonderful to be able to share this experience with so many families," said Ray Carter, who has been part of this event from the beginning. "I'm glad I was able to attend this year with so many families. I almost didn't make it, but if I'm going to be anywhere it is here, on this Saturday, at the Cook Off."

Each year in addition to all the wonderful things Planet Texas does to make Saturday at the Cookoff enjoyable for our Candlelighters' families, they also raise money in memory of a deceased team member, Jeff Primm, to send many of these same families to Camp CLIFF. This year, Primm's Posse raised \$5,300 in donations for Candlelighters to send 34 campers to Camp CLIFF."

The event marked the 14th year that Planet Texas has hosted Candlelighters families. Many thanks to all who were involved in making this day a special one for our families.



9TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE-OFF BENEFITING CANDLELIGHTERS SOMBREROS OFF TO A RECORD-SHATTERING TASTE-OFF!

Candlelighters Young Professionals Group's 9th Annual Margarita Taste-Off presented by Don Julio took place Saturday, March 25th at Kirby Ice House. With beautiful weather and more than 900 guests enjoying the fiesta, our YPG members raised more than \$70,000!

Local restaurants vied for the title of Best Margarita; guests sipped, sampled and voted for their favorite concoction. Don Julio graciously sponsored the tequila to ensure consistency and quality among contestants, and DJ Senega made sure spirits were high with beats all afternoon. Special thanks to Ditta Meat Company, La Fisheria and Texas Tamale Company for providing food to compliment the day's libations. Non-tequila lovers were taken care of by Alamo Beer Company, Bud Light/Silver Eagle Distributors, and Dos Equis.



Guests sampled margaritas from 17 of Houston's hottest restaurants including: Alma Latina, Beaver's, Berryhill, Chuy's, Cilantro's Cocina, Eight Row Flint, Emma's Mex Grill, La Fisheria, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, Gigi's Cupcakes, Habanera & the Guero, Line & Lariat, The Palm, El Patio AKA Club No Minor, El Tiempo Cantina, Los Tios Mexican Restaurant and Texas Shrimp Shack.

A special thank you must go out to our amazing twenty and thirty-something YPG committee: Amanda Abundis, Ashley Angelle, Blayne & Davis Bonham, Emily Deatherage, Allison & Will Evans, Rob and Sterling Evans, Elliott Gabriel, JD Garza, Shireen Hadi, Jeremy Keating, Mary Caroline Lee, Caitlin Maggio, Melanie Miguez, Mary Elizabeth O'Leary, John Rhodes, Shannon Schmidt, Ashley & Jonathan Sloan, Jesse Soto, Albert Spiers, Kelsey & Jeff Tarpinian, Michael Tsang, Shelby Ubrich, Adam Will, and Alex & Aron Will.

Thank you to the event sponsors:

Platinum: Belmont Village Senior Living, CultureMap, Kayne Anderson Energy Funds, Matthew Whitlock

Gold: Chicago Title Commercial, Clovis Point Capital, Alex & Aron Will

Silver: AmWins, Andrews Kurth Kenyon, Bud Light/Silver Eagle Distributors, The Calderwood Group, IBERIA Bank, The O'Brien Family, PrimeLending, Spark Energy, The Tarpinian Family, TAZ Contractors, LLC, Texas Loan Star, Inc.

Bronze: The Ansari Family, Bracewell, Sterling & Rob Evans, ExxonMobil Foundation, Global Aircraft Services, The Holliday Family, The Hurley Family, Op Solutions, Purvey Realty Group, The Sloan Family, The Wang Family, Whitestone Builders, Yellow Cab

Special Thanks: Brittney Berube Photography, Chick Fil-A, Derrick Bryant Photography, Shewillsay.com

Also contributing to the funds raised, were wonderful raffle packages including: a VIP Texans game in GM Rick Smith's suite, Kendra Scott jewelry pull, a weekend getaway to Hill Country, Pedal Party, and a membership to the Red Neck Country Club, just to name a few.

As usual, the most exciting part of the day was announcing the winners of the margarita contest.

The 2017 top award winners were:

1st place Platinum Margarita -	El Tiempo Cantina
2nd place Gold Margarita -	Eight Row Flint
3rd place Silver Margarita -	The Palm
4th place Bronze Margarita -	Habanera & the Guero

Don Julio Critics Choice Awards:
Emma's Mex Grill and La Fisheria

Please Save the Date for the 10th Annual Margarita Taste Off!
Saturday, March 24, 2018!

With questions regarding the event or joining Candlelighters Young Professionals Group, please contact our Development Director, Kelsey Tarpinian at kelseyt@candle.org or (713) 270-4700.



Our heartfelt thanks to all who supported and made this year's Margarita Taste-Off such a successful event.



SCHOOL INITIATIVE



It means so much to the families we serve to have the support of their community, and especially their children's schools. Children facing childhood cancer are often absent from school for long periods and face trials keeping up with school work; it's another uphill battle once they return to school, usually in the middle of their treatment. Knowing they are supported by their school and their situation understood by their peers is invaluable.

We would be so grateful if your school chose to help Candlelighters families by signing up for our **school initiative challenge!**

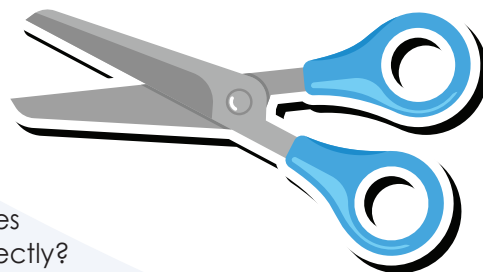
This year, to honor the 20 most common types of childhood cancer – we're challenging YOU, our families, donors, and volunteers, to help us find 20 schools to partake in a Childhood Cancer Awareness and Fundraising Campaign. While September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month – whatever timing is best for your school is just fine.

We have developed several fundraising options that can easily be modified for each school's unique goal to achieve awareness and fundraising success. Your school may choose a program that recognizes individual or group achievement or both! Most importantly, we want children to learn more about childhood cancer and how to help other children by taking action to make a difference in someone else's life!

If you, yourself, are a family of a childhood cancer patient, help us pay it forward in our community. We know your friends and child's friends are asking how they can help – this is the perfect opportunity!

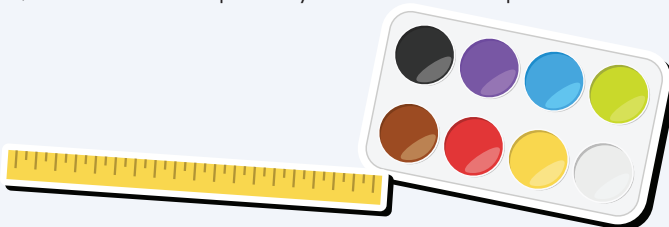
Our Top 5 Ways to Fundraise at School:

1. **Sell Something!**
 - Candlelighters Mobiles – line the hallways as a visual
 - Candygrams or Bake Sale
 - Tickets – school dance, talent show, or carnival
2. **Empty Your Pockets!**
 - Collect spare change in pre-made Candlelighters boxes
 - Fill mini-M&M containers, did you know quarters fit perfectly?
3. **Show Your Spirit!**
 - Incorporate Candlelighters into your Spirit Week! Caps for Candlelighters, Candlelighters Crazy Hair you name it! To participate, make a donation to Candlelighters!
 - Turn your school gold throughout September for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month – pep rallies, sporting events, morning announcements and more
4. **Get Competitive!**
 - Penny Wars – contest between classrooms or grades where you want your jar to only have pennies. Place silver coins or dollar bills in the jars you want to lose!
 - Staff vs. Student sporting or academic events
 - Incentive from the Principal – from shaving their head or dying their hair to kissing a pig, we've seen it all!
5. **Make it Your Own!**
 - Have fun and be creative!
 - Remember, there's no one model that fits all, so make it unique to your school for optimal success!



School Honor Roll

1. Mark Twain Elementary School (Alvin ISD) - \$1,295
2. Dickinson High School - \$750
3. St. Martha Catholic School - \$654



We are so inspired by these groups of kids around Houston! To learn more about signing up your school for our challenge, please contact our Development Director, Kelsey Tarpinian at kelseyt@candle.org. Help us get to 20!

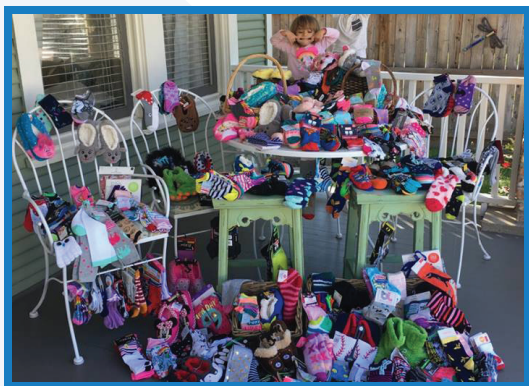


GIVING AT ANY AGE

Candlelighters has some new friends and their names are Stella and Rivers. These kind-hearted children have decided to share their birthdays with us this past year.

Instead of receiving gifts on their birthdays, they have chosen to ask for donations for Candlelighters kids. In September of 2016 they collected over 400 coloring books, markers, crayons, and colored pencils for us to hand out to the kids in the hospitals! We recently received another

delivery from them. This time they collected over 450 pairs of socks and slippers!



We cannot thank our friends, Stella and Rivers, enough for everything they do! Not only do we love the kind gesture, we love visits with these sweet children!

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Here at Candlelighters, we like to do everything we can to help all families dealing with childhood cancer. However, we cannot do everything so we like to share additional resources for our families. Operation Snowstorm (OSS) has "made it snow" for many of our Candlelighters families and we thank them for all they do to make the difficult times a bit brighter.

"Operation Snowstorm provides a child battling terminal cancer the rare opportunity to experience the miracle of a snowstorm in Houston, Texas. We do this by dropping 10,000 pounds of snow in their front yard and providing gloves, toys, shovels and even snow sleds! A snowstorm gives Snow Warriors a day to escape cancer and just be a kid. It also gives their family and friends the opportunity to gather together and create priceless memories. These memories are captured by a professional photographer and given to the families as keepsakes to remember their snowday."

*"Operations Snowstorm's goal and desire is to bring joy to a child and their family at such a difficult time by **Making it Snow on Childhood Cancer!**" www.operationsnowstorm.org*



**OPERATION
SNOWSTORM**

CORPORATE CORNER

KC Salley Relocation has been a supporter of Candlelighters for many years. Each December the Houston Relocation Professionals (HRP) host their Holiday Social and collect toys for Candlelighters. As part of HRP, KC Salley delivers truckloads of toys to our office the very next day. Most recently, KC Salley donated their time and resources to move our entire office!



Bryan Oler, co-owner of KC Salley, said that he has had a growing appreciation for Candlelighters and the work that we do for the local community.

"When Lynn reached out to us asking for guidance in moving their office and what that entailed, we decided that we would help them with the move, and that we would donate our services. We are glad to do that, because we support Candlelighters' mission, and because we wanted to integrate them as our company's charity of choice. I knew that every dollar that Candlelighters could save on the move would mean more money that could go to a family in need, and to me, that's what it's all about," Oler said.

KC Salley Relocation is a Houston based United Van Lines Agent that specializes in moving the contents of your home to your new location. KC Salley Relocation is recognized on BBB as an A+ accredited business. They can cater to the simplest of moves involving just a couple movers or the large, more complicated moves, involving packing and unpacking services. www.kcsalley.com



When Lynn announced that Candlelighters was moving, while at an HRP event, Julie Walker of Move Resource Group (MRG) immediately agreed to donate her time and partner with KC Salley on our move. Not only did Julie and the talented team at MRG help coordinate the move, they kept us organized by creating labels for all the packing, were there for the actual move, and to top it

off, they came to organize our new storage area! The last task, was something we were especially grateful for.

Move Resource Group is a move coordination firm that provides the subject matter expertise to consult, manage and organize your office. It's not just about moving things from one place to another. It's pulling together the best of the best, it's considering your culture, your clients, your deliverables, your IT needs. Every client is unique, every move is different. We have the answers. www.moverg.com





Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, Inc.
12919 Southwest Freeway, Suite 100
Stafford, Texas 77477



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

One of the most celebrated aspects about our Candlelighters "family" is that we support one another through each step of the childhood cancer journey. We want our newsletter to be a place to share YOUR news, so please keep us updated on all that is happening throughout the Candlelighters community – we want to share your story in our newsletter.

To share milestones (birthdays, graduations, new jobs, "cancerversaries" etc.) and personal stories, please email Roxy Gomez at gomez@candle.org.



To share awareness and fundraising events and/or campaigns, please email Kelsey Tarpinian at kelseyt@candle.org.

Don't forget to send photos!



Follow us on Facebook at Candlelighters Houston

Candlelighters' mission is to provide emotional, educational and practical support to children with cancer and their families.



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Candlelighters began in 1989 with two parent support groups from the Texas Medical Center: one at Texas Children's Hospital and one at The University of Texas MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. The Texas Children's Hospital group sought formal incorporation, and in 1992 Candlelighters was legally formed. In the fall of 1992 they invited the MD Anderson Parent Group to join them and the two organizations merged into one. The Parent Consultant Program was developed to directly meet the needs of families at the treatment centers and to inform them of potential resources. Our programs and services extend beyond the hospital walls with our Family Camp, Adopt-A-Family, Fall Festival, Candlelighters Newsletter and other special events. Over the years, we have learned how critically valuable it is for our Parent Consultants to be able to personally hand parents of children with cancer practical assistance such as a meal pass, parking assistance or gas cards. It is our greatest honor and privilege to bring this type of comfort and hope to childhood cancer families.