



Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, Inc.
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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

One of the most celebrated things 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 rgomez@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.



A Special Thank You To
Southeast Media
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Candlelighters began in 1989 with two parent support groups from the Medical Center: one at Texas Children's Cancer Center and one at MD Anderson Cancer Center. 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.



Candlelighters.

CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

VOL. 23 NO. 1
WINTER/FALL 2016

Lights of Courage Pics 4
Margarita Taste Off 10
Camp CLIFF 14
Fun Walk 2016 16
and so much more ...

LIGHTS OF COURAGE LUNCHEON: ENCOURAGES, ENRICHES AND RADIATES LIGHT ON 2016 HONOREES



With a sold out crowd of over 500 guests, the Lights of Courage Luncheon was held at River Oaks Country Club on April 26th. 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 wonderful Chairs **Jenna Jackson, Jess Rogers, Jenny Jumonville Thompson, and Elaine Turner**, and raised more than \$224,000 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, Bella Jules, Elaine Turner, Emerson Sloan, Gris Designs, Kendra Scott, Maison Pernoud, Monkee's of Houston, MUSE, Pomp and Circumstance, Pop Soap Co., Presmer, Santalisa, Shopaholic Sanctuary, Smocked Frock, Southern Sister, Vincent Ford, and The

Wrong Side. Our thanks to these shops who donated 20% of sales in support of the luncheon.

Guest Speaker **Dan Rather** motivated the audience by sharing his life experiences and emphasizing the power of the community. Mr. Rather spoke eloquently on the power of community and how that power makes America great. He shared his heartfelt belief in the strength of people coming together to solve problems, to help one another and to support others and how the guests of the luncheon represented that spirit in their support of Candlelighters families.

Melissa Wilson shared her own encouraging story of her family's journey through childhood cancer when her son, Caleb, was diagnosed with A.L.L. She spoke of how her family knows firsthand how important the emotional, financial and educational services that Candlelighters provides are to children living with cancer and their parents and siblings.

Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer of Texas Children's Cancer Center and **Dr. Patrick Zweidler McKay** of the Children's Cancer Hospital at MD Anderson presented our 2016 Honorees with their awards. Their stories of courage and hope are highlighted in this newsletter on pages 6 through 9.

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. Please visit www.candle.org to view the video.

In addition to shopping, the event featured a raffle which raised more than \$35,000. Congratulations to our raffle winners and many thanks to the generous individuals and businesses who donated the amazing prizes.



Continued on Page 4

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CANDLELIGHTERS CCFA

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UPCOMING EVENTS

YPG Margarita Taste Off
Saturday, March 25, 2017

Lights of Courage Luncheon
Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Summer Surprises
June/July 2017

Candlelighters Fun Walk
September 2017

Camp CLIFF
October 2017

Family Fall Festival
October 2017

Support Group Meeting at MD Anderson:

Every Wednesday
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital
Pediatric In-Patient Unit
Ronald McDonald House Room

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 on any of our events or to reserve
your tickets, visit our website at www.candle.org*

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CORPORATE CORNER

LET US TELL YOUR STORY, WRITE YOUR ADVENTURE, CREATE YOUR FAIRY TALE.



P+R Productions is a full service independent production company, focused on creating innovative documentaries, unique films and captivating commercials through authentic storytelling and vivid characters. The company was founded in 2011 by Emmy Award Winning Producer, Jenna Jackson. With a keen eye for detail and an innovative look on film making, P+R's esteemed team creates one-of-a-kind, cutting edge productions.

Jenna's passion has always been telling real stories about real people. There are plenty of others in the industry who would say the same, however, it is unlikely to come across someone like Jenna. Eager to inspire, and determined to make a difference, Jenna's mission is to find people who deserve the chance to be heard - which she does exceptionally well.

From Jenna:

I began attending the annual Candlelighters luncheon with a friend several years ago and was moved by the stories and the work they do. I was involved with many charities at the time. But when one of my best friends got the awful news that her six-month-old little boy had leukemia, I knew who to call.

Candlelighters literally leapt into action -- and into my friend's life. They helped get her through the most difficult time in her and her family's life. They knew how to do it because they've gone through it themselves. It was truly invaluable.

At that point, I narrowed the number of charities in which I was involved -- and focused my attention (personal and business) on Candlelighters. I am honored to be a part of it -- and continue to be impressed with the work they do.



Wayne Murray Properties



Three of the Weichert Family of Companies (Weichert, Realtors - Wayne Murray Properties, Weichert Workforce Mobility and Weichert Corporate Housing) have supported Candlelighters for the past 11 years. Since 1969, Weichert, Realtors has grown from a single office into one the nation's leading providers of homeownership services by putting customers first. Weichert Workforce Mobility is an industry leading provider of global mobility services, assisting families who need to relocate and settle into new locations. Lastly, Weichert Corporate Housing is a leading provider of fully furnished apartments nationwide. These three companies work together making the relocation experience seamless for families moving anywhere in the world.

Through dedication, focus, engagement and commitment, the partnership between Weichert and Candlelighters remains dedicated to helping families who have children affected by cancer. Weichert recognizes and appreciates all Candlelighters does on an ongoing basis for these families as no family should have to face childhood cancer alone.

RESOURCES FOR CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES

Candlelighters mission is to provide emotional, educational, and practical support to children with cancer and their families. If you are a family battling, recovering or grieving from childhood cancer, or know a family on this journey, please share these resources both Candlelighters and other organizations in our community offer.

Candlelighters provides practical financial support in the following ways:

- Parking passes for parking at the Texas Medical Center
- Grocery store gift cards
- Meal passes in the Texas Medical Center cafeterias
- Gas Cards
- Help with funeral expenses

Candlelighters provides emotional and educational support through our following programs:

- Parent Consultant Program (two staff at each children's cancer center in the Texas Medical Center)
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays
- Camp CLIFF (Children Loved in Families Forever) October 2017
- Support Group Meetings (weekly at Texas Children's Hospital and monthly at MD Anderson)
- Fall Family Festival
- Many others throughout the year! Please stay up to date on everything by joining our email and newsletter mailing list, and by following us on Facebook at Candlelighters Houston.

Important Candlelighters Phone Numbers:

- Main Office: (713) 270-4700
- MD Anderson Parent Consultants: (713) 792-4891
- Texas Children's Parent Consultants Phone Number: (832) 822-1415

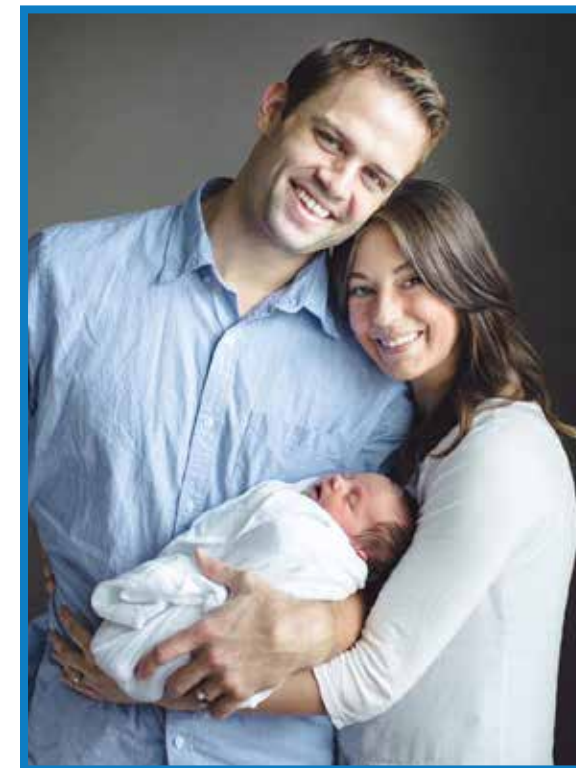
Other resources available to families facing childhood cancer:

- On-Treatment Housing
 - Change for Hope
 - Halo House Foundation
 - Ronald McDonald House
- Transportation Assistance for the disabled
 - Houston Children's Charity
- Grief Support
 - Bo's Place
- Financial Assistance
 - Heroes for Children (Rent and Mortgage)
 - Houston Children's Charity (Prosthetics)
- College Scholarships
 - American Cancer Society
 - Cancer for College
 - Cancer Survivor Fund
 - Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation/Brittany Truitt Scholarship
 - Friends of Scott
 - Jack's Ride Scholarship Program
 - Kidsstrong2
 - Kids 4 Kids with Cancer
 - National Children's Cancer Society
 - National Collegiate Cancer Foundation
 - The Simon Cancer Foundation Scholarship Program
 - Snowdrop Foundation
 - Super Sibs Scholarship Program for brothers and sisters of children with cancer
 - The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
 - The SAMFund for Young Adult Survivors of Cancer
 - The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults



WELCOME KELSEY & ROXY

We are so excited to welcome two new members to the Candlelighters family!



Kelsey Tarpinian is our new Development Director and is a fairly new Houstonian moving to the area with her husband, Jeff, 2 years ago. She is mother to a six-month old little girl, Hallie and two-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Rocky, who will forever be her first baby. She has worked in development for over 5 years with both JDRC and most recently the American Heart Association, and her experience covers walks, galas, luncheons, school walks, individual giving you name it! She cannot wait to meet all of our Candlelighters families and continue working to spread our mission in Houston.

Roxy Gomez joins Candlelighters as our new Program Director with over 4 years of non-profit experience. She has previously worked with both the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and most recently, Neuhaus Education Center as their Development and Special Events Manager. She has had experience in the sports industry as well as with Disney and is excited about using her experiences to help further the Candlelighters' mission. During her free time, Roxy loves spending time with family, traveling, cheering on her alma mater, UH, and working on her calligraphy. She lives in north Houston with her fiancé, Phillip, and their two dogs, Daphne and Velma.



2016 LIGHTS OF COURAGE HONOREES:

Caroline Richards – In Loving Memory Honoree
Cassie Speaks – Sibling Honoree
Erick Mariscal – Childhood Cancer Survivor Honoree
Peyton Richardson – On Treatment Honoree

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

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**2017 SPRING EVENTS SAVE THE DATES****DINE FOR A CAUSE**

During the month of January, dine for a cause at PESKA Seafood Culture! Every Thursday in January, a special menu will be offered and the restaurant will donate \$5 to Candlelighters for every guest who chooses to dine from that menu.

At Peska Seafood Culture, we are committed to providing the best the world's oceans have to offer. Respecting the natural essence of the catch, our simple preparations spotlight the true flavors, aromas, colors and textures of our daily arrivals. We invite you to enjoy the bounty of the sea tableside in our striking Uptown Houston restaurant.



Thursday, January 5, 2017
 Thursday, January 12, 2017
 Thursday, January 19, 2017
 Thursday, January 26, 2017

9TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE OFF HOSTED BY CANDLELIGHTERS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP

Please Save the Date and join us on Saturday, March 25, 2017 as local restaurants compete for the title of the "Best Margarita" along with other awards; and over 600 twenty and thirty-somethings gather to sip, sample and vote for their favorite margarita recipe! Event also hosts DJ Senega and exciting raffle!

Saturday, March 25, 2017 Kirby Ice House

VIP Admission \$75 1:30 – 2:30 PM

General Admission \$40 before \$50 at the door 2:30 – 5:30 PM

Kirby Ice House – 3333 Eastside St, Houston, TX 77098

Tickets on sale NOW at www.candle.org. VIP tickets are limited, get yours today before they sell out!

For more information please contact Kelsey Tarpinian at kelsey@t@candle.org.

LIGHTS OF COURAGE LUNCHEON

Save the Date for our 2017 Lights of Courage Luncheon

Tuesday, April 25, 2017
 River Oaks Country Club
 1600 River Oaks Boulevard

Featuring:
 Boutique Shopping and Raffle

Shopping and Mimosas
 10:0 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Luncheon and Raffle Drawing
 Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker:
Peter Van Sant

Chairs:
 Nathalie Cook and Stephanie Deverka

For more information on sponsorship, tickets, or raffle donations please contact Lynn Wheeler at lwheeler@candle.org.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

As we near the end of the year, our hearts grow three sizes, and we're thinking of others even more often than we already do. Why don't you help by giving hope for the holidays?

Here are a few ideas of what Candlelighters could do with your year-end gift!

\$10,000 Provides parking assistance at the Texas Medical Center for 800 families (equivalent to the number of appointments in one week!)

\$5,000 Provides peer-to-peer support from Candlelighters Parent Consultants who work around the clock to ensure children with cancer and their families have someone who has experienced the journey.

\$2,500 Covers the average yearly parking cost for ONE family currently receiving treatment.

\$1,000 Provides funeral assistance for those who have lost their battle.

\$600 Sends a family to Camp CLIFF – a weekend away for children with cancer and their families.

\$300 Provides a "Bundle of Joy" to families in need for the holidays.

\$150 Provides gas cards for those families who need to travel into Houston for treatment at the Texas Medical Center.

\$75 Provides a week's worth of parking for ONE family at the Texas Medical Center.

\$50 Provides groceries or meal passes for families staying in the Texas Medical Center.

*Parking assistance is Candlelighters number one request from the families we serve as the daily cost is \$12 – help us lessen the financial burden our families are facing with a year-end gift.

Ways to help at the office, church, or at school!

Party with a Purpose – as you're hosting holiday parties, turn them into a fundraiser for Candlelighters! Collect donations at the door – cash, checks, or gift cards (target, groceries, gas, chick-fil-a etc.)

Christmas Cookie Bake Sale – hold a Christmas Cookie Bake Sale – you could even get real creative and make some that feature the Candlelighters logo!

Santa's Coin Can – coin drives are one of the easiest ways to fundraise! Decorate one like santa and know you're helping give hope for the holidays.

Gift-Wrapping Station – set up a station at work, school, or church and accept donations in return for wrapping gifts for your friends and coworkers.

Adopt-A-Family – last year Candlelighters and our supporters adopted nearly 300 families for the holidays! Forms must be to the Candlelighters office by November 18, 2016 in order to match for this holiday season.

Other ways to help:

Donate Blood

Register to become an Organ Donor

Register to become a bone marrow donor on Be The Match

Volunteer at the Candlelighters Office!

We appreciate any donation made! Thank you in advance for your generosity this holiday season.

You may drop off or mail your donations or collected gift cards to:
8323 Southwest Freeway Ste. 435 Houston, TX 77074
With any questions, please call 713-270-4700



Our annual Lights of Courage luncheon gives Candlelighters the opportunity to honor children with cancer and their families. Each year we have the pleasure of hearing the compelling stories of our Honorees who are our lights of courage and inspiration.

PEYTON RICHARDSON



Peyton's parents describe her as the perfect child. When she was born, she was a healthy 8 lb 12oz red headed, blue eyed baby girl. After watching the Houston Ballet's Nutcracker at the age of 3, Peyton looked at her mother and said that is what she wants to do, dance on stage in a beautiful tutu. Peyton was enrolled in a local ballet studio soon after, and she has loved ballet from that moment on.

Peyton started 7th grade like any normal 12 year old. She was cheering for the middle school football team, dancing with her ballet company 5 to 6 days a week, and busy rehearsing for her 7th season in the Sugar Land production of The Nutcracker.

After her Nutcracker performance, Peyton started experiencing extreme fatigue. Peyton is accustomed to being sore and tired, and she and her parents believed the Christmas break would give her a much needed rest from school and ballet. But when she returned to school in January, Peyton's fatigue continued and she continued to be sore.

Two days later, her mother stayed to watch Peyton's Saturday ballet class. She stood and watched in disbelief as Peyton could not complete a combination across the floor, or get up en pointe in her ballet shoes. Four weeks earlier, Peyton danced beautifully on stage, and now she could barely dance at all. Mom knew something was wrong and took Peyton to see her doctor who

asked about Peyton's weight loss, felt Peyton's liver and spleen, which were significantly enlarged, commented that she was paler than normal, and he immediately sent Peyton for blood work. Two hours later, Peyton was sent to the emergency room at Texas Children's Hospital.

Peyton was diagnosed with Leukemia two days later, and received chemotherapy for the first time the next day. During her course of treatment Peyton has received a bone marrow biopsy, countless spinal taps, IVs, and oral chemotherapy drugs that took her beautiful red curly hair.

Peyton did not let her cancer diagnosis stop her from dancing. One of the first questions she asked, after asking if she would lose her hair, was when can I go back to ballet?

When Peyton was diagnosed her family's life changed dramatically. Days were now spent in clinic or the hospital and Peyton's mom felt alone and isolated. During one of those long hospital stays, the Candlelighters Parent Consultants came to visit. Linda brought with her the experience of having been there and the strength to go on. Candlelighters embraced the family – Peyton's brother Major attended his first Astros game with Candlelighters, the family was able to go to family camp and enjoy a much needed vacation from the days in the clinic, and Peyton's friends rallied around her and walked in the Candlelighters Fun Walk, all wearing orange tutus, raising over \$7,000 by asking her friends to donate \$13 in honor of her 13th birthday.

Two months to the day after her Leukemia diagnosis, Peyton walked into her ballet studio, tied her pointe shoes, and danced across the floor with the biggest smile on her sweet face. With support from her oncologist, Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer encouraged Peyton to continue doing what she loves. Peyton says Ballet is harder than cancer. Peyton says that if you've ever danced on a pointe shoe, you'll understand why. Peyton is a shining example that through faith and determination, nothing, not even cancer, can stand in your way.

**IT IS CANDLELIGHTERS HONOR TO PRESENT THE
2016 CHILDHOOD CANCER ON TREATMENT AWARD TO
PEYTON RICHARDSON**

5TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW FOR CANDLELIGHTERS PRESENTED BY FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE, MUSE BOUTIQUE AND NORTON DITTO



On Thursday, October 20th Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, MUSE Boutique and Norton Ditto joined together to raise money for Candlelighters through the 5th Annual Fashion Show. The sold out luncheon crowd raised more than \$32,000 for Candlelighters mission. Female and male models alike graced the runway in support of Candlelighters families, guests enjoyed a five star lunch menu provided by Fleming's and also partook in an exciting raffle that included Houston Texans and Rockets tickets and a chance to win a cocktail party for 20 at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse! Models included Candlelighters moms Angela Dina and Lesley Gray as well as survivor, Amanda Pena.

Fringe Salon provided hair styling and ME2 Beauty Bar provided make up for the models. Melissa Wilson of FOX took a break from modeling this year to serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. Special thanks to our testimonial speaker Carrie Richardson, for sharing a look into her family's life and journey through cancer treatment as well as MUSE owner, Lindsay Mousoudakis and Norton Ditto GM, John Hite, and Sam Governale, Candlelighters Board Member and Fleming's Prime Steakhouse Operating Partner. It was a day that will continue to impact the lives of Candlelighters families while sharing our mission in our community! Thank you!



PIN OAK CHARITY HORSE SHOW



The Pin Oak Charity Horse show, begun in 1945, has been supporting the children treated at Texas Children's Hospital since 1948. Pin Oak has chosen to provide financial support to lessen the impact of a diagnosis of childhood cancer to a family. Their support of the Parking Program helps ease the financial burden that families face. The goal of Pin Oak is to provide parking for all families needing assistance at Texas Children's Hospital. Their generous support provides three months of parking for families needing this valuable support. Additionally, they provide families meals and treats for the annual Summer Surprises Party at Texas Children's Hospital. Many thanks to Pin Oak for the invaluable support of Candlelighters!



HRP GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Houston Relocation Professionals (HRP) has actively been involved with Candlelighters for over eleven years. HRP has embraced the mission of Candlelighters with financial support, and their commitment to the families we serve and their "can do" attitude! One of the many projects they support is their annual holiday toy drive which donates thousands of dollars' worth of toys to our Adopt-A-Family and Summer Surprises programs.



A special thanks goes to HRP President Holly Holmes of AIRES for once again including Candlelighters in their mission. And thanks also to Alan Grantham of Chase who is the Chair of the annual Golf Tournament for HRP, benefitting Candlelighters.

This year's tournament was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at Wildcat Golf Course. The tournament was a huge success and Candlelighters is honored to be the beneficiary again this year.

CASSIE SPEAKS

Someone once wrote – "the best thing about having a sister was that I always have a best friend." Cassandra, or Cassie, Smith is that kind of sister and that kind of best friend to little sister Avery. Cassie has two wonderful sisters, Racheal and Avery and a mom who survived breast cancer. Little sister Avery joined Cassie, Racheal and mom Connie through adoption when she was just a baby. The bond between Avery and Cassie could not be any stronger or more loving.

Cassie has always had a passion for softball and her family. Cassie's passion for softball took her to Louisiana on a full college scholarship. It was just what she wanted – the chance to pursue her education and continue to do what she loved – play sports. Cassie's life-long dream was always to coach, work out, watch sports and dedicate her free time to her family. Two days after her move, she received a call from her mother – her little sister Avery, at the age of 11, had been diagnosed with ALL - Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Cassie packed up her suitcase, put her dreams on hold and headed back to Texas – knowing that Avery needed her now more than ever.



Cassie was determined to be there for Avery and make sure she was never alone. Cassie makes clinic visits or hospital stays full of goofiness, laughter, and most of all smiles. Texas Children's Hospital became their second home. The sisters are inseparable and everyone knows that wherever Avery is, Cassie is right there by her side. They make a forceful trio – Avery, Cassie and mom Connie always traveling in threes! Cassie has been by her sister's side at every visit to the clinic, snuggled up next to her in her hospital bed, keeping her company during chemotherapy and always with a smile. You won't see Avery without Cassie!

Many families fall apart during a child's treatment for childhood cancer, they find the pressure too hard, the hours too long, or coping too hard. It can be harder on the family to face childhood cancer than the patient. But not Cassie, she has become stronger, she has managed a difficult situation because she wanted to and needed to be the best sister and best friend.

**IT IS CANDLELIGHTERS HONOR TO PRESENT THE
2016 SIBLING AWARD TO
CASSIE SPEAKS**

ERICK MARISCAL



Erick Mariscal was born in Juarez, Mexico in October 1989. The oldest of three children, Erick spent his early years on his grandfather's ranch, spending hours exploring the countryside where he developed his passion for bike riding. The family moved back to Juarez to be close to family members. Erick loved being near his extended family in El Paso and Juarez.

In November of 1998, Erick had just turned nine when he started experiencing double vision. He thought he needed glasses. He tried to hide the problem, but soon his family noticed and his parents took him to the doctor in Juarez. An MRI confirmed that Erick had a brain tumor. A few days later, he had his first surgery, removing only a portion of his tumor. Erick started treatment in Mexico where he underwent surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation - but his condition deteriorated. At one point, he weighed only 49 pounds.

Erick's condition required a move to Mexico City, to an intensive care unit. There the family met a sponsor who convinced them that the best option for Erick was to seek treatment at MD Anderson. The sponsor encouraged

Erick to write a letter to President George H. W. Bush, a long time MD Anderson supporter. President Bush wrote back to Erick and welcomed him to MD Anderson. Soon arrangements were made for Erick to travel to Houston. Three days after arriving in Houston, Erick had surgery and began chemotherapy.

Erick completed his chemo when he was eleven, and tried to return to Mexico. However, the family realized that he needed to continue with regular checkups and returned to Houston. The family made a new life here, with Erick finishing school, going on to the University of Houston and graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Candlelighters was there for Erick's family during his treatment and Erick has continued to be a part of the Candlelighters family. He has volunteered as a camp counselor at Camp CLIFF – providing the kind of inspiration to campers facing their own diagnosis. He volunteers at the annual Fun Walk, enlisting his fraternity brothers to volunteer as well. He received a scholarship from Candlelighters to help with his college costs.

His future goals include his commitment to volunteering and giving back, especially to Candlelighters. He plans to continue to ride a bike, play racquetball, jump in the pool, and pursue a career in manufacturing and design. He enjoys 3D modeling and manufacturing. Erick has big plans to continue moving forward.

**IT IS CANDLELIGHTERS HONOR TO PRESENT THE
2016 CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVOR AWARD TO
ERICK MARISCAL**

SUMMER SURPRISES

MD ANDERSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Summer Surprises at MD Anderson Children's Hospital was a huge hit again this year! Candlelighters and volunteers from Adam's Angels spread cheer by delivering presents to the amazing and strong children battling childhood cancer on July 20th. A big thank you to Adam's Angels who not only volunteered for the day but also sponsored our Summer Surprises party in the Pedi Dome at MD Anderson with lunch, snacks, crafts and gifts! Our extra special guests were the Rankin twins, who joined us and shared their beautiful voices and fun sing-along songs. The day put smiles on everyone's faces and we thank everyone who was a part of this special day!

TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER

Candlelighters and volunteers from the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show committee brought Summer Surprises to Texas Children's Cancer Center on July 27th. Since 2012, Pin Oak has sponsored Candlelighters' Summer Surprises at Texas Children's Hospital and this July's event was no exception, what a fun day! With all of the fun of Christmas in July, gifts were distributed to patients and their siblings.

Pin Oak brought its famous horse show hospitality to the party by hosting lunch for the children, families, and medical staff – complete with Pin Oak ponies and recycled ribbons for all! At the event, Pin Oak presented Candlelighters with a donation from funds raised at the annual Pin Oak Charity Horse Show. This year's donation for \$20,000 will go a long way in providing parking to our Candlelighters' families. Candlelighters is so grateful to Pin Oak!



SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Throughout this fall, many schools have showed their spirit for "Going Gold" by raising awareness for Childhood Cancer and funds for Candlelighters mission. Special thanks to:

Reading Junior High in LCISD for holding Go Gold Night in September at the girls volleyball game! The swim team also raised more than \$4,000 by holding a swim-a-thon! Your friend Gaby sure is special to be surrounded by some amazing kids who are making a difference!

Berry Miller Junior High in Pearland ISD raised more than \$7,000 through their dodgeball tournament and other activities! They already have something scheduled for the Spring semester too! Thank you for setting the bar when it comes to kids helping kids!

Sablatura Middle School in Pearland ISD has an amazing program where kids learn about community engagement and the many things they can get involved with throughout the year. Candlelighters is honored to have been chosen for their service project throughout September. Fifth and sixth graders read a childhood cancer fact each day over the announcements throughout Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, made "Go Gold" posters and cards to be delivered to both MD Anderson Children's Cancer Center and Texas Children's Cancer Center, and they raised more than \$800 throughout the month to give back to families battling childhood cancer. Way to go!

Moore Elementary in CyFair ISD held a toiletry drive this fall after they heard about the needs of families throughout their hospital stays. They also collected grocery and gas cards for Candlelighters families. Thank you for thinking of us!

We know there are several other school events that have happened throughout the fall, please send us pictures and details when your school does something awesome! We are so inspired by these groups of kids around Houston! To learn more about holding a School Initiative campaign at your school, please contact our Development Director, Kelsey Tarpinian at kelseytc@candle.org.



CAROLINE RICHARDS

Caroline Richards, was born on April 13, 2002, to proud parents Lauren and Mark. She was a beautiful curly-haired blond cherub, full of smiles and laughter, with an outgoing personality and high spirits from the beginning.

Caroline grew rapidly and made lots of friends, learned to swim, to ride horseback, and to play team sports. Her favorite sport quickly became basketball. Even though sweet Caroline was an only child, she was always part of the flock of cousins who were constantly together, and the Richards house was always full of cousins and school friends.

When Caroline began to complain that her arm hurt as she began the second semester of sixth grade, her parents at first thought it must be due to a minor sports injury of some sort. When it did not go away in a few days and began to wake her up at night, a trip to the pediatrician immediately led to a visit to a pediatric orthopedist who, after an MRI, told her parents the unbelievable news that this healthy happy kid had Osteosarcoma, bone cancer, in her upper arm.

Immediately Mark, Lauren and Caroline moved temporarily to Houston so that Caroline could be treated at MD Anderson Children's Hospital. It was during the early stages of Caroline's treatment when her parents learned of the Candlelighters' weekly support group and began attending meetings. They quickly learned of Candlelighters tremendous support and resources. Through Candlelighters, Lauren and Mark were introduced to other families and found a place to share what they were all going through. It was a safe haven of love and empathy upon which they came to depend and many of those friendships continue today. In addition, Caroline came to associate Candlelighters with "donut day" and was often called in advance to provide feedback on what kinds of donuts she wanted! Through Candlelighters, Caroline, was asked to throw out the first pitch at the Astros opening season game. And, the list of kindnesses extended beyond: parking funds provided; Christmas gifts galore and special visits from Candlelighters staff during long hospital stays. It would be hard to over-emphasize the impact that Candlelighters had on their family's cancer journey. In support of Candlelighters, Caroline formed a walk team and raised over \$3,300 for Candlelighters.

Through it all, sweet Caroline continued to fight with all her strength, obeying medical orders and working with passion to retain her strength. Her greatest desire was to go home, return to her beloved school and her regular life. Caroline captured the heart of so many, she was featured in People Magazine, was trending on Twitter and was invited backstage from the group One Direction.

Caroline lost her battle with childhood cancer on January 9th, 2015, one year and six days after her diagnosis. Her life and death were felt worldwide: she trended number one on Twitter and other social media the day she passed away. It is a tribute to her personality and her outreach to others during her all too short life that over 700 people attended her memorial service.



**IT IS WITH GREAT RESPECT THAT WE PRESENT THE 2016 IN
LOVING MEMORY AWARD TO
THE FAMILY OF CAROLINE RICHARDS**

8TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE-OFF BENEFITTING CANDLELIGHTERS HOUSTON'S BEST MARGARITAS FOR A GREAT CAUSE HOSTED BY CANDLELIGHTERS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP



Candlelighters Young Professionals Group's 8th Annual Margarita Taste-Off took place Saturday, April 9, 2016 at Kirby Ice House. With beautiful weather and more than 650 guests enjoying the fiesta, our YPG members raised over \$42,000!

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. Food was provided by Emma's Mex Grill and Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, and Southern Star Brewing Company generously donated beer for the non-margarita lovers.

Guests sampled margaritas from 16 of Houston's hottest restaurants including: El Big Bad, Cilantro's, El Patio, El Tiempo, Emma's Mex Grill, Los Tios, Maria Selma, Muldoon's the Patio, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, The Palm, Pistoleros, Holley's Seafood Kitchen, La Fisheria, Chuy's, Guadalajara, and The Grove.

A special thank you must go out to our amazing twenty and thirty-something YPG committee: Emily Deatherage, Rob and Sterling Evans, Elliott Gabriel, Jeremy Keating, Mary Caroline Lee, Caitlin Maggio, Melanie Miguez, Conner O'Leary, Mary Elizabeth O'Leary, John Rhodes, Shannon Schmidt, Jesse Soto, Brandon Thacker, Shelby Ubrich and Aron Will; and to the event's sponsors: **Kayne Anderson Energy Funds, Matthew Whitlock, Aron Will, Belmont Village, Chicago Title, Andrews Kurth, AmWins, Clovis Point Capital, CBRE, Bracewell, Op Solutions, Jonathan and Ashley Sloan and Richard and Irene Wang.**

Also contributing to the funds raised, were wonderful raffle packages including: Kendra Scott, 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 2016 top award winners were:

1st place	Chuy's – River Oaks
2nd place	Fleming's Prime Steakhouse
3rd place	Emma's Mex Grill

Please Save the Date for the 9th Annual Margarita Taste Off!
Join us on Saturday, March 25, 2017.

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.



CANDLELIGHTERS AROUND TOWN

BOUTIQUE CHIC

The Pine Forest Country Club Ladies Association hosted Boutique Chic – a dinner and fashion show benefitting Candlelighters on Friday, Sept. 23rd at Pine Forest Country Club. Candlelighters mom Jodi Vasquez told the group of her son's childhood cancer journey and the support that Candlelighters provided her family. The evening of fashion and fun was emceed by Deborah Duncan, host of Great Day Houston, with fashions from Flora + Mia, shoes and handbags by Elaine Turner and jewelry by Zayver Designs. Raffle prizes included trips, jewelry from Zayver Designs, spa visits and a handbag by Elaine Turner. Thank you to the Ladies Association for hosting a great evening that raised over \$3,000!



KENDRA SCOTT

On Tuesday, October 11, Kendra Scott in The Woodlands held a "Kendra Gives Back" night for Candlelighters! And boy did we shop til we dropped! 20% of the sales throughout the day benefitted Candlelighters and the families we serve. Nearly \$900 was raised! A big thank you to Kendra Scott for hosting and providing sweets and drinks. Another thank you to CURRENT at The Westin-The Woodlands for providing delicious light bites. Candlelighters moms Amy Kvapil, Cathy Blum, and Melanie McTaggart served as hosts for the evening!

MASRAFF'S

Special thanks to Russell Masraff and the whole Masraff family for their support of Candlelighters. Candlelighters was honored to be the beneficiary of the Masraff's month of giving the 1st week of July. The summer dine in promotion featured a delicious menu created especially for Candlelighters. Candlelighters received \$10 of every meal purchased during the featured week Over \$4,000 was raised for Candlelighters in one week!



OUR HOUSTON SPORTS HEROES!



Candlelighters wants to extend very big thank you's to some of our local Sports Heroes who have given so much to families touched by Childhood Cancer in our community.

Kareem Jackson continues to support Candlelighters families through Kareem's Dream Team. He personally purchases 20 tickets to each Houston Texans home game through the Texans All Community Ticket Program (TACT) to send much deserving families to a once in a lifetime sporting experience! The experience for families includes pumping up the team before the game as they exit the locker room and head out onto the field, a special Kareem's Dream Team t-shirt and concessions throughout the game.

Kareem will once again be visiting Candlelighters kids in the hospitals this holiday season. Check back in the Spring for pictures from his visit! We'd also like to congratulate Kareem on his wedding and marriage to his beautiful wife in 2016 – we wish him all the best and thank him for being such an amazing friend to Candlelighters and our families!

Candlelighters is honored to have been chosen as one of three Houston Astros community partners throughout September for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month! Through their corporate golf tournament, the Houston Astros Foundation raised \$50,000 for Candlelighters and our mission to provide emotional, educational and practical support to children with cancer and their families!



We were represented by families at two Astros games this fall where some of our kids were provided with an on-field experience! Candlelighters Night At the Ball Park was on Wednesday, September 13th where the Astros provided Candlelighters with 200 tickets to give to families and supporters! Thank you Houston Astros for your dedication to helping Candlelighters ease the journey of families who are facing childhood cancer.



TEE IT UP GOLF TOURNAMENT



The 2016 Tee It Up Golf Tournament was held on Friday, May 13th at Wildcat Golf Club. It was the perfect day for golf, filled with food, friends and honoring Candlelighters' families by raising more than \$60,000. We had a live auction with exciting items such as a La Grange weekend stay, an Anauhauc get-a-way, a Galveston trip and an original oil painting by Candlelighters patient Karina. The Super Raffle, a 60" Vizion Smart TV, was generously donated by John Castro and Infinity Classic Homes. Our raffle also included such items as Family Game night packages, golf around Houston foursomes, ladies jewelry and gift certificates. Special thanks to Clay Kaminsky for serving as this year's auctioneer.

Thank you to our Title Sponsors

Coldwell Banker
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Special thanks to Jennifer Wilbur, Coldwell Banker United. and Stacy Kuithe, Texas American Title Company, for their leadership.

ACE Sponsor

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Many thanks to the 2016 Golf Committee: Jennifer Wilbur, Stacey Kuithe, Tod Callis, Christine Schmidt, Jesse Soto, Brandon Thacker and Emily Deatherage. Thank you for all of your help!

We are grateful to all our in-kind sponsors and donors

Bearcom, Bree Day Cakes, Chick Fil-A, Coca Cola, Ditta Meat Food Services Company, Don Julio, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, Great American Cookie Company, Kolache Factory, Kona Brewing Co., Louisville Distilling Company, Planet Texas, Silver Eagle Distributors, Southeast Media, Texas Tamale Company, and Tiff's Treats

On behalf of all Candlelighters staff and board members, we would like to convey a heartfelt thank you to you and all of the generous sponsors, teams, and volunteers who contributed their time and treasure over the years to our Tee It Up Golf Tournament. Regrettably due to a number of contributing factors, it is with sincere sadness that we announce the cancellation of the Tee It Up Golf Tournament.



FUN WALK 2016



The 2016 Candlelighters Fun Walk took place Saturday, September 10th at Terry Hershey Park. The weather held out for our crowd of over 550 walkers. Many Candlelighters families and supporters walked in honor or in memory of a child with cancer.

Our family and corporate teams together raised more than \$135,000 which enables Candlelighters to host families at our annual Camp CLIFF. The Fun Walk included a 3 mile route, facepainting, food, DJ, refreshments, and a raffle and played host to special guests Toro and the Texans Cheerleaders!

Special thanks to our top fundraising teams! Our 2016 Fun Walk Top Corporate Teams were: Constellation Energy, and Weichert/Weichert Wayne Murray! And our Top Family Team was Team Ellen O'Neal who raised over \$11,000! Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to send children with cancer and their families to Camp CLIFF! Please look for more information on the 2017 Fun Walk coming soon.

With questions regarding the Fun Walk, please contact our Associate Director, Lynn Wheeler at lwheeler@candle.org or (713) 270-4700.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Adam's Angels
Comfy for Chemo

The Greater Houston Astronomical Coalition
House of Coffee Beans
Jeanine Anderson & The Spa Team

Primm's Posse
St. John's School

Helping Make a Difference for Children with Cancer



CAMP CLIFF - A GALACTIC BLAST

Campers blasted off for a weekend full of fun at a galaxy not too far away – Camp For All in Burton - as the 19th annual Camp CLIFF was held on October 7th -10th!

Friday night started travels to the stars inside the portable inflatable dome theatre from the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The experience included a look at the stars, planets, galaxies and the wonders of space. Campers also zip lined at Star Place, played games at the carnival, and took pictures with Star Wars characters from Star Garrison. The evening continued with star gazing hosted by the Houston Astronomical Society followed by the campfire, tasty s'mores, and plenty of music and group dancing. After the campfire, the counselors ensured that the kids were having fun in their cabins - and trying to get them to go to sleep - with not much success! The parents socialized, taking a few minutes to unwind and meet parents who understood the cancer journey their family had shared.

On Saturday, campers had a full day of activities! The day was filled with horseback riding, archery, paintball, zip lining, the giant swing, and arts and crafts. Campers had a full day of fun with the weather making the day perfect!

Parents spent Saturday enjoying camp activities as well – including the spa! They rode bicycles, challenged the rope course, created memory stones and best of all watched their kids experience the pure joy that is camp. Parents were also treated to haircuts and styling – thanks to Jeanine Anderson and her spa crew. The spa included haircuts, blowouts, massages and yoga – a full day of relaxing and pampering for parents.

Lunch time gave a much needed pause in the whirlwind of activities. Campers had some time to enjoy lunch and relax before the balloon release ceremony. Campers wrote messages, attaching them to balloons, and together the balloons were released in the memory and honor of all our children who face and have faced childhood cancer.

After a full day of fun, the sunset brought a time of reflection. The Wish Boat is a special tradition at camp – each cabin makes a wish and lights a candle on the candle stand. Wishes are as special and unique as the campers who make them. When all the wishes had been made, lighted balloons were released into the night sky. Campers watched the balloons soar upwards and with them the wishes from Camp CLIFF 2016.

Saturday night is all about the party – food, music and dancing! Everyone came dressed in their *out of this world* costumes – including aliens from all parts of the galaxy, Star Wars favorites and astronauts.



Sunday morning began with a time of reflection. Lights representing families, volunteers, counselors, bereaved families, and long term survivors were lit. Continuing the tradition, everyone received a piece of yarn and at the closing all the pieces were tied together. Each year the yarn is added to the larger ball of yarn – pieces from each camp– tying all of us together, past and present.

Camp could not be possible without the hard work of all the volunteers, counselors and staff at Candlelighters! Thanks to all our volunteers and counselors who give their time and their energy to make camp a special weekend for all our families.

