



Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, Inc.
Candlelighters CCFA
8323 Southwest Freeway, Suite 435
Houston, Texas 77074

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MANY NEEDS AND MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP.

Throughout the year Candlelighters works to assist our families with a variety of on-going financial needs and we are always grateful to receive the following types of gift cards:

Target
Gas Cards
I-tunes

Wal-mart
Grocery Cards
Chick-fil-a

Consider making a donation and drop off or mail your items to:
8323 Southwest Freeway Ste. 435 Houston, TX 77074
713-270-4700

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twitter.com/CandlelightersH



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



A Special Thank You To
Southeast Media
For Producing Our Newsletter
www.southeastmediatexas.com

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 card. 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. 22 NO. 4
WINTER 2015-2016**

Kids Helping Kids 6

Kareem Jackson 7

Tee It Up 8

Fun Walk 2015 14

and so much more ...

WILD ABOUT CAMP!



October 9th, 10th and 11th found Candlelighters families exploring their wild side at Candlelighters Camp CLIFF (Children Loved in Families Forever). During our jungle adventure we galloped on horseback, climbed ropes courses, soared down zip lines, canoed, and danced the night away in our favorite safari costumes. The parents also got to enjoy chalk art and pottery demonstrations, some friendly blackjack and indulgences at our weekend "spa".

On Sunday morning during our Camp CLIFF Reflection we had several families share their personal and touching stories with everyone. One of those families was the Kvapil family. The Kvapil's were first time attendees at Camp CLIFF and their story was so moving we asked Amy Kvapil to their experiences share it with all of our Candlelighters' friends.

ROMAN'S JOURNEY

By Amy Kvapil



When a parent is told their precious child has cancer, it's to say the least, devastating. Some face it head on, leaning on others for support and guidance. Others climb into a shell, putting on a brave face and trying to shield their child from the new and scary world around them. Both are valiant and honorable – just accepting the diagnosis takes guts. So when my son, Roman, was diagnosed at 14 months old with Stage IV high risk neuroblastoma, I quickly & unwittingly fell into the latter category. It was completely out of my realm of thinking that my precious babies' symptoms - protruding belly, irritability, consistent fever and pale skin - could be cancer. We began Roman's treatment in January 2007, and the first families I met on the TCH 9th floor were so kind, but I found it way too overwhelming to even hold a conversation without bawling my eyes out, so I just clammed up, dug into my Bible and focused on the healing of my baby boy. We were touched and grateful for the many organizations that reached out to us to give comfort, support and a nor I

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BULLETIN BOARD

CANDLELIGHTERS CCFA

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dawn Schordock, Program Director
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Jennifer Giambi, Director of Development
 email: jenniferg@candle.org

8323 Southwest Freeway, Suite 435
 Houston, Texas 77074
 (713) 270-4700 - Fax: (713) 270-9802

UPCOMING EVENTS

YPG MARGARITA TASTE OFF
 SATURDAY APRIL 9

LIGHTS OF COURAGE LUNCHEON
 TUESDAY APRIL 26

TEE IT UP GOLF TOURNAMENT
 FRIDAY MAY 13

SUMMER SURPRISES
 JUNE/JULY 2016

SKEETERS STRIKE OUT CANCER
 Friday October 30

CANDLELIGHTERS FUN WALK:
 SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10

CAMP CLIFF: OCTOBER 7-9

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL:
 OCTOBER 2016

UPDATED INFORMATION!

Support Group Meeting at
Texas Children's Hospital:

Every Wednesday • 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
 Texas Children's Hospital - West Tower
 Ronald McDonald's Kitchen – 9th Floor
 for more information call 832-822-1415
 No RSVP Required

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

PARENT CONSULTANTS

Texas Children's Cancer Center

Office (832) 822-1415
 Maria Pena mariap@candle.org
 Linda Pena lindap@candle.org

MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital

Office (713) 792-4891
 Jaynie Hutchinson
 email: jaynieh@candle.org
 Roseanna Daly
 email: rdaly@candle.org

You can make a difference in your community!

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance is seeking young professionals who are hoping to increase their visibility, networking and outreach opportunities to support the Candlelighters mission to provide emotional, educational and practical assistance to families of children with cancer. For more information, please contact Jennifer Giambi at jenniferg@candle.org or 713-270-4700.



candlelighters®
 CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE
 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

For the first time in its 22 year history Candlelighters' annual Fall Family Festival held at St. John's School had to be canceled due to weather. Unfortunately, high winds and possible flooding were forecasted and we didn't want our ghosts and goblins to float away.

We would like to give a big thank you to the students at St. John's School who had the event planned and organized. We are grateful each year for all of the hard work they put into such a fun event for Candlelighters' families.

A special thanks goes out to the festival's generous donors at Central Bank and our in-kind sponsors: Amy's Ice Cream, Annunciation Orthodox School, Candlelighters Board Members, Coca Cola, Ditta Meat Food Service Company, Linda Evans, Pam Hennessy, Houston Fire Department, Jumping Jingle Moonwalks, Kay Kempken, P & R Productions, Cynthia Ditta Priebe, Don Spicer, and St. John's School.

Candlelighters is very grateful for the amazing volunteers who make Fall Family Festival such a special day for our families each year. We look forward to seeing everyone next October!





Candlelighters' annual Fun Walk took place on Saturday, September 12th at Terry Hershey Park in Houston, Texas. Many Candlelighters families walked in honor or in memory of their child.

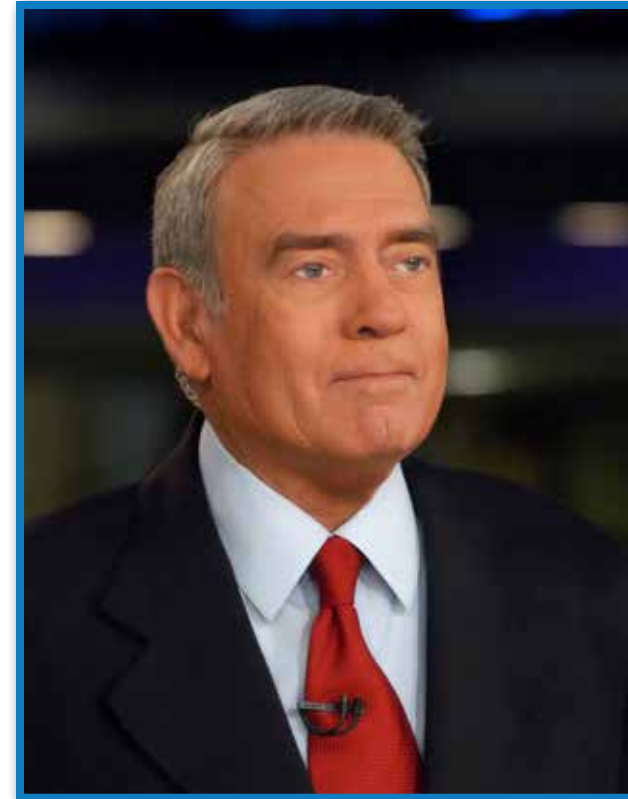
Over 650 walkers participated in the 3 mile walk, which raised over \$140,000 for Camp CLIFF. There was face painting, food, DJ, refreshments and a raffle at the walk. The Fun Walk is a family-oriented fundraiser and everyone is welcome to attend to help raise money for children with cancer. The walk is open to all individuals, families and companies. Look for more information on our 2016 Fun Walk soon!



TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Tuesday, April 26, 2016
River Oaks Country Club
1600 River Oaks Boulevard

Featuring: Boutique Shopping and Raffle
Shopping and Mimosas: 10:00 am - 11:45 am
Luncheon and Raffle Drawing: 12:00 Noon - 1:30 pm



ROMAN'S JOURNEY cont. from Cover

could find the strength to respond to any of their requests. One of the groups that we saw on a regular basis in the Infusion Area was the Candlelighters. From time to time, the sweet lady at the desk would give me parking passes, so I in turn gave her our contact information. Over the last 8 years, we received newsletters from them, along with Camp Cliff brochures. I loved hearing about the incredible things they were doing for other families and seeing smiles on the brave kids' faces at camp, but never wanted to put myself out there by attending any of these events. This year when the Camp Cliff application came in the mail, I opened it, and for some reason, decided maybe it was time to "put on my big girl pants" and submit the application. When I got the call that we were accepted to go this year, boy did I hesitate to say yes! After a few days of deliberating, we accepted their gracious invitation.



I had no idea what to expect at Camp Cliff and was so nervous, mostly for Roman, 9 at the time, because he's a shy little sweetheart who had never been to any kind of camp before. From the minute we pulled up, nerves in full swing, we felt acceptance and kindness beyond our expectations. The drum circle on the first night was a great way to break the ice for the kids and the same can be said for the Bingo game for the adults. The next day was full of amazing activities for everyone to enjoy, including our two wonderful daughters, Presley (7) and Haven (5). Roman was masterful on the ropes course & rock wall, and who knew he could ride a horse! What was truly amazing was seeing our sweet but shy boy having so much fun with his new friends in the cabin. The trip was already a success right there! To top it off, that night at the Wish Boat Ceremony, Roman volunteered to get up in front of the entire group and read the wish for his cabin. Say what?! The ironic part was he said that their wish was "for everyday to be like camp". WOW! Who knew one weekend could make such an impact on our sweet boy! Truth be told, this camp made quite the positive impact on ALL of us. Pete, my loving better half & workaholic husband, was so relaxed and had a look of peace on his face all weekend. As for me, I really enjoyed talking to the other moms about Roman's journey, and felt a comfort and acceptance like never before. It took a while to get here, but it feels like my own journey of healing has finally begun!

Our entire family is so grateful and overwhelmed by the love and acceptance we felt at Camp Cliff this year and we want to extend a sincere thank you to the Candlelighters, the Camp Counselors, and the other incredible families that welcomed us with open arms! I can tell you this with 100% certainty – I will not throw away the Camp Cliff brochure next year, but instead, be looking for it in my mailbox and hope to see everyone at camp again next year!



A heartfelt thank you to Hein & Associates for your on-going support of Candlelighters and the families facing childhood cancer that we serve. Hein graciously hosted our Summer Surprises event at MD Anderson Cancer Center last July by providing a catered bar-b-que lunch, gifts for all children in attendance, and live entertainment. For the second year in a row Hein participated in our Adopt A Family program and adopted several of our families and provided special holiday memories to those that may not otherwise have celebrated the season.

Hein & Associates LLP is recognized as a leading accounting and advisory firm where its people and clients share knowledge, thrive in a culture of teamwork, and build long-term relationships deeply rooted in integrity.

In an ever-changing world, Hein's core values are constant and reflect what is truly important. Their values shape their culture, define the character of their firm, underlie their work, and guide their interactions.

Candlelighters looks forward to many more years of continued partnership with Hein & Associates.

WICKED THINGS

GHOULS, Zombies and ghosts turned up for a fun Halloween night at the 2nd Annual Wicked Things Halloween Party, raising \$3,000 for Candlelighters and the families we support. The annual Halloween costume party, which was held at GAGE Lounge in Midtown, was organized by Jason Kingman, Sarah Scott, Michael Padon and Hugo and Vanessa Teste. The night was filled with great music from local DJs Dirty M, Giovanni and Jennifer Bajorek, as well as awesome drink specials sponsored by Ketel One Vodka, Goose Island Beer Company and Bud Light. Party goers also participated in a costume contest! The winners of Best Male and Female costumes each took home gift cards sponsored by El Tiempo Cantina. The winners of Best Group costume took home a Midtown Pedal Party for six!

Each year the Wicked Things Halloween bash supports a local non-profit, and Candlelighters is extremely grateful for being chosen as this year's recipients!



MUSE



On Thursday, October 22nd Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, MUSE Boutique and Norton Ditto joined together to raise money for Candlelighters. The annual fashion show and luncheon had a sold out crowd again this year and raised more than \$23,000 for Candlelighters. Models graced the runway in support of Candlelighters families. Models included Candlelighters moms Angela Dina and Melissa Wilson as well as survivor, Abbey Standley.

Salon Gity provided hair styling and make up to our models. Rebecca Spera, with Channel 13 was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. MUSE owner, Lindsay Mousoudakis and Norton Ditto GM, John Hite, provided models to highlight the fall fashions. Sam Governale, with Flemings Prime Steakhouse, provided incredible food and drinks. It was a wonderful day to raise money for children with cancer. Special thanks to Flemings Prime Steakhouse, MUSE and Norton Ditto for once again making a difference to our children with cancer and their families.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR

CAMP CLIFF 2015

SPONSORS

31 Bags	Lollie and GiGi Custom Painted Furniture
Jeanine Anderson	MD Anderson Cancer Center
C&D Hardware & Gifts	The O'Leary Family
Colortech Direct	P & R Productions
Comfy for Chemo	Party Parrots
Constellation Energy	Ken Petree & His Cooking Crew
Crocodile Encounter	Pin Oak Horse Show
Ditta Meat and Food Services	Primm's Posse
The Evans Family	Bob Qualey
The Helmreich Family	Dessie Sackey
Houston Astronomical Society	Texas Children's Hospital
Kareem Jackson	Shelby Ubrich
Jenna Jackson	Jennifer Wilbur
Let Them Drum	

Helping Make A Difference For Children With Cancer



KIDS HELPING KIDS

In the spirit of Kids Helping Kids, students in the Jersey Village High School Peer Assistance Leadership (PALs) program raised more than \$3,200 for Candlelighters.

To commemorate Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September, students in the PALs program encouraged teachers and school administrators to participate in a special homecoming week activity – the pie-in-a-teacher's-face contest. According to the Jersey Village Peregrine, students voted by placing donations into a gold-painted milk jug designated to a specific teacher or administrator.

Over \$1,600 was raised from the voting, and PALs students collected another \$1,500 by selling "Gold Out" t-shirts. "Besides teaching, childhood cancer is my passion," Leslie Wendt, JVHS teacher and PALs sponsor, told the Jersey Village Peregrine. "I'll take a pie in the face for the kids any day."

Out of the more than 42 volunteers, 11 JVHS teachers and administrators took pies to the face at the homecoming pep rally. Way to go Jersey Village staff!! Thank you from all the children and families you supported!



Candlelighters has developed several fundraising options that can be modified for various situations. You may choose a program that recognizes individual achievement or choose a group fundraiser. Most importantly, we want children to learn to help other children and to make a difference in someone else's life. The purpose is to give children an opportunity to help each other - Kids Helping Kids! Contact Jennifer Giambi at 713-270-4700 or jenniferg@candle.org to get your school involved.



Saturday April 9, 2016 at Hughes Hangar • 2811 Washington Ave.

Benefitting
Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Alliance

TITLE Sponsor • \$7,500

- Title Sponsor for the 8th Annual Margarita Taste Off
- Company logo in the photo booth
- Opportunity to send one dedicated email to Candlelighters database
- Inclusion as a sponsor on marketing materials including invitation and print advertising
- Live logo link on website
- Top placement of logo included in event signage
- Mention on Candlelighters social media
- Ad in Candlelighters newsletter distributed to over 3,500 recipients
- Name in all press materials
- 10 tickets to the event including VIP Hour

PRESENTING Sponsor • \$2,500

- Brand exposure to a targeted group of young professionals 22 to 40
- Inclusion as a sponsor on marketing materials including invitation and print advertising
- Live logo link on website
- Premium placement of logo included in event signage
- Mention on Candlelighters social media
- Ad in Candlelighters newsletter distributed to over 3,500 recipients
- Name in all press materials
- 6 tickets to the event including VIP Hour

RED CARPET VIP Sponsor • \$5,000

- Sponsor of the VIP HOUR, one hour prior to event start, with brand exposure to a targeted group of young professionals 22 to 40
- Inclusion as a sponsor on marketing materials including invitation and print advertising
- Live logo link on website
- Premium placement of logo included in VIP event signage
- Mention on Candlelighters social media
- Ad in Candlelighters newsletter distributed to over 3,500 recipients
- Name in all press materials
- 8 tickets to the event including VIP Hour

CREATE YOUR OWN Sponsor

- Let's talk! Please contact Jennifer Giambi at jenniferg@candle.org or 713.270.4700 to discuss a custom sponsorship.

☐ YES, I (We) will participate in the 2016 Margarita Taste Off to benefit Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance.

☐ TITLE Sponsor ☐ RED CARPET VIP Sponsor ☐ PRESENTING sponsor ☐ CREATE YOUR OWN Sponsor \$ _____

☐ I am unable to participate, but please accept my 100% tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

Name (as it should appear in all printed materials)		Payment Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX <input type="checkbox"/> Check	
Company Name (as it should appear in all printed materials)		Card #	
Phone Number		Expiration Date Security Code (on back of card)	
Street Address		Name as it appears on card	
City	State	Zipcode	Signature
Email			

Please mail payments to Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance | 8323 Southwest Frwy. Ste. 435, Houston, TX 77074
If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Giambi. | Phone: 713-270-4700 | Email: jenniferg@candle.org | Fax: 713-270-9802

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance provides emotional, educational and practical support to families of children with cancer.
www.candle.org | www.facebook.com/candlelighters | www.twitter.com/CandlelightersH

SAVE THE DATE

8TH ANNUAL Margarita TASTE OFF

Saturday April 9, 2016 at Hughes Hangar • 2811 Washington Ave.

Benefitting
Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Alliance

www.candle.org

jenniferg@candle.org



KAREEM KARES!!!



As a hometown hero on and off the turf our Houston Texan, Kareem Jackson, had a very busy 2015! Our super star secured his future with the Houston Texans, was a big part in making the playoffs, became a proud papa and still made time to support Candlelighters families!

In 2015 Kareem once again visited Texas Children's Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center to spread holiday cheer, sign autographs and take pictures with all of the excited patients.

Through Kareem's Dream Team, he purchased 20 tickets to each Houston Texans regular season home games through the Texans All Community Ticket Program (T.A.C.T.). Candlelighters' families received team memorabilia, T-shirts as well as food and beverages during the games. Through this program our families were also treated to an awe inspiring tunnel experience before each game. Congratulations to Kareem for another winning season!



TEE IT UP 2016



SAVE the DATE

Candlelighters presents

TEE IT UP

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, May 13, 2016

Wildcat Golf Club

Check-in at 8 a.m., Tee Off at 9 a.m.

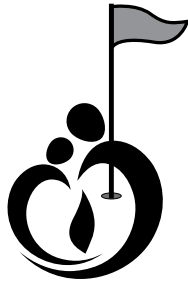
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Special Thanks to our Title Sponsors:



jenniferg@candle.org



Candlelighters.
CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

Tee It Up! Golf Tournament

Benefiting Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance

Friday, May 13, 2016
Check in at 8:00am • Tee Off at 9:00am
WildCat Golf Club
12000 Almeda • Houston, Texas 77045

PARTICIPATION FORM

Name (as it should appear in all printed materials)

Company Name (as it should appear in all printed materials)

Contact Name

Phone Number

Street Address

City

State

Zipcode

Email

PLAYERS NAMES:

1.

2.

3.

4.

- ☐ YES! I (we) will participate in the 2016 Tee It Up Golf Tournament to benefit the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance in the following ways!
- ☐ 2016 Tee It Up! TITLE SPONSOR

☐ Founder Sponsor

☐ Ace Sponsor

☐ Double Eagle Sponsor

☐ Honors Foursome

☐ Create-Your-Own Sponsorship

☐ Foursome

☐ Tribute Hole Sponsor

☐ Individual Player
- SOLD

\$7,500

\$5,000

\$3,000

\$1,500

\$_____

\$1,000

\$300

\$250

☐ I am unable to participate, but please accept my 100% tax-deductible donation of \$_____

Payment Method: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX ☐ Check

Card #

Expiration Date

Security Code (on back of card)

Name as it appears on card

Signature

Please mail payments to Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance | 8323 Southwest Frwy, Ste. 435, Houston, TX 77074
If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Giambi. Phone: 713-270-4700 | Email: jenniferg@candle.org | Fax: 713-270-9802