



# GATHERING GIFTS TO GIVE BACK

7-Year-Old Ethan Perez Hosts Multiple Toy Drives for Children in Need

## FEATURING

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Candlelighters Cares

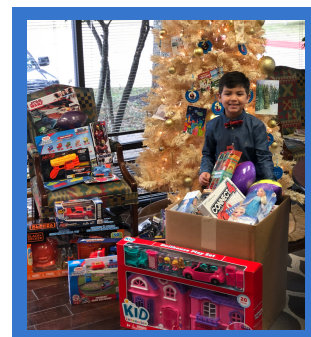
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Power Wizard

As the end of 2019 was approaching, the Perez Family was determined to give back to their community - more specifically, the childhood cancer community. Understanding what other children with cancer and their families would be going through during the holidays, they wanted to sponsor another childhood cancer family through the Candlelighters Adopt-A-Family Program, providing gifts from the family's wish list.

"Our first Christmas when Ethan was diagnosed was the hardest. Of course, there are the financial challenges because the medical bills don't stop coming, even during Christmas," said Evelyn Perez. Driven by their own experience, they were able to gather eight big bags of presents for another Candlelighters family with the help of their supporters and followers on the #EthanStrong Facebook page. The adopted family was thrilled and humbled to receive gifts from a family who had been through their same journey.

But 7-year-old Ethan wanted to take it a step further! He wanted to host multiple toy drives so he could have an impact on even more children. Partnering with NRL Mortgage, CitiQuest Properties, Rock of Power Church in Pearland, New Covenant Church in Manvel, and Facebook friends, Ethan spearheaded the effort to bring in HUNDREDS of toys to brighten the day for kids with cancer.



Ethan battled Leukemia for more than half of his life. Throughout his journey, through the harsh treatments and intense side effects, he maintained a positive attitude and happy spirit. During his efforts to serve other children this holiday season, Ethan found out that he was officially cancer free and that he would be ending his chemo and cancer treatments much earlier than expected! "When {my mom} told me I was done {with treatment} I was about to cry. I was having tears, I was so happy," said Ethan.

Ethan's mom Evelyn says, "Candlelighters provided my family and I that much needed support as we faced the greatest giant in our lives. As we celebrated Ethan's end of treatment, we could not forget the others who are still knee-deep in the trenches! Hosting a toy drive during Christmas to benefit Candlelighters was a real joy! Giving back made the most perfect Christmas and end of treatment celebration!"

# INFORMATION CENTER

## CANDLELIGHTERS CCFA

### 2020 Board of Directors

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Katie Stanton - President  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 12TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE OFF

Saturday, March 28th @ Kirby Ice House

### LIGHTS OF COURAGE LUNCHEON

Tuesday, April 28th @ River Oaks Country Club

### TEAM REJOYCE: WEEKEND OF HOPE

Saturday, May 2nd: Washer Tournament in Moulton, TX

### SKEETERS DAY AT THE BALL PARK

May 29th @ Constellation Field in Sugar Land

### Parent Support Group Meetings

#### SUPPORT GROUP MEETING AT MD ANDERSON CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL

EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM  
 MD ANDERSON CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL  
 PEDI IN-PATIENT UNIT, RONALD McDONALD HOUSE ROOM  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (713) 606-5471

#### SUPPORT GROUP MEETING AT TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

EVERY WEDNESDAY 1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM  
 TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - WEST TOWER  
 RONALD McDONALD'S KITCHEN - 9TH FLOOR  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (832) 822-1415

## CANDLELIGHTERS STAFF

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OFFICE: (713) 606-5471

### TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER - (832) 822-1415

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OFFICE: (832) 822-1415



# ADOPT-A-FAMILY BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER

Every year, we move into the holiday season with great excitement of bringing joy to Candlelighters families through our Adopt-A-Family gift-giving program. This year, we were humbled by the incredible response to our growing number of families impacted by cancer who needed some holiday cheer. 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 Adopt-A-Family sponsors. For those of you who sponsored families this year, THANK YOU!

We are thrilled to share that over 235 sponsors participated this year, with so many new groups and companies getting involved! They provided gifts for an all-time high of 395 families, giving to over 1,820 Candlelighters family members across the Greater Houston area! What a beautiful reminder that giving is more special than receiving. Here are some quotes from this year's program sponsors and recipients:

**From a Sponsor:** "Thank you again for putting us together with this beautiful family. We made our delivery last night and they invited us to hang out, so we visited and got to know each other, and it was truly a blessing. I hope that they will have a blessed Christmas, as I know they have certainly blessed mine."

**From a Family:** "Chuy's invited us for dinner and even made up a whole story about our Elf on the Shelf! It was magical, as I could see my son's eyes shine and travel, thinking and trying to figure out how and when the Elf visited the restaurant! It was a dinner he will not forget! He was so excited and happy. We are so thankful and more than joyful – this was so needed right now."

**From a Sponsor:** "We scheduled our gift delivery before the family headed to inpatient for a bone marrow transplant - they have to be the sweetest, kindest, and most appreciative family I have had the blessing of meeting. We are so thankful for Candlelighters for providing us a simple way to give back this holiday season and create a relationship with the sweetest family!"

**From a Family:** "Dear Melissa & Justin – Thank you very much for bringing a lot of joy to my family. That makes me think that there are people that care about us. Thank you so much. What gave me the most satisfaction of all is that my two sisters had a big smile on their faces – I don't have words to describe how that felt! Thank you."

**From a Sponsor:** "Our family stole our hearts! The mom texted me Saturday night and told me that we made her feel like a single parent finally able to provide a nice holiday for her children."

Sponsors - for more information on how to sponsor a family in 2020, contact Program Director Carly Bradshaw at [cbradshaw@candle.org](mailto:cbradshaw@candle.org). Families - for more information on how to apply, contact your Parent Consultant. \*Sponsor & Family forms will be sent in late September.



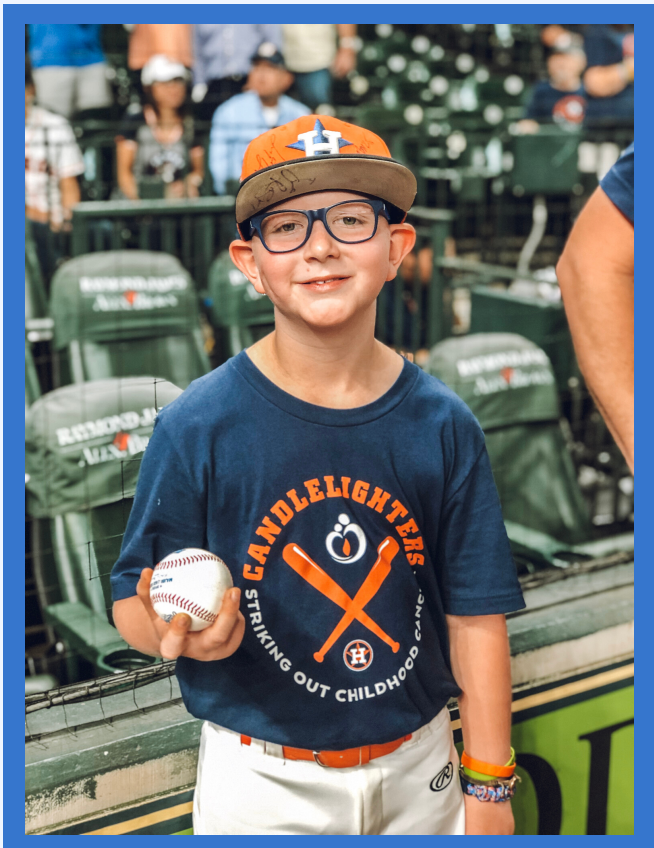
# ASTROS FOUNDATION KNOCKS IT OUT OF THE PARK

The Astros Foundation is the official non-profit team charity of the Houston Astros. Each year 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 the families we serve – spread awareness about childhood cancer.

During the month of September, the Astros Foundation supported Childhood Cancer Awareness Month with their Annual Charity Game. At the game on September 6, 2019, the Astros highlighted childhood cancer with announcements, videos, and fundraising efforts to support local Houston charities. Candlelighters was honored to be selected as one of the beneficiaries of the night's fundraising efforts. During the game, fans purchased Charity Bags filled with Astros memorabilia including autographed baseballs, bats, and jerseys; tickets to dugout seats; exclusive merchandise; and other one-of-a-kind items – all sold to raise money for efforts to serve families impacted by childhood cancer.



The Astros Foundation also wanted to share their love of baseball by inviting Candlelighters families to enjoy a night at Minute Maid Park on September 12, 2019. Candlelighters families rooted for their hometown heroes and watched from the stands as fellow childhood cancer warriors were represented on the field.



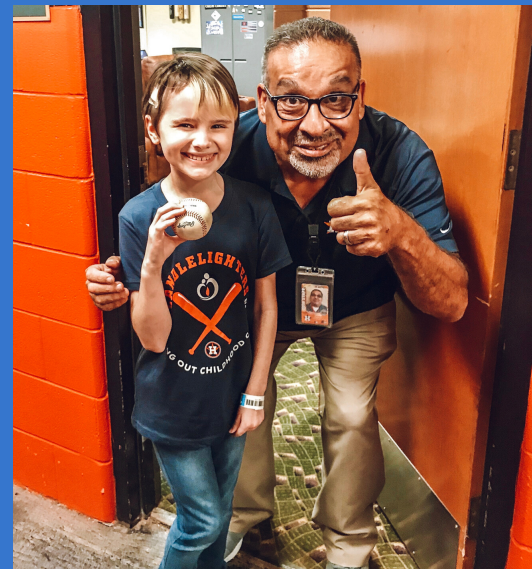
Lane Rex threw out the first pitch, Ella Garner announced, “Play ball!”, and Ryder Solberg stole the base. Before the game, Alexander Dillingham waved to the crowd as the Foundation presented Candlelighters with a check for \$80,000! We were incredibly humbled and honored to receive funds that will make a direct impact on the children and families we serve each day. Funds from the Astros Foundation will help to provide the practical and emotional support our families rely on during their childhood cancer journey.

Special thanks to Twila Carter, Executive Director, and Marian Harper, Vice President of Foundation Relations, of the Astros Foundation. Their efforts to raise awareness about the impact of childhood cancer in our community has been an invaluable support to children facing the disease and the families who love them.

*Thank You, Astros!*



# CANDLELIGHTERS NIGHT WITH THE ASTROS





## FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL FUN!

The Family Fall Festival is an annual event that our Candlelighters families look forward to every year! Hosted by 8th grade students at St. John's School, this celebration is a favorite of our fall calendar! The 2019 Fall Festival was held on Sunday, October 27th. Families arrived to fun music played by our DJ and most of the festival attendees were all dressed up in their Halloween costumes, ready to have a blast with the St. John's students!



Candlelighters families enjoyed the beautiful, sunny weather; fun, interactive games; yummy snacks, cotton candy, snow cones, and refreshments; a huge bounce house and blow-up obstacle course; an adorable (and competitive!) costume contest; and over 65 awesome raffle prizes! There were even chances to win great prizes for all of the parents, too!

For almost 20 years, the 8th grade students at St. John's School have planned, organized, and manned the booths for the Fall Festival. They take months and months to plan out their activities and prizes for Candlelighters attendees, and they set up the whole event on the day of the party. Some of the favorite booths from this year were the water balloon toss, kid-sized tic-tac-toe, the football toss, digging for treasure in thousands of water beads, and a zombie-hunting station! Overall, the children had so much fun visiting all of the well-thought-out stations!

*Thank You, St. John's School!*





# FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL





# A TOAST TO CANDLELIGHTERS

Candlelighters Inaugural Cocktail Party hosted by the Young Professionals Group

Led by event chairs Ashley Brooks, Amberly Sheppard and Crystal Winters, our Inaugural A Toast to Candlelighters was most certainly a celebration worth attending! Thanks to ARIS Market Square luxury apartments, it was a glitzy evening overlooking the downtown skyline with unforgettable drinks and hors d'oeuvres among Houston's finest young professionals.

Guests who joined us on Friday, October 4th were treated to a special night out on the town with beverages sponsored by Four Roses Bourbon, No Label Brewing Company, Proximo, Pura Vida Tequila, El Silencio Mezcal, Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits, Tito's Handmade Vodka, TX Whiskey, Walking Stick Brewing Company and Vintage Select Wines. Delicious hors d'oeuvres were graciously donated by Grace's, DJ Triple C turned the party into a PARTY and the igloo Photo Booth from Smile Snap Share was more than a hit! Our AMAZING raffle and auction items included a golf trip to Tapatio Springs, a 3-Night getaway to Alexana Winery in Newberg, Oregon, and a custom diamond and sapphire pendant necklace from Jianna Jewelers, just to name a few!

By far one of the most fun parts of the evening was the liquor toss! Guests tossed glow necklaces across the outdoor island kitchen in hopes of ringing a bottle of liquor to take home. Don't worry, you'll get a chance to attend our 2nd Annual A Toast to Candlelighters this fall for your chance to win!

**We are thrilled to announce that the inaugural event raised \$31,000 for childhood cancer families right here in Houston! Save the Date and join us on October, 9 2020!**

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

### VENUE

**ARIS**  
MARKET SQUARE

### GOLD

**CORINNE  
GRIMES**

### SILVER

**CHOEN  
NGEP**

### BRONZE

**CBRE**  
HOLA  
NATALIA  
MIRALES

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STRENGTH  
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WARREN

**INFINITY**  
VODKA

### SPECIAL THANKS

**FourRoses**  
BOURBON



**PROXIMO**

**PURAVIDA**  
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100% AGAVE 100% VODKA

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**SOUTHERN GLAZER'S  
WINE AND SPIRITS**

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ASTORIA • TEXAS

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EMPANADA HOUSE

**Allstate**  
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Insurance Agency



**SCOUT & CELLAR**  
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JEWELERS

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SPRINGS  
HILL COUNTRY RESORT

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WINERY



**Shawn Chippendale**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**Personal Papanazzi**  
Photography

**BOVINE BARLEY**





# A TOAST TO CANDLELIGHTERS





# JUSTIN REID LOVES ON CANDLELIGHTERS

Candlelighters is honored to have been chosen as the charity of choice by Houston Texans' Safety, #20 Justin Reid! The Texans All Community Team (TACT) ticketing program allows players to purchase season tickets for local nonprofits, providing groups with the opportunity to attend home games, get behind-the-scenes experiences, and meet Houston Texans players. Last season, Justin Reid and the Houston Texans sent more than 50 Candlelighters families to a Texans home game, including tickets to the home playoff game!

But he didn't stop there... he also made three hospital visits, surprised one Candlelighters family with a very generous gift card to Walmart AND highlighted Candlelighters on a national platform through the NFL's My Cause, My Cleats campaign. His game-worn cleats were then auctioned off for Candlelighters! To say this young man has made a difference to the childhood cancer community in Houston would be an understatement. We are so honored to know and work with Justin and look forward to him being our very own Houston Texan for many seasons to come!

*Thank you, Justin!*

Hi, my name is cash and I'm writing this to thank you for taking your time and money to buy all of the candle lighters tickets to the texans game. I really ~~like~~ appreciate what you did for us and I hope you have a merry christmas and a happy new year.









# FLEMING'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

## An Intimate Gathering Benefiting Candlelighters

Houstons Town and Country Fleming's Prime Steakhouse celebrated their 10th Anniversary by hosting an exclusive dinner benefiting Candlelighters on Friday, November 8th. The 100 guest, sold-out dinner was organized by Operating Partner, George Malek, and raised more than \$15,000 for families of children with cancer!

Being a cancer survivor himself, George became involved with Candlelighters several years ago when he served as a weekend counselor at Camp CLIFF. He's been a committed volunteer ever since, and when dreaming of how to celebrate the momentous anniversary, he knew who he wanted to partner with to directly impact cancer families in Houston: Candlelighters.

Guests were greeted with amazing wine and exciting raffle packages as soon as they set foot in the door. The four-course meal prepared by Chef Phuc V Luu was a show stopper and included perfect wine pairings. The star of the evening was the main course, a Kona Crusted Prime New York Strip with a Cabernet Rosemary Reduction - every course was mouthwatering!

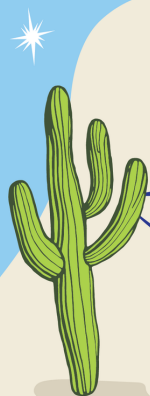
We were honored to be joined by Candlelighters mom, Megan Probe, who gave a beautiful testimonial. Megan spoke of her family's journey with childhood cancer, moving guests to make a donation to our mission. Megan's daughter, Dylan, was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma in November of 2016 and is now 13 years-old and doing great. Megan spoke of the support that their family received from Candlelighters while Dylan was on-treatment, especially the importance of parking assistance, Candlelighters largest practical program. She also talked about the support her family continues to receive now that Dylan is off-treatment, and cancer FREE! The connections her family has made with other families through Candlelighters support group meetings and events are invaluable. Camp CLIFF continued to be a theme of the evening, both Megan and George shared with guests about what an amazing experience it has been for them both.

The evening ended with a BANG, as guests sampled a 23-year-old Ron Zacapa rum served with dessert, a white chocolate bread pudding - delicious!

What an incredible evening to celebrate! Special thanks to Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, George Malek, and all of our generous donors from this evening for making this event such a huge success!







*Thank You  
Sponsors*



## *The Cockrell Family Fund*



ADAM'S ANGELS MINISTRY  
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C&M FAVRE FOUNDATION  
GENERATION NEXT JUNIOR CALF  
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KATY HIGH SCHOOL  
NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY  
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TAYLOR LEIGH HAIR  
THE CATALENA COWGIRLS  
THE FASKE FAMILY  
THE MOLHO FAMILY  
THE SPA TEAM

HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER

# CAMP CLIFF: A WILD WEST WEEKEND!

## A Weekend Away From Childhood Cancer

Camp CLIFF 2019 was the perfect weekend for a wild west getaway! We packed our cowboy boots and 10-gallon hats and headed west to Camp For All for another unforgettable retreat with Candlelighters families. This year, we filled the cabins with 230 campers, counselors, and volunteers! Camp was full of some old-time favorites, but we also had some new tricks up our sleeves, ready to wow everyone in attendance!

As campers arrived on Friday night, everyone enjoyed dinner and a surprise performance by the Texas A&M Aggie Wranglers Country Western Dance Team! They were twisting, twirling, and flipping all over the dance floor and at the end of their performance, they asked campers to join them for some quick lessons. We were in awe of their talent and had so much fun with them!

After everyone dusted off their boots, we took a quick trail ride to the camp arena for some good old fashion fun! The glittery, glitzy, beautiful Catelena Cowgirls and their gorgeous horses greeted campers as they walked up to a rodeo! The rodeo had barrel racers, ropers, and more - the crowd was constantly oohing and aahing! Campers got to know their new cabin mates and took full advantage of the photo booth, "braid bar", and bottomless cotton candy! Once the rodeo wrapped up, campers made their way to an all-time favorite activity - the campfire! It was a chilly evening, so everyone was gathered close around the fire, roasting marshmallows for s'mores, singing campfire songs, and enjoying time away from the busy city dancing under the stars. Afterwards, parents enjoyed bingo, casino games, and ice cream sundaes!

Saturday at Camp CLIFF is all about the fun camp activities. Campers had a packed day of fishing, canoeing, archery, rock climbing, zip lining, and art barn. These activities are what help create lasting memories for campers of all ages! Parents enjoyed a relaxing spa experience with massages, haircuts, hair styling, and a beautiful set-up by The Succulent Bar, where parents got to pot their own adorable succulent plants. Parents got a chance to unwind and relax in a restful environment.

New this year, both older campers and parents got to do some pumpkin slinging! It was, literally, a blast! Over in the Art Barn, campers were also surprised by a life-size plexiglass horse from Pin Oak Charity Horse Show. Campers and parents got to decorate the horse with a hand print, different colors of paint representing a different "role" in their childhood cancer journey - survivor, caretaker, volunteer, and more. Seeing the finished product with all of the different colored hand prints was so moving. (Excitingly, this heartfelt camp masterpiece will be auctioned off at the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show in April with the proceeds benefiting Candlelighters!) It's these precious moments, when campers are surrounded by other campers who have been through the same journey, where relationships that can last a lifetime are built.

Saturday night ended with a moving "Wish Boat Ceremony" where each cabin gathered around the campfire and shared their wish for the next year. These heartfelt sentiments touched everyone's hearts and brought lots of tears as we watched each cabin's candle float to the middle of the lake. After the ceremony, all the campers line-danced the night away at the Wild West Hoedown!

Sunday morning was a time to reflect on all of the healing, hope, and newfound friendships made at camp. Campers, counselors, volunteers, and staff all left the weekend feeling refreshed and renewed after such a special weekend. We are already looking forward to Camp CLIFF 2020!





# CAMP CLIFF 2020: A WILD WEST WEEKEND!







presented by  
TEQUILA  
**Don Julio**

*join us!*

*benefitting*



SATURDAY  
1 - 5 PM



MARCH  
**28**



KIRBY ICE HOUSE  
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# Lights of Courage

LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, APRIL 28  
RIVER OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

*with Speaker*

**MELANIE SHANKLE**

NY TIMES BEST SELLING AUTHOR

[CANDLE.ORG/EVENTS/LIGHTS-OF-COURAGE-LUNCHEON](http://CANDLE.ORG/EVENTS/LIGHTS-OF-COURAGE-LUNCHEON)





# LIGHTS OF COURAGE: SUPER RAFFLE PREVIEW

Every year, the Lights of Courage Luncheon hosts a raffle to raise funds for Candlelighters programs. The raffle is full of wonderful donations, packages, and experiences around the Houston area, but the highlight is the Super Raffle - with each ticket purchased you have the option to select one of ten trips! Here is a preview of this year's exciting Super Raffle. For more information on the Lights of Courage Luncheon and to purchase seats and raffle tickets, visit [give.candle.org/luncheon](http://give.candle.org/luncheon).



**SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, MEXICO**

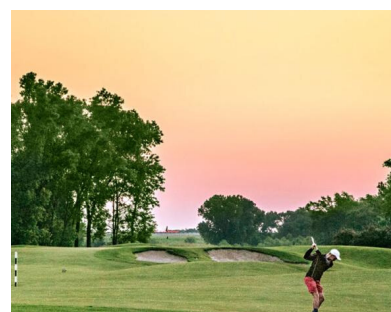
**MAUNA LANI, HAWAII**



**LAS TERRAZAS, BELIZE**



**MONTAGE DEER VALLEY, UTAH**



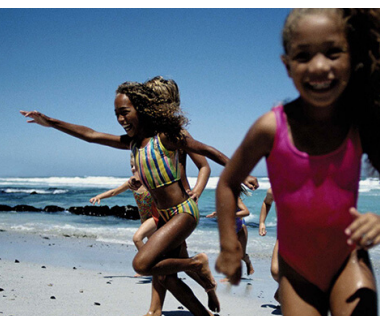
**PRAIRIE DUNES GOLF CLUB**



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**ONE&ONLY PALMILLA LOS CABOS**



**CRYSTAL BEACH, TEXAS**



**GALVESTON BAY, TEXAS**



**BILBAO & SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN**



# CANDLELIGHTERS school initiative

*spreading childhood cancer awareness in schools  
and teaching kids the importance of community*



## 2020 SCHOOLS

- Glenda Dawson High School
  - Softball Team
  - Baseball Team
- Fall Creek Elementary School
- Goforth Elementary
- Leon H. Sablatura Middle School

Thank you to all of our 2019 schools for helping us raise nearly \$10,000 in 2019!

Our goal is to partner with 20 schools in 2020 to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer. Put us in touch with your school today!

Candlelighters parents - if your school participates, you could win an Amazon Gift Card!

All across Houston, schools, students, and teachers are raising awareness for childhood cancer AND funds for families of children with cancer through the support of Candlelighters services and events! Join our growing list of schools TODAY!

COIN WARS  
ONE DAY FOR \$1  
TALENT SHOWS  
BAKE SALES  
STAFF JEANS DAYS  
DUNK TANKS  
CHICK-FIL-A NIGHTS  
TOY/GIFT CARD DRIVES  
KINDNESS CAMPAIGN

For more information contact Kelsey at [kelseyt@candle.org](mailto:kelseyt@candle.org) or (713) 270-4700

## CORPORATE CORNER

### Kendra Scott and Candlelighters: A Year-Round Partnership

It's so easy to recognize the giving culture at Kendra Scott and here at Candlelighters we have been so incredibly fortunate to be on the receiving end of their generosity! Since Kendra Scott came to Houston they have done everything from sponsoring our jewelry pull at Margarita Taste Off, providing Family Team Awards at our Fun Walk, being a vendor at our Lights of Courage Luncheon, and selecting special pieces to gift Candlelighters teens and moms when they needed a smile. In 2019, they really set the bar for our partnerships here in Houston!

Kendra Scott joined as a Summer Surprises sponsor, gifting more than 200 pieces of jewelry to our Candlelighters families and working with them to customize pieces on the spot! Thank you to the entire Kendra Scott team here in Houston for always going above and beyond to love on Candlelighters, our families, and to help further our mission!



## ANDY ALLEN CLAYS FOR A CURE CHALLENGE

Family and Friends Pay It Forward to Benefit Several Childhood Cancer Charities around Houston



Candlelighters was honored to have been chosen as the Silent Auction beneficiary of the Andy Allen Clays for a Cure Challenge this year by Candlelighters family and Clay Challenge Ambassador, Jacob Munoz. We received \$10,000 to fund our Parent Consultant Program and cannot wait for 2020! Save the Date and join us: October 30, 2020.

Andy Allen was first diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) at the age of two in 2005. After 3 ½ years of chemotherapy, Andy went into remission, and by March 31, 2013 he was celebrating his 4-year anniversary of finishing chemotherapy. He enjoyed life as a normal 9-year-old up until he relapsed in 2014. The treatment protocol used for Andy's leukemia this time around did not exist back in 2005, the first time he was diagnosed. Thankfully, with this new treatment available, Andy went into remission in April 2016, beating leukemia for the second time! Now Andy enjoys life as an average teenager: he goes to school, plays sports, and lives cancer-free. The Andy Allen Clays for a Cure Challenge was created in 2014, the year that Andy relapsed, by a group of volunteers who considered the Allen family... well, "family." The sentiment was unanimous: "We simply had to do something to help Andy and others like him." Check out [www.claysforacure.com](http://www.claysforacure.com) for more details!



# CANDLELIGHTERS CARES 2019

Thank You to Last Year's Sponsors!









COOKIES BY SARAH MICHELLE | THE COOKIE MOM | KOOKIES KAT | THE SUGAR JAR | WHIP IT GOOD COOKIES





# CANDLELIGHTERS CARES 2020

*Thank You to This Year's Sponsors!*

JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



## CANDLELIGHTERS CARES TCH WEST CAMPUS 2020

JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL

LOOKING  
FOR A  
SPONSOR!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CANDLELIGHTERS CARES AND BECOMING A SPONSOR AT TEXAS CHILDREN'S WEST CAMPUS OR TEXAS CHILDREN'S WOODLANDS CAMPUS, PLEASE CONTACT PROGRAM DIRECTOR CARLY AT CBRADSHAW@CANDLE.ORG OR 713.270.4700.



Candlelighters.  
CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE



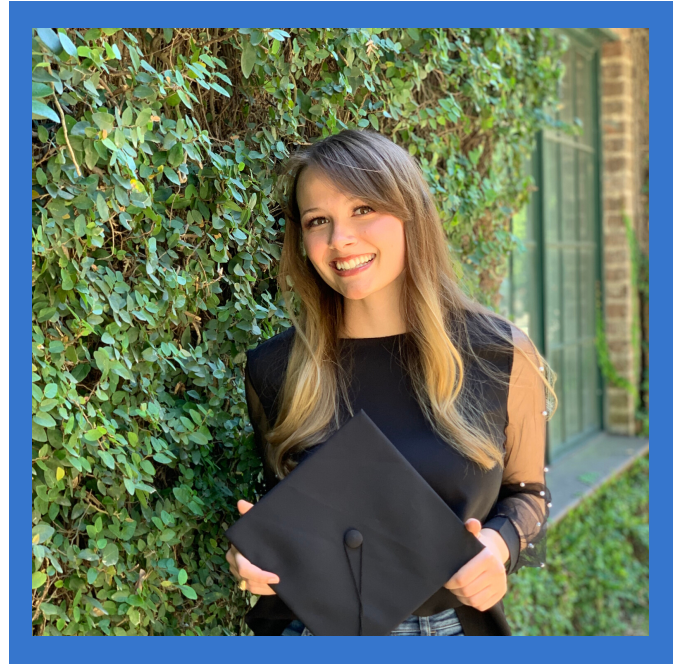
# CANDLELIGHTERS WELCOMES SYDNEY WILLIAMS

Welcome to our newest Candlelighters staff member, Sydney Williams! If you have called or visited the office and wondered who the friendly face at the front desk is, you have met Sydney! She started with Candlelighters during the hustle and bustle of Camp CLIFF preparations, and we have been so lucky to have her on the team, helping with every different project and program that we have going on.

Sydney was born and raised in Houston and recently graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She spent her last two semesters interning for a non-profit that provides practical and emotional support to single mothers and low-income families while also interning as a Victim's Advocate for the Texas A&M Police Department.

She has always had a passion for helping those in need, no matter the situation. Sydney says, "I am so grateful for my time with Candlelighters and that I have gotten the opportunity to meet the families that are at the heart of this organization! I am so excited to continue this journey as a part of the Candlelighters team."

Away from work, Sydney nannies for two very spirited girls (ages 8 and 12) and is a babysitter through Casa de Esperanza Houston. She enjoys watching movies, traveling, and spending time with family in her time off.



# LONG-TERM SURVIVOR ACCOMPLISHED HER DREAM

Parent Consultant's Daughter LeighAnna Hutchinson Earns Her Doctorate!



In 1998 at just 7 years old, LeighAnna Hutchinson heard the words no child deserves to hear - "You have cancer." There sat a young girl battling not one, but two types of cancer. "I was diagnosed with a rare form of a brain tumor called granulocytic sarcoma and, at the same time, was told I had AML (acute myeloid leukemia)," Hutchinson said. As Candlelighters Parent Consultant Jaynie Hutchinson recalls, the doctors didn't give LeighAnna very good odds of surviving.

Hutchinson recalls the conversation with her mom that day: "My mom crawled in bed with me and I told her that day, 'You know Mom, when I grow up, I want to be a nurse. I want to work at MD Anderson and I want to go to Baylor.'" Fast forward five years, and LeighAnna had beat cancer! Her nurses during her cancer treatment had such an impact on her that she was determined to help others like she had been helped.

LeighAnna first graduated from Baylor University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Since then, she's worked at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital, helping families who are going through what she and her family went through. (Also serving alongside her mom, and Candlelighters Parent Consultant Jaynie!)

LeighAnna returned to school and on Saturday, August 17, 2019, she received her doctorate. She is now a nurse practitioner! The date of the commencement hit home: August 17, 1998 was the day that doctors told the Hutchinsons their daughter likely wouldn't make it. Congratulations, LeighAnna! We are so proud of you!





## POWER WIZARD AND CANDLELIGHTERS UNITE

### to Help Raise Funds While Saving You Money

There's an online service founded in Houston that is looking to light up the lives of more families, and we're excited to announce our new partnership with them!

Power Wizard looks at how you use electricity, finds you the best plan from a sea of hundreds based on your usage, manages the switch to a new provider, then ensures you won't overpay for electricity again.

**For a limited time, a one-year membership to Power Wizard is FREE with promo CANDLELIGHTERS, plus Power Wizard will donate \$50 to Candlelighters with each new sign up!**

The bridge between Power Wizard and Candlelighters begins with its CEO, Kenny Matula, a Candlelighters Board Member, and childhood cancer dad.

**"WHILE MY DAUGHTER WAS ON TREATMENT, THE LAST THING I WANTED TO HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WAS MY ENERGY BILL." - KENNY**

Candlelighters is honored to be the first organization Power Wizard has partnered with since launching in April of 2019. This offer is available for everyone (not restricted to childhood cancer families), simply use the promo code at checkout.

Check out the Free Savings Estimate to get an idea of what you could save each year. Once you're hooked, share this amazing deal with family and friends.

**Guaranteed saving and giving!**

Enter promo code  
**CANDLELIGHTERS**  
at checkout and we'll  
receive a \$50 donation!

Learn more at  
**[www.powerwizard.com](http://www.powerwizard.com)**



## 2020 Dates to Save!

### 12TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE OFF - MARCH 28, 2020

For more information visit [candle.org/events/margarita-taste-off](https://candle.org/events/margarita-taste-off)

### LIGHTS OF COURAGE LUNCHEON - APRIL 28, 2020

For more information visit [candle.org/events/lights-of-courage-luncheon](https://candle.org/events/lights-of-courage-luncheon)

### SKEETERS DAY AT THE BALL PARK - MAY 29, 2020

Candlelighters Families spend the evening with us at a Skeeters game!

### SUMMER SURPRISES

MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital: JULY 15, 2020

Texas Children's Cancer Center: JULY 22, 2020

Families, for more information contact your Parent Consultant

### FUN WALK - SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

Terry Hershey Park | Online Registration Opens June 1st

### A TOAST TO CANDLELIGHTERS - OCTOBER 9, 2020

2nd Annual Cocktail Fundraiser, hosted by the Young Professionals Group

### CAMP CLIFF - OCTOBER 16-18, 2020

Families, contact your Parent Consultants for more information  
Sponsors & Volunteers, contact [cbradshaw@candle.org](mailto:cbradshaw@candle.org) for more information

### FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 25, 2020

For more information contact [cbradshaw@candle.org](mailto:cbradshaw@candle.org)

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



**Candlelighters Houston**

# Candlelighters

CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE



## 2019 IMPACT REPORT



# 4,056

### FAMILIES SERVED

thousands of families received support from our many programs and services, including 367 newly diagnosed families in 2019

# 5,100

### HOURS OF SUPPORT

through our five Parent Consultants serving families at both MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Texas Children's Cancer Center (including West and Woodlands campuses)



# 9,000

### 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

# 1,828



### FAMILY MEMBERS ADOPTED

through our Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays program thanks to more than 235 local sponsors



# 190

### FAMILY MEMBERS HOSTED

at Camp CLIFF for a carefree weekend getaway! We also had 5 nurses, doctors and/or physical therapists with us and more than 90 staff/volunteers throughout the weekend!

# 23

### CHILDREN REMEMBERED

and celebrated through our support of their memorial and funeral services



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING OUR CHILDHOOD CANCER COMMUNITY

Visit [www.candle.org](http://www.candle.org) and follow us at  
Candlelighters Houston





# HEIGHTS ROTARY CLUB MAKES MONUMENTAL GIFT

*Worlds Collide to Make Impact on Childhood Cancer Needs in Houston*

A vision that was set years ago by a Heights Rotary Club member comes to fruition! A memorial gift was made to the Heights Rotary Foundation with strict guidelines to be used for the practical needs of childhood cancer families. Last year, one of our Fun Walk teams was sharing our mission with another member of the Heights Rotary Club and the rest is history!



We are so incredibly honored and humbled to receive this donation to put towards the daily, practical needs of families impacted by childhood cancer. This gift will undoubtedly pay tribute to their longtime member and friend who had a passion to help others.

This gift comes in conjunction with the proceeds from their annual Golf Tournament where they also chose Candlelighters as beneficiary. With numerous connections made throughout 2019, we have been told our mission and tangible impact on the Houston community has reenergized their members and invigorated their community efforts. We look forward to partnering with the Heights Rotary for years to come!



Rotary Club of Houston Heights

## SUMMER SUPPERS

*Long-Term Childhood Cancer Survivor Hosts Summer Dinner Series for Candlelighters*

Summer Suppers came from the creative mind of Kevin Barnett – founder of Nett LifeStyle, formed with the goal of amplifying influencer integration throughout Houston. Diagnosed with Wilms Tumor at the age of four, Mr. Barnett knows first hand the need for a support system and a village. Now a long-term survivor, he has focused his philanthropic efforts on helping children and families. He has forged a relationship with Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance because we understand the devastation cancer brings to the whole family unit and we assist with the practical, emotional, and educational needs of children with cancer and their siblings and parents.

Thanks to Riel Restaurant for providing an array of dishes highlighting local flavors and utilizing regionally-sourced products. In addition to fine cuisine, the intimate dining experience entertained guests with innovative libations featuring renowned spirits from Uncle Nearest Whiskey, Highway Vodka and 8th Wonder Brewery, as well as a piece of art for auction from local artist Eric Sandlin and local vendors, all for a great cause.





# 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 Parent Consultants (2 staff at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital; 3 at Texas Children's Cancer Center)
- Support Group Meetings (weekly at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Texas Children's Cancer Center)
- Newsletter
- Camp CLIFF (Children Loved in Families Forever) weekend family camp
- Fall Family Festival
- Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program
- Skeeter's Day at the Ball Park
- Summer Surprises parties at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Texas Children's Cancer Center
- 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](#) and [Instagram: @candlelighters-houston](#)

## OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES FACING CHILDHOOD CANCER:

### 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
- Houston Relocation Professionals
- 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
- The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
- The SAMFund for Young Adult Survivors of Cancer
- The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults

### On-Treatment Housing

- A Shelter for Cancer Families
- Chance for Hope
- Halo House Foundation
- Joe's House
- Project Joy and Hope
- Ronald McDonald House
- The Ballard House

### 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
- The Brent Event



# SMILES FOR LIFE

Starting March 1st, 100% of every whitening treatment at Montz & Maher Dental Group will benefit charity!

Candlelighters is honored to have been chosen as their local charity partner for 2020. Simply from whitenings, Montz & Maher Dental Group has donated more than \$12,000 for childhood cancer families in the last TWO years! THANK YOU!

If you're thinking about whitening your teeth, now is the best time to do it! With whitening treatments starting at just \$200, you're sure to be sparkling soon!

## MONTZ & MAHER DENTAL GROUP

Locations in Pearland & Friendswood  
(281) 485-4829

All whitenings done March 1st - June 30th qualify!



Candlelighters Houston



[www.candle.org](http://www.candle.org)



[candlelighters\\_houston](https://www.instagram.com/candlelighters_houston)

CANDLELIGHTERS CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE EMOTIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO CHILDREN WITH CANCER AND THEIR FAMILIES.

*Special Thanks To*  
**SOUTHEAST MEDIA**

Candlelighters began in 1989 with two parent support groups from the Texas Medical Center: one at Texas Children's Cancer Center and one at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. The parent group at Texas Children's Cancer Center sought formal incorporation, and in 1993 Candlelighters was legally formed. In the fall of 1993, they invited the parent group from the MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital 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 directly impact families through emotional support, parking assistance, meal passes, gas cards, and more. It is our greatest honor and privilege to bring this type of comfort and hope to childhood cancer families.