

HITTING A HOME RUN

In 2018, the Astros Foundation hit it out of the park! The Astros Foundation is the official non-profit team charity of the Houston Astros, and has been recognized across the Major League Baseball organization for their efforts to support many worthy causes. They seek to harness the passion of baseball fans to support youth baseball and softball programs, to recognize and honor our nation's military, increase efforts to reduce homelessness, and notably for our Candlelighters families, spread awareness about childhood cancer.

Each year the Astros Foundation recognizes Candlelighters at a home game during September - Childhood Cancer Awareness

Month. They generously donate countless tickets to our Candlelighters families so they can attend the game and have a fun night out with the family.



At their September 18th home game, they invited Candlelighters members Gia Gardella to throw out the first pitch and 3-year-old Henry Daniels to announce "Play ball!" to get the game started. Sawyer Hack waved to the crowd and a speedy Roman Kvapil stole the bases. The night included a televised interview with Candlelighters mom, Angela Dina, and we must have brought the 'Stros some good luck, as they beat the Seattle Mariners 7-0!



But the Astros Foundation didn't stop there.

Candlelighters was also chosen as their charity of choice at the Annual Astros Foundation Charity Game on September 21st! Candlelighters and childhood cancer were highlighted throughout the game and with a pre-game interview on the Astros AT&T Sports Net station. Videos with more awareness information rolled throughout Minute Maid Park for all the attending fans to see. Sports Net commentators highlighted childhood cancer and the support Candlelighters provides to families who have a child with cancer before and during the game -- the awareness efforts were truly tremendous.

(cont. on pg 3)

BULLETIN BOARD

CANDLELIGHTERS CCFA

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Lights of Courage Luncheon

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Sugar Land Skeeters Day at the Ballpark

Friday, May 31, 2019

Summer Surprises

MD Anderson - Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Texas Children's - Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Fun Walk

Saturday, September 7, 2019

**Online Registration Opens June 1st*

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 1:00 – 2:00 pm

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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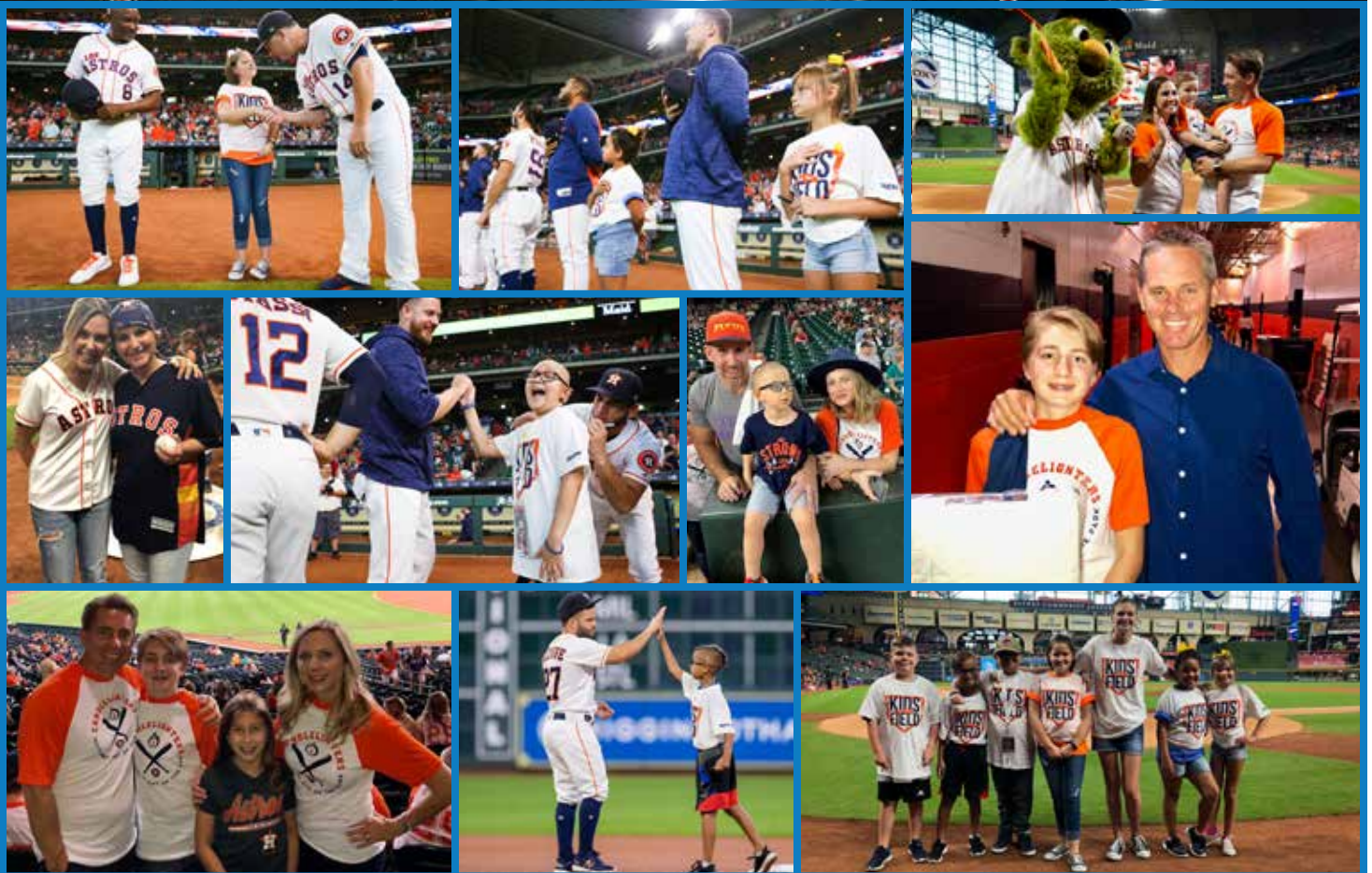
ogoodman@candle.org

HITTING A HOME RUN (cont. from cover)

During the game, fans could show their support {whether they were watching at home or in-person} by purchasing Astros Charity Bags for \$1,000, \$750, and \$500. These bags were stocked with amazing Astros items and memorabilia including: dugout seats to upcoming games; exclusive Astros merchandise; an autographed baseball by

legends Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio, and Nolan Ryan; a chance to win an autographed jersey or bat from Altuve, Bregman, Correa or Springer; a chance to win an autographed Jose Altuve Wilson A2000 GM glove – the Charity Bags were one-of-a-kind and sold out in record time! Proceeds from the sales of these bags resulted in a record-breaking Astros Foundation Charity Game Night, raising over \$250,000 for local childhood cancer efforts! Candlelighters was humbled to receive \$125,000 of those proceeds - funds that will make a direct impact on the children and families we serve.

Candlelighters extends a special thank you to Twila Carter, Executive Director, and Marian Harper, Vice President of Foundation Relations, of the Astros Foundation for their support and passion for raising awareness about childhood cancer. Your impact in the Greater Houston area and on our Candlelighters families has been so powerful. Thank you to our hometown heroes and the whole Astros organization!



Candlelighters

CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE



2018 IMPACT REPORT



3,721

FAMILIES SERVED

thousands of families received support from our many programs and services, including 294 newly diagnosed families in 2018

4,750

HOURS OF SUPPORT

through our five Parent Consultants serving at both MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Texas Children's Cancer Center



8,600

PARKING VALIDATIONS PROVIDED

daily parking assistance is provided for families with clinic appointments and in-patient stays at both hospitals in the Texas Medical Center

1,519

FAMILY MEMBERS ADOPTED

through our Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays program thanks to more than 200 local sponsors



23

CHILDREN REMEMBERED

and celebrated through our support of their memorial and funeral services

1

CAMP CLIFF

that hosted 170 Candlelighters family members for a carefree weekend getaway. 10 nurses/doctors/physical therapists and 44 staff/volunteers



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING OUR CHILDHOOD CANCER COMMUNITY

Visit www.candle.org and follow us at
Candlelighters Houston



KIDS HELPING KIDS

GIRL SCOUT TROOP #118028

When the weather starts turning a bit colder, and Girl Scout Troop #118028 starts talking holiday service plans, Candlelighters and the Holiday Adopt-A-Family program is always at the top of our list! This is the third year for our girls to choose to spread some holiday joy this way, and every year we are all so grateful we participated. This program is a vehicle to help teach the girls about giving back and helping others. We receive the family's wish list and the girls actually help shop for the family's gifts, choosing each one with excitement and care for the family member who will receive it. They wrap the presents, make precious handmade cards, bake cookies and brownies, and this year we hosted an evening party filled with getting to know the family and singing carols.

Most of the time, we load the rest of the gifts into their car, give hugs and say our goodbyes to the family, ring in the new year, and go about our other service projects. But this year was different. We were honored to meet The Criswell Family and something magical sparked as we spent that holiday time with them. We received the most heartfelt thank you messages from The Criswells; our Girl Scouts (4th graders) bonded with them and wanted to stay in touch with the daughters, Lauryn (diagnosed with a Pineoblastoma brain tumor in early 2018 and in remission during the holidays) and little sister Leia.

Through keeping in touch, we learned that Lauryn would have to undergo another surgery for the reoccurrence of a brain tumor. We shared the news with the Girl Scout Troop and they were compelled to do something for this family they had come to love. The girls made cards and a get-well-soon basket – which, of course, included their favorite girl scout cookies! Lauryn's nickname is "Lady Bug," so the girls thoughtfully planned out including a ladybug blanket, socks and pajamas! We were honored to deliver these things to the family, simply to brighten their day and let them know they're cared for and thought about.

Again, we received more heartfelt gratitude from mother Danielle, "...thank you guys so much! I recently read that emotion and mood play a big role in healing... The overall experience has brought us a lot of comfort and peace despite the tough situation." And truthfully, they have touched our hearts just as much. We have been able to teach our girls that it's not just about the gifts, but the thoughtfulness and the connection to other people. And when the opportunity arises to help someone feel better when they're in a tough situation, you take that opportunity and run with it, because it truly does have an impact.

Girl Scout Troop #118028 thinks about Lauryn "Lady Bug" often and we will certainly keep in touch and be by the whole family's side as they go through this second battle.



KAREEM JACKSON BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER

Former Houston Texan Kareem Jackson has been a household name for Candlelighters families for almost 10 years. He is a talented football player, starting as true freshman for the Alabama Crimson Tide and helping his team win the BCS National Championship in 2009. Fast forward, and in his 9 years as a Texan, we saw his #25 jersey in the deep steel blue and battle red at NRG Stadium, making tackles and sneaking interceptions.

What most people may not know about Jackson is his dedication to giving back to those who have battled cancer. This cause is near and dear to his heart as his mom Rossalyn is a two-time cancer fighter and survivor, and his sister Crystalynn was diagnosed with leukemia as a child. She won her battle as well, but as a young boy and family member watching the emotional, physical, and practical hardships of a sibling and mother going through multiple fights with cancer, Jackson was forever impacted and has now dedicated his philanthropic efforts to supporting women and children with cancer.

Jackson's impact on the Candlelighters organization and our families has been monumental! Once again in December, he made a trip to Texas Children's Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center to spread some holiday cheer, sign autographs, and take lots of photos with all of the excited patients and their families. And just as much as the kiddos love meeting this Texans star, Kareem loves spending time with them, too, and getting to talk to the children and their families – anything to bring some joy to their situation! Although our favorite Texan is moving to Denver, Kareem will forever be part of the Candlelighters family. We will never forget his kindness and generosity!



SHOP WITH A JOCK 2018

As if his support through his hospital visits weren't enough, Kareem Jackson decided he wanted to do something extra special this holiday season for 25 Candlelighters kids, including children touched by childhood cancer and their siblings! At the end of 2018, Kareem invited Candlelighters kiddos to join himself and Houston Texans teammates Tyrann Mathieu, Justin Reid, Johnson Bademosi, and Michael Tyson for a Chick-fil-A dinner and a night of shopping at Walmart, all provided by the Kareem Jackson Foundation. Each child was given \$100 and the opportunity to "Shop with a Jock" for the evening! They were encouraged to choose any gifts they wanted and to 'treat themselves' but we found most of them were also thinking about gifts for their family members.

A standout moment from the night may have been even bigger than the money spent on these well-deserving children and the gifts they received – it was the genuine connections between the kids with Kareem and his teammates. During the checkout process, a group of young boys asked for just one more thing. The staff held their breath as they waited for the big question... "Will you follow me on Instagram and take a selfie with me?!" Mathieu graciously accepted their request and just like that, their night was made!

Candlelighters mom, Marie Perez shared, "For the first time in 3 years, {my son} Jacob was well enough to be invited to Shop With A Jock! A night to forget about chemotherapy, port access, nausea meds, steroid pills and 22 other daily medications... The boys and Arabella reunited with their Camp CLIFF and hospital friends. Then after a small Chick-fil-A party, everyone went shopping... they all had a wonderful time meeting the players, hanging out with their friends, and doing a little shopping. The Houston Texans players were awesome with the kids, had fun, and hung out afterward. Thank you, thank you to Candlelighters, the chaperons, and Kareem Jackson for making Christmas Wishes come true!"



HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM



Year after year, we approach the holiday season with great anticipation of bringing joy to our Candlelighters families; and each year, we are floored by the giving spirit of our exceedingly generous Holiday Adopt-A-Family sponsors. This program is a bright spot among tough journeys for our families, and it would not be possible without each and every one of our sponsors. For those of you who sponsored a family this year, **THANK YOU!**

We are thrilled to share that over 200 sponsors participated this year! They provided gifts for a record-breaking 325 families, **giving to over 1,500 family members across the Greater Houston area!** What a beautiful reminder that giving really is more special than receiving.

We are humbled to share so many great snapshots of 2018's Holiday Adopt-A-Family efforts:

From a Sponsor:

"We met with our sponsored family and got to have dinner and open presents with them! It was an inspiring experience for me and my children. The family was so thankful to receive their presents... we will always remember this sweet family that we sponsored!"

From a Family:

"Our sponsor went above and beyond for us – we were incredibly grateful! When we met, they told 'G' to choose one gift to open before Christmas... he was SO ecstatic with the gift that he started crying and jumping up and down with happiness! These gifts and this joy just made our Christmas! The holidays would not have been as happy without our sponsor. We ended the year on a grateful note."

From a Sponsor:

"It was really wonderful to see how everyone in my family got excited about blessing another family this year – THAT is what Christmas is all about! I got emotional meeting 'A', who is the same age as my granddaughter and far too little to have to deal with such a diagnosis. Her fighting spirit, and her beautiful family, inspired us all and we hope to stay in touch with them throughout their journey."

From a Family:

"We wanted to thank Renee & Sergio for the Christmas gifts for our family. We are truly grateful and thankful for everything you did. This meant a lot to us this year, because at the time I wasn't working; we only had one income and didn't know what we were going to do for the holidays. My husband and I had already explained to the girls that Christmas was going to be short on gifts, then you came along. WHAT A BLESSING. Thank you, Renee & Sergio, and Candlelighters for everything you do for families like ours."

From a Family:

"Thank you Kiewit Corporation for being our Christmas sponsors! We are in awe of your kindness. Many thanks for all the presents delivered to our family. A special thanks to Candlelighters Houston for setting this up and always taking good care of our kids and family!"



Sponsors – for more information on how you can get involved with the Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program, contact Carly Bradshaw at cbradshaw@candle.org.

Families – for more information on how to apply for this program, contact your Parent Consultant. *Sponsor & Family forms will be sent in late September.



CANDLELIGHTERS HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

BY REBECCA SPERA | AAF SPONSOR - MOMS CLUB OF CLEAR LAKE

Last summer, when I traded my full-time job at ABC13 for part-time hours, a local moms club approached me to join their organization. I figured, "Why not?" I haven't hung out with other moms basically ever, since I worked all the time. Shortly after joining the MOMs Club of Clear Lake, I was nominated as President and learned that part of my responsibilities would be to organize charitable events that would benefit other moms and families.

We have done several events already this year that benefit moms and kids, but when it came time to choose our holiday project, I couldn't think of a better way to give back than to support a family through Candlelighters. I pitched the idea to our club that we would adopt a local family in the Clear Lake area whose lives had been touched by childhood cancer. As moms, we all agreed this would be a heartwarming way to give back during the holiday season.



We ended up adopting the Moore Family. A little more than three years ago, Laura and Adam Moore's daughter, Avelyn, was diagnosed with Medulloblastoma. This cancer affected her brain and resulted in several surgeries and treatment. Avelyn isn't their only child, though. She also has a younger sister, Amelia, and younger brother, Peter. Between juggling medical treatments and visits, and the financial burden of paying for cancer treatment, helping during the holidays was certainly a gift for this family. This year, Avelyn is off treatment, but she still has appointments; all while her dad is deployed until early summer. When I shared this story with the other moms, we rallied and worked hard to get the items on their wish list.



We transformed our holiday party into a gift-wrapping party for the Moore Family, and on a Saturday in early December, we rang their doorbell and dropped off holiday gifts for the entire family. We didn't expect to stay long because we didn't know what they would be up to on a busy Saturday before the holidays, but Laura was so welcoming to all of us. She had our group come in, and we sat and talked with her and the kids for a good bit of the afternoon. Avelyn was doing well, and all three of the kids were fun, well-mannered children. Laura was so appreciative of our generosity, and honestly, it was the least we could do.

After we said our goodbyes, our group of moms stood outside Laura's house and reflected on our day. We are all mothers. We are all grateful for our children's health. We are all grateful for organizations like Candlelighters that are the vehicles for

neighborhood moms like us who want to make a real difference in a family's life. And that, we knew we did.

HOMETOWN THROWDOWN



The hometown rivalry in Pearland meant more this year as the softball teams from Dawson High School and Pearland High School joined forces to raise awareness and funds for families of children with cancer in honor of former player and Candlelighters Ambassador Gia Gardella. Local Pearland six-year-old Ethan Perez threw out the first pitch. Ethan was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in June of 2017 at the age of four.

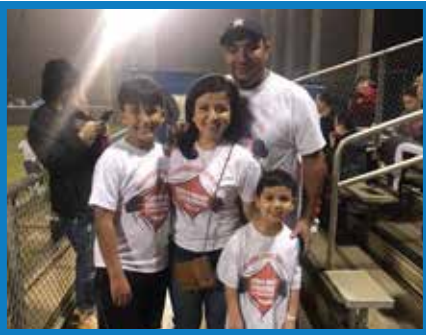
Gia Gardella is 18 years old and was born and raised in New York. Her family moved to Texas in 2015 and was welcomed with open arms into her softball

team-turned-family when she joined her sophomore year as a catcher. She was part of the 2018 team that won the District Title for the first time in school history. Gia graduated from Dawson High School on June 1st, 2018 and was all set and ready to go off to Sam Houston State University in August. But days prior to and after her graduation day, she felt pain all over her body. She went to her pediatrician and to the hospital numerous

times until June 20th. She was then diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma Cancer.

Gia was overwhelmed with gratitude during this incredible show of support as she gears up for her upcoming transplant.

At the game they raised money through a raffle and auction as well as a percentage of sales through concessions and food trucks. Stay tuned to see how much these ladies were able to raise! Thank you for thinking of Candlelighters and all the families we serve!



FUNDRAISING & AWARENESS IN YOUR SCHOOL

How to get YOUR school involved:

1. Share how helpful Candlelighters has been to your family with your child's school! It can be their teacher, counselor, principal, nurse, coach – anyone who loves on your child!
2. Ask that person if you can connect them with Candlelighters.
3. Connect Kelsey at Candlelighters (kelseyt@candle.org) with your school contact - we'll take it from there!

**No school is too small, too far, or too young or old to participate!
Help us start the conversation!**

16TH ANNUAL PLANET TEXAS BAR-B-QUE COOKOFF

Barbeque, cowboy boots, and carnival rides, oh my! On Saturday, February 23, 2019, our Candlelighters families put on their boots and best western gear to enjoy an afternoon at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo BBQ Cook-off!

Riding in like superstars, almost 300 people from our Candlelighters families filled six luxury buses with direct access to the cook-off grounds to enjoy the festivities in the Planet Texas Cook-off Team's Alamo-themed tent. There were rodeo clowns, face painting, balloon animals, dancing, and live music by Don Solace, Cecil Shaw and Grace Stanley. Jim Petree and his chefs provided delicious bar-b-que sandwiches for the families and cured everyone's sweet tooth with yummy cupcakes.



Candlelighters Board Member Jay Beasley, Joanne Crouch, Ray Carter, Marty Wells, and Shannon Ferguson organized this year's event, along with about 70 Planet Texas tent members and volunteers putting in hours of work to ensure our families had a special day. At the close of the event, after a big group picture (see back cover) in front of the Alamo backdrop, Planet Texas gifted every child in attendance (over 160 kiddos!) a Carnival Pack of tickets so they could enjoy the rides, games, and tasty fried foods at the carnival.



In addition to all the wonderful things the Planet Texas Cook-off Team does to make that Saturday enjoyable for our Candlelighters' families, they also raise money in memory of their team member Jeff Primm to send many of these same families to our weekend sleepaway camp, Camp CLIFF. This year, Primm's Posse is forecasting a record-breaking fundraising year for Candlelighters, surpassing last year's \$16,050 in donations! We are so grateful!

Thank you to all who were involved in making this event a day to remember for our Candlelighters families!



CAMP CLIFF - A ROYAL REDO

Camp CLIFF 2018 was a Royal Redo! Hurricane Harvey forced us to cancel our royal-themed weekend camp in 2017 and we couldn't wait to return in 2018! We filled the cabins with 225 campers, counselors and volunteers – one of our biggest camps ever, thanks to a gift from **The Children's Fund** and our Camp CLIFF Sponsors (see page 16.) The Royal Redo of 2018 was full of fun camp activities including canoeing, horseback riding, zip lining, fishing, and archery. This year was also filled with returning favorites and new surprises.



Campers arrived on Friday night and attended the Royal Fairgrounds after dinner. The evening was complete with a jousting house, a dreamy castle, and a bouncy house. New for 2018, a photo booth, thanks to **JP BEATO III PHOTOGRAPHY**, for the special pictures with your cabinmates and new best camp friends! And as a special surprise this year, thanks to **Operation Snowstorm**, we had four tons of snow brought in to the camp grounds! Campers, parents, counselors and volunteers all had a blast sledding down the snow-covered hill. After the Royal Fairgrounds, campers observed the stars, thanks to the **Houston Astronomy Association**. Always a popular activity, the group brings telescopes and offer a close-up look at planets, constellations, and star dust. To end the Friday night festivities, everyone roasted marshmallows, sang songs, and danced around the campfire. After the campers retreated to their cabins, parents enjoyed bingo and casino games.

Saturday at camp is all about the activities! Campers had a full day of fun, making the most of the wonderful amenities that Camp For All has to offer. Campers went fishing, canoeing, learned archery, went horseback riding, zip-lined, and had a paintball fight! These fun activities created lasting memories for campers of all ages. Parents enjoyed a relaxing spa experience with massages, haircuts, and hair styling. A cake decorating class and scavenger hunt kept our parent campers busy and allowed them some precious time to connect with other parents. They were able to unwind and relax within a restful environment.

Saturday night ended with the very moving and emotional "Wish Boat Ceremony." Afterwards, fireworks illuminated the sky – an exciting surprise for all the campers, thanks to our fireworks sponsor **TechStar Property Group**. After a long and difficult 2017, families cheered as the fireworks brought light to the darkness. Later that night, dressed in their best royal regalia, campers danced the night away at the dance party – the perfect ending to a day of fun.



Sunday was a time to reflect on all the healing, the hope, and the newfound friendships from camp. All members of the families left refreshed and renewed after such a special weekend. *With so many wonderful memories in the books, we are looking forward to Camp CLIFF 2019!*



**Camp
CLIFF**
2018

A Royal Re-Do



Thank You Sponsors

Primm's
Losse

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**OPERATION
SNOWSTORM**

*Karen
Marcontell*

Houston
ASTRONOMICAL
Society



P+R
PRODUCTIONS



JEANINE ANDERSON
& THE SPA TEAM

KARLA SALAZAR FACEPAINTING

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JIM PETREE & HIS COOKING TEAM

TAYLOR LEIGH HAIR

TYLER NEWBERRY

ROB PURVIS

HOUSE OF BEANS COFFEE

VISIBLE CHANGES



Helping Make a Difference for Children with Cancer

SAVE THE DATES



2019 FUN WALK

Saturday, September 7th

Terry Hershey Park

8AM: Check-In

8:45: Balloon Release

9AM: Walk Start

Online Registration Opens June 1st

2019 CAMP CLIFF

October 11th - 13th

Located at Camp For All
Registration Forms Will Be
Mailed to Families in August

*Family campers accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, with special consideration given to families with a newly-diagnosed child.



Candlelighters
CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

CAMP CLIFF VOLUNTEERS:

Contact Program Director Carly Bradshaw
cbradshaw@candle.org or 713.270.4700

GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

PRESENTED BY HOUSTON RELOCATION PROFESSIONALS

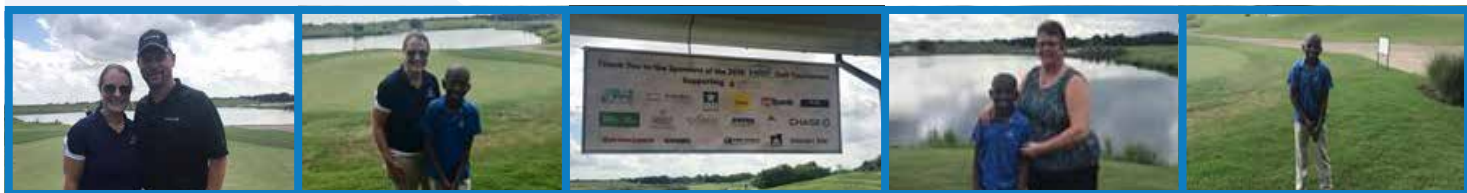


The Houston Relocation Professionals (HRP) has been actively involved with Candlelighters for over fourteen years! They have embraced the mission of Candlelighters with continued financial support, commitment to the families we serve, and a continued "can do" attitude! One of the many projects they take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

Summer Surprises programs. They also hold an annual golf tournament; we were honored to be named the beneficiary last year and are looking forward to another great tournament in 2019 as well!

Last year's tournament was held on September 16th at Wildcat Golf Course. Candlelighters Ambassador, Trey Thomas, did a ceremonial tee-off and the Planet Texas Cook-off Team provided a delicious lunch, generously donated by Ditta Meat Food Services. Special thanks to HRP Golf Chairman, Alan Grantham, for making 2018 a huge success! We are looking forward to another fabulous tournament in 2019!

For more information about the 2019 HRP Golf Tournament and securing a foursome today, email Lynn Wheeler at lwheeler@candle.org.



FALL FASHION SHOW FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

PRESENTED BY EMMALINE AND MUSE BOUTIQUE



On Thursday, October 24, 2018, Emmaline and MUSE Boutique joined together to raise money for Candlelighters through their Fall Fashion Show. Beautiful models graced the runway in support of Candlelighters families and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by Emmaline. The event featured an exciting raffle that included Houston Texans and Houston Rockets tickets and a chance to win a

cocktail dinner party at Emmaline!

Models included Candlelighters moms Angela Daniels, Angela Dina, and Melissa Wilson, as well as Candlelighters sibling, Annabelle Pena. Fringe Salon provided gorgeous hair styling services and Blushworthy provided beautiful makeup services for each model. Long-time Candlelighters supporter Rebecca Spera served as the Mistress of Ceremonies.

Special thanks to our testimonial speaker, Angela Dina, for sharing an intimate look into her family's journey through childhood cancer treatment. Thank you as well to MUSE owner, Lindsay Mousoudakis, and Candlelighters Board Member and co-owner of Emmaline, Sam Governale. What a fun day enjoying beautiful fall fashions and supporting a great cause! The fashion show and luncheon attendees raised \$22,000 for Candlelighters!





presented by:



Thank You Sponsors!

Platinum Sponsors:



Matthew Whitlock

Alex & Aron Will

Gold Sponsors:



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Bronze Sponsors:

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In-Kind Sponsors:

8th Wonder Brewery, Bearcom Wireless Worldwide, Ditta Meat Food Service Company, Dos Equis, LM Photography, Texas Tamale Company

Participating Restaurants

1. Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen
2. Bayou & Bottle
3. Bosscat Kitchen & Libations
4. Chuy's - River Oaks
5. Cilantro's Cocina
6. Eight Row Flint
7. Emmaline
8. Emma's Mex Grill
9. Field & Tides
10. La Fisheria
11. Grandma's Boys Lemonade
12. The Grove
13. Harold's in the Heights
14. Kicpops
15. Line & Lariat
16. Lupe Tortilla
17. On the Kirb
18. The Palm
19. Poitin Bar + Kitchen
20. Superica
21. El Tiempo Cantina
22. Los Tios Mexican Restaurant
23. Tony's Mexican Restaurant



Saturday, March 23, 2019

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CANDLELIGHTERS CARES

a monthly program to show our support and appreciation for the hardworking hospital staff at Texas Children's Cancer Center and Children's Cancer Hospital at MD Anderson.

Thank you to our 2018 Sponsors!



Thank you to last year's Candlelighters Cares Sponsors: Sugar Mamas Cake Pops, Curlicue Bakery, Alma Latina, Lupe Tortilla, Five Loaves Catering, Grazia Italian Kitchen, Bonnie's Donuts, Oler Relocation, Adam's Angels, Tiff's Treats, Iberia Bank, Origin Bank, Jones Day Law Firm, and QRS Realty.

Thank You to This Year's Sponsors!

CANDLELIGHTERS CARES 2019

<p>JANUARY</p> 	<p>FEBRUARY</p> 	<p>MARCH</p> 	<p>APRIL</p> <p>COOKIES BY SARAH MICHELLE KOOKIES KAT THE COOKIE MOM THE SUGAR JAR WHIP IT GOOD COOKIES</p>
<p>MAY</p> 	<p>JUNE</p> 	<p>JULY</p> 	<p>AUGUST</p> 
<p>SEPTEMBER</p> 	<p>OCTOBER</p> 	<p>NOVEMBER</p> 	<p>DECEMBER</p> 

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CANDLELIGHTERS CARES AND BECOMING A SPONSOR, PLEASE CONTACT PROGRAM DIRECTOR CARLY BRADSHAW AT CBRADSHAW@CANDLE.ORG.



Get Involved: INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, & COMPANIES

DONATING GIFT CARDS

Host a 'Gift Card Drive': Gather gift cards for groceries, Walmart, Target, and gas -- these are MUCH appreciated by families!

CONTACT 713.270.4700 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

SPREAD THE WARMTH

Hospitals are cold! Gather new blankets, slippers, & fun warm socks -- perfect for our PCs to hand out to patients and families! One size fits all leggings for both patients and parents are also needed.

CAMP CLIFF

We are currently seeking MANY volunteers to help us have the best camp weekend ever! We will need:

**CAMP COUNSELORS
CAMP SUPPORT STAFF
CAMP PREP VOLUNTEERS
UNDERWRITERS & DONORS
FOR SPECIAL EVENTS
AND MUCH MORE!**

CONTACT CARLY BRADSHAW AT CBRADSHAW@CANDLE.ORG

SUMMER SURPRISES

A summer event at the hospitals where we provide a party, lunch, desserts, and PRESENTS!! Volunteer your time at the hospital, host a gift drive, and wrap presents! We are also currently seeking underwriters & donors for day-of entertainment, sweets, face-painting & balloon animals, a DJ, and more!

EVENT & OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Help behind the scenes for one of our events, at an event, or in our corporate office. Call 713.270.4700 for current opportunities.

NEW ADDITIONS TO CANDLELIGHTERS

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST PARENT CONSULTANT

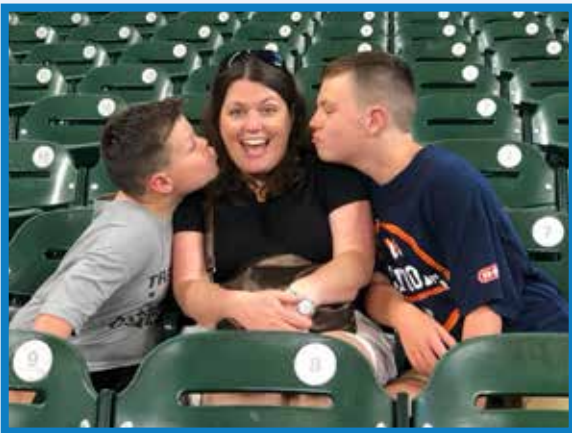
Opal Goodman, Texas Children's Hospital

As many families and Candlelighters supporters know, it is our Parent Consultant Program that is so special and sets our organization apart. Thanks to funding from **The Children's Fund** and **Flour Corporation**, Candlelighters is thrilled to introduce our newest Parent Consultant, Opal Goodman!

A Texas native, Opal hails from a large family of 8, loved her time growing up in the country on her parents' farm, and is now married to husband Chris and mom of two sons, Cody and Alex. Opal was enjoying time working with her former employer when her youngest son, Alex, was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. At the time, Alex had just turned 8 and Cody was 9 years old. Opal left her job to be with Alex through the journey of fighting his cancer, as that was a full-time job in and of itself. Alex stayed at Texas Children's Hospital on-and-off for 7 months before he achieved remission and came home for good.



In Opal's own words, "That time in our lives was extremely tough. Our family was separated for much of that time, the chemotherapy was particularly rough on Alex's tiny body, and he even had a 2-week stay in the Intensive Care Unit; he was intubated for 10 of those days, which was incredibly frightening. Hearing him ring the bell, signifying the end of his treatment, was the most emotional and happiest day of my life. We met wonderful families and we shared in their highs and lows as their children battled cancer. When Candlelighters asked me to interview for the new Parent Consultant position, I was overjoyed! Being a Parent Consultant is a perfect way to give a piece of support to the families who are going through what we went through; to comfort them in their times of grief and worry and to celebrate with them in their times of happiness and triumph. It is the very best way for me to give back the love and support I was given during our inpatient stay."



We are honored to have Opal working as a Candlelighters PC, and her journey is sure to provide invaluable support and comfort for so many of our families.

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST FAMILY MEMBER

Jackson Drake Tarpinian

We are so excited to welcome Development Director Kelsey Tarpinian's precious baby boy to the family! Born on December 5th and weighing in at 9 pounds, 3 ounces, baby Jack is the perfect little addition to the crew. Kelsey, Jeff, and big sister Hallie are over the moon! Baby Jack made his first event appearance at the Rodeo Cook-off and we're looking forward to watching him grow!



WELCOMING OUR NEWEST CANDLELIGHTERS STAFF**Carly Bradshaw, Program Director**

The Candlelighters Program Director is someone who works on any event and initiative that includes our families. From coordinating fun events like the Rodeo Cook-off, Skeeters Day, and Fall Festival, to managing programs like Candlelighters Cares, Adopt-A-Family, and the amazing Camp CLIFF weekend retreat, this position is bursting with fun! We are excited to welcome our new Program Director, Carly Bradshaw.

Born and raised in Sugar Land, Carly has always had a heart for serving others. As a freshman at

The University of Texas in Austin, she started volunteering as a YoungLife leader as she pursued her Bachelors in Communications. During the summers, she worked at various children's summer camps, fell in love and got engaged to her now husband, Chad, and continued volunteering with kids with special needs through Capernaum YoungLife. When graduation approached, Carly decided to stay in Austin, follow her heart to work in the non-profit field, and get her Masters in Social Work. After graduation, she was a fundraising professional for a mixture of small non-profits and national organizations.

Fast-forward a few years, and Carly is back in Sugar Land with her husband, son Beau (5), and daughter Noah May (2), and is feeling blessed to live so close to extended family. In her own words, "I am so honored to be working for Candlelighters and with these amazing families! Bringing joy and practical support to those touched by childhood cancer is humbling and I'm so glad to be apart of something as amazing as Candlelighters."

Christina Delgado, Office Manager

If you have called the office and wondered who the friendly voice on the other end of the line is, you have been lucky enough to meet Christina Delgado. Christina started in the Candlelighters office during the holiday hustle-and-bustle, and didn't miss a beat – she fit right in with the bright, warm Candlelighters vibe from the beginning!

With experience in marketing and public relations, and the medical and commercial real estate fields, Christina is a focused communicator who values relationships and results. A native Houstonian, Christina is deeply committed to community endeavors and is thrilled to be a part of the team at Candlelighters.

Christina has been married to her wonderful husband Kris for 15 years and they have a twelve-year old son. When she is not working, Christina enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and baking.



LIGHTS OF COURAGE LUNCHEON

We are gearing up and looking forward to our annual Lights of Courage Luncheon, coming up on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at the beautiful River Oaks Country Club. Event Chairs, Audrey Chin, Beth Guinn, and Ali Williams, are planning a stunning event full of shopping, a delicious lunch, honoring families, and an amazing keynote speaker, all in the name of supporting Candlelighters' services for families who have a child with cancer.

We are thrilled to welcome Texas native and hilarious social media queen, Melissa Radke, as our luncheon speaker! Melissa is the spunky, down-to-earth author of the best-selling book "Eat Cake. Be Brave." After her sidesplitting video blog "Red Ribbon Week" went viral, Melissa stole the hearts of parents all over the country, connecting with millions of people. She decided to write down her inspiring journey to becoming more brave, bold, and free. We are honored to have her speak to our luncheon attendees.



For the first time ever, we are thrilled to be featuring **9 Super Raffle packages!** In addition to table sponsors, ticket sales, and Shining Opportunity donations, the raffle is one of our luncheon components that raises a significant amount of income to serve our Candlelighters families. This is also a unique opportunity to give back even if you cannot attend the event and **NEW THIS YEAR: we are selling raffle tickets online!** So feast your eyes on the amazing trips and experiences we have lined up for this year, then run over to our website to grab your tickets!

SUPER RAFFLE PREVIEW!

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, MEXICO: take a week-long trip with 11 of your closest friends to this magnificent private home in this beautiful, colorful Mexican city! *Valued at \$7,000!*

SOUTH TEXAS HUNTING EXPERIENCE: escape the city at a beautiful 4,800-acre private ranch, where 2 from your party will embark on a Texas Whitetail Deer hunting experience! *Valued at \$9,500!*

WILDFLOWER LODGE AT JACKSON HOLE: relax in this stunning secluded mountain home, complete with the upscale amenities of a luxury resort, breathtaking scenery, and majestic wildlife. *Valued at \$6,500!*

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA: take a romantic getaway to the country's #1 Travel Destination, rich in history. Premier dining, a private photography tour, and airfare are all included! *Valued at \$7,000!*

ONE&ONLY PALMILLA LOS CABOS: enjoy a 3-night stay at the #1 Luxury Resort in Los Cabos! Take in the extraordinary views of the lush landscape and the flawless seafront. *Valued at \$4,800!*

LAS TERRAZAS RESORT, BELIZE: escape to the breathtaking island of Ambergris Caye with the largest private beachfront for a Caribbean vacation you will never forget! *Valued at \$1,500!*

MONTAGE RESORT, DEER VALLEY: spend the weekend at one of America's top ski resorts, the Utah atmosphere making it a perfect getaway for any time of year. *Valued at \$3,000!*

ROCKSTAR RANCH, CHAPPELL HILL: this secluded 8.4 acre ranch is the perfect local getaway for your family, sleeping 13 and packed with activities to keep your family busy for a week! *Valued at \$2,000!*

CRYSTAL BEACH CABIN, BOLIVAR PENINSULA: take the whole family to this beautiful, spacious cabin for a beach retreat for a week, filled with coastal access and endless fun! *Valued at \$2,000!*



TO VIEW MORE DETAILS ABOUT ALL OF OUR AMAZING RAFFLE PACKAGES, AND TO PURCHASE YOUR TABLE, SEATS, AND RAFFLE TICKETS BEFORE THEY SELL OUT, VISIT: GIVE.CANDLE.ORG/LUNCHEON OR CONTACT CARLY BRADSHAW AT CBRADSHAW@CANDLE.ORG.



2019 Dates to Save!

LIGHTS OF COURAGE LUNCHEON - APRIL 23, 2019

For more information visit www.candle.org/events

SKEETERS DAY AT THE BALL PARK - MAY 31, 2019

For more information contact cbradshaw@candle.org

SUMMER SURPRISES

Children's Cancer Hospital at MD Anderson: JULY 17, 2019

Texas Children's Cancer Center: JULY 23, 2019

For more information contact your Parent Consultant

FUN WALK - SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

Terry Hershey Park | Online Registration Opens June 1st

CAMP CLIFF - OCTOBER 11-13, 2019

Families, contact your Parent Consultants for more information
Volunteers, contact cbradshaw@candle.org for more information

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 27, 2019

For more information contact cbradshaw@candle.org

HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM - OCT-DEC 2019

To sponsor a family, contact cbradshaw@candle.org
Families, contact your Parent Consultants for more information

TO STAY CURRENT WITH CANDLELIGHTERS,
EVENTS & NEWS, FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



CORPORATE CORNER

Montz & Maher – SMILES FOR LIFE



We are excited and honored to announce that Montz & Maher Dental Group has once again chosen to benefit Candlelighters through their annual Smiles for Life Campaign. In 2018, they raised more than \$7,000 to help Candlelighters offer much needed programs and services to children with cancer and their families in the Houston area.

They were recently honored at a national dental convention for their success with the campaign, and anyone can see their efforts made for a fun year! We sure don't think this team is boring – they come up with fun ways to celebrate reaching their goals along the way and we cannot wait to see how they celebrate this year!

Now through June, visit Montz & Maher Dental Group at either of their Pearland or Friendswood offices to purchase a whitening treatment to benefit Candlelighters – 100% of the proceeds from whitening treatments, now through June, will be donated to charity! What are you waiting for? Call (281) 485-4829 for more information.



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 bereaving 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 support in the following ways:

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

Candlelighters provides emotional & educational support through our following programs and events:

- One-on-one peer support from Candlelighters Parent Consultants (two staff at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and three at Texas Children's Cancer Center)
- Support Group Meetings (weekly at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Texas Children's Cancer Center)
- Newsletter
- Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program
- Camp CLIFF (Children Loved in Families Forever)
- Fall Family Festival
- Patient Journal
- Skeeter's Day at the Ball Park
- Summer Surprises
- Many others throughout the year! Stay up-to-date on programs and events by joining our email and newsletter mailing list, and by following us on Facebook: Candlelighters Houston.

Important Candlelighters Phone Numbers:

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

Other resources available to families facing childhood cancer:

- On-Treatment Housing
 - Halo House Foundation
 - Ronald McDonald House
 - Chance for Hope
 - Project Joy and Hope
- Transportation Assistance for People with Disabilities
 - Houston Children's Charity
- Grief Support
 - Bo's Place
 - Project Joy and Hope
- Financial Assistance
 - Heroes for Children Rent and Mortgage
 - Houston Children's Charity Prosthetics
 - Project Joy and Hope
- College Scholarships
 - Addi's Faith Foundation
 - American Cancer Society
 - Cancer for College
 - Cancer Survivor Fund
 - Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation/Brittany Truitt Scholarship
 - Friends of Scott
 - Jack's Ride Scholarship Program
 - Kidsrstrong2
 - Kids 4 Kids with Cancer
 - National Children's Cancer Society
 - National Collegiate Cancer Foundation
 - Northwestern Mutual – Sibling Scholarship Program
 - 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



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

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Thank you to our wonderful Rodeo Cook-off Event Sponsor
PLANET TEXAS RODEO COOK-OFF TEAM



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 Print Media
For Producing Our Newsletter

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.