

### **CAMP CLIFF GOES VIRTUAL!** WEEKEND FAMILY CAMP IN A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER

### FEATURING

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Steak48 Raises over \$23,000 for Candlelighters! Camp CLIFF 2020 was unlike any other! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Candlelighters made the decision to hold Camp CLIFF virtually for the very first time. Candlelighters staff filled 105 camp boxes to the brim for the 36 participating families! The boxes were loaded with goodies and all the items families would need for the weekend's activities, including coffee mugs, rocks and paint, tie dye projects, frame decorating, campfire building, baking ingredients, mason jars for luminaries, family board games, and so much more. Although nothing compares to that in-person camp experience, we put the very best of Camp CLIFF in a box and were excited to see families posting pictures of their boxes in anticipation of a fun weekend together.

We want to extend a heart-felt THANK YOU to all of the donors who purchased items from our Camp CLIFF Amazon Wish List, and to our sponsors IberiaBank I First Horizon Bank, San Jacinto Stone, and Joyce Couch for donating the mason jars in honor of Mason Ferguson.

On Friday nights at camp, our families typically enjoy stargazing, campfires, and getting acquainted with each other. During this virtual camp, we asked our families to go at their own pace and enjoy stargazing, making forts out of pillows and blankets, having a family game night, baking s'mores cupcakes, and building campfires.



Each family shared pictures of their forts and activities Friday night and it was so fun to see how creative everyone got. Many campers even slept in tents at home! Even though we were all apart, we felt connected.

In keeping with tradition, we started the day with a "HEYYYY CAMPERS!" from the one and only Rick Hutchinson! Saturdays at Camp CLIFF include arts and crafts, outdoor activities, and spa time for the parents, and we kicked everything off with breakfast and coffee. Families created some amazing pancakes, including an intricate baby Yoda, hearts, and ribbons. After breakfast, parents were treated to a yoga class via video call with longtime Candlelighters volunteer Tamara Medallian.

### CENTER INFORMATI

### CANDLELIGHTERS CCFA

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### CANDLELIGHTERS STAFF

Lynn Wheeler, *Executive Director* lwheeler@candle.org

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Carly Bradshaw, Director of Programs & Communications cbradshaw@candle.org

> Sydney Williams, Office Manager swilliams@candle.org

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**BREAK A CLAY FOR CANDLELIGHTERS Clay Shooting Fundraiser - Friday, May 21st** 

**SKEETER'S NIGHT AT THE BALLFIELD** Family Event - Friday, June 11th

SUMMER SURPRISES Drive-Through Family Event - Thursday, July 15th

FUN WALK Annual Walk Fundraiser - Saturday, September 11th

Parent Support Group Meetings

VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR MD ANDERSON CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPI **EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 11:00 AM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CALL** TO RSVP AND GET THE CALL LINK, PLEASE EMAIL JAYNIE HUTCHINSON: JHUTCHINSON@CANDLE.ORG

### VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR **TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 1:00 PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CALL** TO RSVP AND GET THE CALL LINK, PLEASE EMAIL LINDA PENA: LPENA@CANDLE.ORG

### PARENT CONSULTANTS

#### **MD ANDERSON CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL**

**Javnie Hutchinson** jhutchinson@candle.org

**Yuvi Sifuentes** ysifuentes@candle.org

#### **TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER**

Linda Pena Ipena@candle.org

Maria Pena mpena@candle.org

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR **Opal Goodman:** ogoodman@candle.org

### **CAMP CLIFF GOES VIRTUAL!** WEEKEND FAMILY CAMP IN A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER

(Continued from cover) During the day in their free time, families participated in rock-painting (a Camp CLIFF fave!) and tie dyed pillow cases, socks, and shirts. An age-old camp tradition is decorating picture frames in the Art Barn to document family time and new friends. Families were encouraged to go crazy with their picture frames, decorating them with supplies from their camp box and anything they could find around their house. Creativity knew no bounds as the families shared pictures of their completed art work!



Every year at Camp CLIFF, we celebrate children who are currently facing childhood cancer, children and young adults who are long-term survivors, and we honor the memory of children who lost their battle with childhood cancer. We typically gather and do a symbolic and moving balloon release, but this year we asked our campers to go outside at noon on Saturday and blow bubbles "together" in honor of our warrior friends. A wish was sent up with each bubble blown into the air, in honor and remembrance of loved ones.

Because we couldn't be together physically, we made sure to connect campers virtually. Campers attended live video calls on Saturday during the day, and it was just what we needed! They got to know each other better, played games, and even competed in a themed scavenger hunt, where they were either #TeamAstros or #TeamTexans! There was so much laughter and camaraderie, with campers seeing old friends and making new friends. One thing these campers have in common is childhood cancer. They connect on levels of patient-to-patient and sibling-to-sibling, each understanding the unique journey the other has been through. This is just one of the wonderful characteristics of Camp CLIFF!



## VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF 2020

Wishes are vessels of hope, and at Camp CLIFF, we have a special way to make wishes into something real, something that everyone can see. The mission of Candlelighters is to be a light in the darkness for childhood cancer families. One of the most cherished traditions happens around the campfire on our last night at camp. We ask each cabin to share a wish at our Wish Boat Ceremony. It can be anything – a wish for a cure, a wish for hope, a wish for health – anything that strikes a chord with our campers. As each cabin shares their wish, a candle is lit and placed into the shape of a gold ribbon and floated out on the pond, a glowing light in the darkness. This year, we asked camp families to create a gold luminary from items in their camp box and to make a family wish. So much hope was contained in those wishes: wishes for cures, for friendships, for ease of treatments, for love and for hope, and for the weekend to never end.



Once we shared our wishes, it was back to the fun! Saturday night was full of yummy movie theater snacks and a family movie night!

Sunday morning at Camp CLIFF is a time of reflection, and when we woke up on our last day of virtual camp, we made sure to do just that! All the families joined together virtually on a video call to solidify the bond that brought us all together. This gathering would have been incomplete without camp favorite Rick Hutchinson - special thanks for joining us throughout the weekend! Camp CLIFF is a place for families who have travelled along the same path to connect with one another. These friendships are links that cannot be broken! Families reflected on how their journey has shaped them and what Candlelighters has meant to them throughout their childhood cancer journey. In keeping with tradition, each camper was sent a piece of yarn in their camp box. During the video call, each camper took their piece of yarn and tied it to the person sitting next them. When in-person at camp, all campers' pieces get tied together to make one long piece of yarn, then that is tied to the large bundle of yarn from past years at Camp CLIFF. This year, each family mailed their strings to the Candlelighters office and we added it to our camp bundle of yarn, symbolizing being tied together, forever.

Although 2020 dictated a different experience for us, the whole Candlelighters staff really enjoyed feeling the "camp magic" and the camp love from a distance. This camp experience is definitely one we will remember for years to come!

## VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF MEMORIES























SPRING 2021

## VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF MEMORIES



















## 2021 VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF Sponsorship Opportunities

Camp CLIFF (Children Loved In Families Forever) is our opportunity to provide Candlelighters families a weekend away from the "cancer bubble" to relax, unplug, enjoy unique camp experiences, and connect with other families who have been on a similar childhood cancer journey. Camp CLIFF is a highlight and forever-memory for our families. In a typical year, it is their chance to catch a breath and "feel normal" again as they enjoy the fresh air out at Camp For All, just an hour outside of Houston. In 2020, for the safety of our immunocompromised patients, we took Camp CLIFF Virtual! We assembled activity boxes for patients, siblings, and parents and crafted a weekend full of activities and virtual gatherings! It was a bright spot in what was an isolating year for many of our families. To ensure that this is the best weekend ever, we rely on sponsors and donors to underwrite various activities during our camp weekend. With your help, we can provide life-long cherished memories for children with cancer and their families. Please see the sponsorship levels below and consider supporting this year's Virtual Camp CLIFF Weekend, scheduled for the weekend of October 1-3, 2021.

Camp Benefactor	<b>\$50</b>	HELPING PROVIDE A FUN VIRTUAL CAMP EXPERIENCE!
Camp Box Contributor	<b>\$100</b>	CONTRIBUTING TO THE PURCHASE OF CAMPER ACTIVITY BOXES
Camper Spousor	\$ <b>250</b>	SEND 1 CAMPER TO VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF
Silver Spousor	<b>\$500</b>	HELP US PURCHASE MATERIALS FOR CAMP CRAFTS
Branded Item Underwriter	<b>\$750</b>	INCLUDE A BRANDED SPECIALTY GIFT IN CAMPER BOXES
Family Sponsor	\$1,000	SEND A WHOLE FAMILY TO VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF!
Gold Spousor	\$1,500	SPONSOR 1 ACTIVITY BAG PER CAMP BOX * Logo on activity bag
J-Shirt Spousor	\$ <b>2,500</b>	PRINTING OF CAMP CLIFF T-SHIRTS *Two available!
Platinum Sponsor	\$5,000	FUND ACTIVITIES FOR 100+ CAMPERS! * Logo on camp boxes



To sponsor one of the above aspects of camp, please contact Program Director Carly Bradshaw at cbradshaw@candle.org or 713.270.4700. To send a gift of any amount to support Camp CLIFF, please make checks out to Candlelighters and mail to Candlelighters, 12919 Southwest Freeway, Suite 100, Stafford Texas 77477. **All donations are tax deductible.** 

## **2020 FUN WALK GOES VIRTUAL!**

On September 12, 2020, Candlelighters hosted our first ever Virtual Fun Walk! It was a tough decision, as the Fun Walk is one of our very favorite annual events; but, we had the safety and well-being of our childhood cancer families top of mind. Candlelighters' mission and heartbeat is to walk alongside families every step of the way on their childhood cancer journey. Despite not being able to gather in-person, we had an enthusiastic response to our virtual walk! We were honored to have over 140 teams participate, including 18 corporate teams, 28 community teams, and a whopping 102 family teams!

The Fun Walk represents the daily walk of childhood cancer families: the path they are forced to take, the steps they must endure to survive, and the community that chooses to walk alongside them, holding hands, shedding tears, and lifting each other up along the way.

We are extremely honored that over 100 Candlelighters families accepted our challenge to participate in 2020. These childhood cancer families chose to support other families, regardless of whether they have met or not, regardless of if their children were treated at the same hospital, regardless of if their children have the same type of cancer - all because these families know that together, they can conquer anything they set their minds and hearts to!

We promised all the fun would still take place, even though we were all apart! All walk teams were encouraged to post pictures of their walk on the Fun Walk Facebook Page so we could all see where everyone was walking, see everyone's fun spirit wear, and see how far everyone went. We challenged teams to walk 4,186 steps in honor of the 4,186 families Candlelighters serves annually. We had a blast seeing all of the teams' photos roll in throughout the day and weekend. Many walkers went above and beyond their 4,186 steps, and even more surpassed their team fundraising goals! Although it was not the same as being in person, we really felt a sense of community during such a challenging time.

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JAMES A. ULLRICH J.D., C.P.A



## WALKING ALONGSIDE FAMILIES EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Families dressed up for the event by wearing their team shirts, the color gold - for childhood cancer awareness, and some even dyed their hair fun colors! One team took their mascot along with them on their route - their pet chicken "Dr. Zo-Hen", named after their son's oncologist and Candlelighters Board Member ZoAnn Dreyer! Many groups showed off their team spirit with posters, balloons, and carried their "Why I Walk" signs along the way. It was an uplifting sight seeing photos of so many families all over Houston, and in many different parts of the country, honoring childhood cancer warriors.



One of the Fun Walk's signature aspects is our raffle, and we were so excited to bring it to you virtually this year! Our featured raffle item was a gorgeous rose gold and diamond half tennis bracelet thanks to Jianna Jewelers. Many happy winners received an Xbox One, a vacation getaway, family game night packages, autographed memorabilia by Houston Texans Safety Justin Reid, Kendra Scott jewelry, and so much more. Thank you to everyone who participated in the raffle this year!

What is the Fun Walk without some awards?! Virtual Fun Walk Awards were given out for Best Walking Companion, Best Walking Location, Best Team T-Shirt, and Most Creative Walking Attire. Awards were also given to teams who walked the furthest and teams with the most registered walkers. Fundraising Awards were given to the Top 10 Family Teams, Top 3 Corporate Teams, Top 3 Community teams, Top Facebook Fundraiser, "Where In The World" (to highlight walkers outside of the Houston area), Most Creative Team Name, and Rookie of the Year (the top fundraising first-year team.) Thank you to all participating teams!

It is truly an honor when our sponsors, community, and families come together to support children fighting cancer and their families. Being together, even virtually, is a beautiful reminder that our families are not alone and together we are stronger!

# Save The Date for SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 this year's Fun Walk:

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### CANDLELIGHTERS CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

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## THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 FUN WALK TEAMS!

Family Jeans

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#KaleoStrong #TeamAndrew #TonyStrong A Circle of Friends Abbey's Angels Alex's Warriors All for Allie Arthur Jr's Team Awesome Austin Awesome K B&B Team BRANDON Cameron's Courage Carino Santo Estela Gomez Chanin's Curesaders Chapdelaine Crew C.J's Crushers Claire's Biggest Cheerleaders Costa for Courtney Damian's Pinky Promise Dylan's Warriors Ellen O'Neal Team Evelyn's Survivors FARTS - Friends Against Running This Summer Fight Chelsea Fight Fighting with Gordo FightParkerFight Grant's Gang Hakeem's Dream Team Hayley & Joey Herron's Heroes Hops of Hope Javiersito Cortez Jaywalkers1 Jennifer Ramirez Jordan's Journey Kaelyn's Answer for Cancer Kelli's Heroes Kensley Strong Kirstyn's Team - DELETE CANCER Korie's Krusaders Laney Bug Super Heroes Linda & Emily's Team Lucas7boss Maggie's Team Magical Miles Marcelo's Mangos MATEO Maverick's Mission **MDACCH** Families

MIA Strong Michelle's Team Mila and Friends Morningdove Nathaniel's Animals Overcomer Peyton's Posse Pirates of the Cure a Being PJ's Fight Princess Madelyn Saylor's Anchors Sergio's Team Skylar Stav Dylan Strong Team Aaron **Team Albert** Team Andrew Team Bella Team Blake Team Cameron Team Dre Team Dylan Team Elijah Team Erik Team Hernandez Team Holden Team Jackie Team Jessy Team Julia Nicole Team Jumbo Team Keyonte Team Kira Team Logan Team Luke Fights Leuk Team M.J Team Nathan Team Solberg Team Spiderman Team Stephanie Team Sully Team Warrior Team Yazan The Big Sneeze The Dragons The Gold Diggers Tykeionna Strong Warrior UNICORNS TEAM Walker's Walkers Walking in Honor of Stephen Warriors for Alex Watson William Strong

Company Jeans

Bowen Miclette & Britt Bracewell LLP Central Bank Coldwell Banker United Realtors ColorTech Direct Constellation Energy

First Horizon/Iberia Bank

GEODIS Wilson USA

Gexa Energy Houston Relocation Professionals Marsh Wortham

Move Resource Group

OlerRelocation

**Origin Bank** 

**PRN** Realty

Quanta Services

Thermo-Temp, Inc.

Weichert Realtors, Weichert Mobility and Wayne Murray Properties

Community Jeans

Arizona Trail Lizards Candlelighters YPG Carly's Crew Coolest Camp Counselors Crosby BFC Gay and Emily Kris' Walk Team Mach Madness Maleks on a Mission !O'LESO! Primm's Posse Stepping Up With the Symeckos

Tamara's Tribe

Team Ahearm Team Chaos and Mayhem Team Haines Team Heights Team Kratky Team Mally Team ReJoyce Team Smith Team Stanton Team Tarpinian Team Watson Team Williams Walk With Rox

Wheeler's Walkers

## **MARGARITA TASTE OFF: POP-UP STYLE!**

Last year brought many obstacles, but we were determined to pull off one of our most popular fundraising events! On Saturday, October 3rd, we partnered with longstanding Teguila Sponsor, Don Julio, and two local restaurants to offer our 2020 Margarita Taste Off ticket holders a COVID-friendly day of tex-mex and margaritas! Special Thanks to Eight Row Flint in the Heights, and Emma's Mex Grill in Pearland for hosting these much-needed pop-up events!

Ticket holders were greeted with a prize wheel where they could win a piece of Don Julio swag - everything from decks of cards, pop-sockets, aprons, cutting boards, t-shirts, and more were given out to our dedicated supporters and set the tone for a fun-filled day!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket and stuck with us as we rolled with the punches in 2020! It was a beautiful afternoon supporting childhood cancer families and dipping our toes back into a little bit of normalcy.

The 2020 Margarita Taste Off, despite a year limited by the COVID-19 pandemic, was still able to raise more than \$63,000 to directly support children with cancer and their families! Thank you to all our event sponsors, restaurant participants, and online auction donors for making this success possible!

We wanted to give a heartfelt thank you to our original line-up of Taste Off restaurants that were planning on partnering with us before the pandemic hit. Please consider supporting these restaurants when you're out to eat!

- 8th Wonder Distillery
- La Fisheria
- Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen
- Bakes & Brews
- Bayou & Bottle
- Berryhill
- Bosscat Kitchen & Libations
- Candente
- Chuy's River Oaks
- Eight Row Flint
- Emmaline
- Emma's Mex Grill
- Field and Tides

- Fleming's Prime Steakhouse
- Goodnight Charlie's
- The Grove
- Guard and Grace
- Kicpops
- Killen's TMX
- Kin Dee Thai Cuisine
- The Palm
- State Fare
- Superica
- Tony's Mexican Restaurant



# **NOVEMBER 7, 2021**

Save The Date for this year's Taste Off:

**SPRING 2021** 

### CANDLELIGHTERS CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

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## CANDLELIGHTERS CARES 2020 Thank You to Last Year's Sponsors!





FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CANDLELIGHTERS CARES AND BECOMING A Sponsor for our medical center partners or our satellite campuses, please email program director carly at cbradshaw@candle.org.





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### Help Raise Funds and Save Big on Your Electricity Bills: Guaranteed!

With one goal in mind Power Wizard takes the hassle out of shopping for electricity, saving you time, and money, better spent on your loved ones.

Power Wizard will support Candlelighters' events in 2021 with **\$5,000**, along with an additional **\$50** for every Power Wizard membership. With a Power Wizard membership you can save hundreds of dollars off your electricity bill.

#### But we can double this with your support!

For every **25** enrollments an additional **\$1,250** is given to Candlelighters. That's an additional **\$10,000** when just **100** of our partners and friends join Power Wizard!

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#### We Enroll You

Once we have chosen your electricity plan, we manage the enrollment on your behalf. You don't lift a finger.



#### We Manage It All

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### Find Out in Less than a Minute What You Could Save

- **1.** Visit PowerWizard.com
- 2. Click Free Savings Estimate
- 3. Love what you see!

### Power Wizard is a Proud Sponsor of Candlelighters

Since we first announced our partnership in 2020, Power Wizard has saved thousands of members thousands of dollars off their electricity bills. So it's no surprise we're excited to continue this partnership in 2021!

#### Visit <a>PowerWizard.com</a> and find out how much you could save!

## **LIGHTS OF COURAGE**

#### A Bright Evening Honoring Childhood Cancer Patients and Their Families

Each year, Candlelighters hosts our Lights of Courage event to celebrate children with cancer and their families. Originally scheduled for April 23, 2020, the Luncheon was postponed to the fall due to the pandemic. With gathering restrictions still in place, and the health of our childhood cancer community top of mind, we made the decision to take our Lights of Courage program to a virtual platform; while this was a challenging new experience, it ensured that our supporters could still participate, enabling Candlelighters to raise much-needed funding to continue serving children with cancer and their families. The event was eventually held on November 5th at 7:00 p.m. and was live-streamed from the beautiful home of Stephanie and Mark Deverka. Although everything "looked" a little different last year, Co-Chairs Beth Guinn and Danielle Ryan worked tirelessly to help raise more than \$227,000, making this one of our most successful fundraisers to date!

Every year, Lights of Courage is inspired by the stories of courage, strength, and hope represented by the honorees. Their journeys represent the thousands of children facing or who have faced childhood cancer. For the first time, thanks to our amazing video crew, P+R Productions, we were able to interview each honoree and create a personal video of their story. It was the highlight of the evening to hear directly from them!

Candlelighters mom and local Fox 26 News Anchor Melissa Wilson served as our Mistress of Ceremonies, accompanied by Board Member Jenna Jackson. As the mother of a childhood cancer survivor, Melissa shared how Candlelighters stepped in to provide invaluable support to her entire family while her son Caleb battled leukemia. We also teamed up with Silver Stone Events to provide our Table Hosts and their guests with individual hors d'oeuvres boxes to enjoy the event from the comfort of their own homes.

This year, the raffle featured ten super raffle packages that included trips to San Miguel, Belize, Spain, Los Cabos, and Hawaii, just to name a few! It was also jam-packed with luxurious items and staycation packages. Thanks to the efforts of our hardworking chairs, we were able to raise over \$27,000 from the raffle alone! Congratulations to our raffle winners and many thanks to the generous individuals and businesses who donated.

Another highlight of the event was our keynote speaker, Melanie Shankle! Melanie is a New York Times Best Selling author, and an inspiring public speaker, writer, and podcaster. She encouraged our Luncheon guests and special honorees to stand firm in who they are and to approach every situation with a positive attitude. Melanie, thank you for sharing your heart and donating your time to be with us.



Candlelighters mom, Megan Probe, also graciously shared about her daughter Dylan's journey with childhood cancer, moving viewers to make donations to support our mission. Megan spoke of the support her family received from Candlelighters while Dylan was on treatment, the connections they made with other families along the way thanks to attending Candlelighters Camp CLIFF, and the ways they are circling back around to partner with Candlelighters to continue supporting families who find themselves hearing the words, "Your child has cancer." The Candlelighters Board of Directors graciously matched Shining Opportunity gifts up to \$27,000 in honor of our 27th anniversary, so every donation from this evening was doubled! We are so grateful to our Board, as well as everyone who made a generous donation, bringing in more than ever before during our Shining Opportunities portion of the event!

Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer of Texas Children's Hospital and Dr. Doug Harrison of M.D. Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital, both Candlelighters Board Members, virtually presented our 2020 Honorees with their awards. Their stories of courage and hope are highlighted on the following pages.

### LIGHTS OF COURAGE ON-TREATMENT HONOREE CASH CANNON, 5 YEARS OLD

Cash Christopher Cannon was full of life and bursting with personality and undeniable energy at just three years old. He attended school where he enjoyed learning and playing with his friends. Cash's evenings and weekends were filled with activities that included soccer, tee-ball, mixed martial arts classes, music lessons, swimming, hitting golf balls at the driving range, and frequent visits to the zoo, museums, and jump houses.

In early May of 2019, Cash's father noticed a few bruises on his legs, but Cash never demonstrated that he was in any pain or discomfort, so his parents suspected the bruises were from rough playing. However, as the week went by, his parents noticed more bruising on his legs and on other areas of his body. As a result, Cash's parents took him to his pediatrician twice over the next week and it was at the second visit that the pediatrician, based on the blood work and chest x-ray, instructed Cash's mother to go to the emergency room at Texas Children's Hospital. The pediatrician suspected that Cash had cancer. On May 9, 2019, Cash's life and his family's lives were forever changed – Cash was diagnosed with T-Cell Leukemia, a rare type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

What followed next were countless doctor visits, chemotherapy treatments, surgical procedures, infections, and hospital stays, all while Cash's family tried to accept and fully understand what a childhood cancer diagnosis meant. Cash's parents, sisters, and extended family were grappling with worry, fear, and trying to manage their emotions so they could be strong for Cash.

At the hospital, Cash and his family met Candlelighters Parent Consultant Linda Pena. who was there to empathize with their journey and provide words of encouragement during this difficult time. Candlelighters Parent Consultants are cancer moms themselves, who are able to provide hope and a positive perspective that comes from being a parent of child who had cancer. Knowing the Cannon family was made of big sports fans, Candlelighters connected Cash with Houston Texans Safety Justin Reid, who was able to visit Cash in the hospital and invited them as his personal guests to a Texans home game!



Although this journey has been a challenge, Cash has been a superhero throughout the process. He has made this journey as easy as possible for his parents and his level of understanding and patience is beyond his years. Cash quickly adjusted to his "new normal" and never complains, even through the toughest days. He still flashes that infectious smile and has taught his family what true strength is in the face of adversity. Cash was named the Lights of Courage On-Treatment Honoree because he has exemplified a level of resiliency beyond measure! While he still has a few years left of treatment, Cash is looking forward to the maintenance phase where he can get back to living his active lifestyle. To hear more from Cash and his family, visit the link below!

### To watch Cash's Lights of Courage video, visit <u>http://tiny.cc/cashcannon</u>

### **LIGHTS OF COURAGE SIBLING HONOREE** LANDON REX, 12 YEARS OLD

As suddenly as his little brother Lane was diagnosed, big brother Landon just as suddenly became a childhood cancer sibling. The Rex family quickly learned that brotherly love was the best medicine. Landon's story of strength, hope, and courage provides insight into the impact that childhood cancer has on siblings and each member of the family. Two words used over and over to describe Landon are "old soul." It's not often you meet an 11-year-old boy with a heart as big as an 80-year-old man. He's a "gentle giant" and one of the kindest boys you'll ever meet.

On August 8, 2015, the Rex family was told that their youngest son, Lane, was diagnosed with leukemia. Lane and his mom, Kim, were immediately flown from a hospital in Corpus Christi to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Landon, who at the time was excited and eager to start second grade with his friends, was put in a car with his dad and driven to Houston. Kim and the boys never returned to Corpus Christi. They sold their home and relocated their lives to Houston for Lane's treatment. Landon's friends, his school, his home, his entire life was ripped from him in an instant. It was a terribly hard transition for a little boy that was right at the age where he understood what was happening, but not really old enough to digest it all.

His family watched Landon struggle and did their very best to make him feel loved and special, but Kim remembers, "The truth is, we just weren't enough for him during that time. When one person fights cancer, the entire family is in the fight, too. Siblings often feel left out or forgotten as the focus of the parents is now to keep the sick child alive. Regardless of the pain and emptiness that having a sibling with a life threatening illness can bring, we watched as life slowly came back to Landon's eyes. The pain left and in its place an immense compassion for the sick and hurting took over. When Lane was in pain, it was Landon who ran to his side to pray for him. It was Landon who we would find in bed with his sick brother, rubbing his back, telling him it was ok. It was Landon who sat next to him during clinic appointments and held his hand and encouraged him when he couldn't take one more poke. It was Landon who sat in his hospital bed with him and played endless games of UNO when Lane received high-dose chemotherapy. It was Landon next to him watching movies for hours or playing video games when Lane lived in isolation from the world. It was Landon who cried with Lane when his best friend died from cancer. It was Landon who was standing at that end-of-treatment bell when Lane rang it with his whole heart. Landon is the greatest brother and the best friend. Landon fought with Lane and for him throughout his entire treatment - all 1,217 days of it. I tell people all the time, we would have traded Lane every second of his suffering, but we would never trade who our family became through it all. Landon is wise beyond his years, he holds an empathy for others that is unmatched, he's compassionate, kind-hearted, thoughtful, selfless, patient, and loves fiercely with all that he is. Landon knows, without a doubt, how short and precious life is and oozes joy and love because of that."

To hear directly from Landon about his journey as a childhood cancer sibling, please visit the link below!



To watch Landon's Lights of Courage video, visit <u>http://tiny.cc/landonrex</u>

### LIGHTS OF COURAGE LONG-TERM SURVIVOR HONOREE Addison Marshall, 27 Years old

"Life doesn't always go the way you plan it, but it is still good. It teaches you to be grateful and have faith that there is a plan that maybe we can't necessarily understand right now. That is why you have to play until the whistle blows."

This quote that Addison Marshall gave when he accepted the National Rudy Award perfectly sums up Addison's approach not just to his childhood cancer diagnosis when he was younger, but also in the way he lives life today.

Addison was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) his freshman year of high school after complaining about rib pain at his football practice. For the next three years, he underwent numerous rounds of chemotherapy, spinal taps, and blood transfusions. They eventually got the devastating news that Addison relapsed with cancer in his brain and spine, and he had to undergo more intense chemotherapy and proton radiation. During that time, Addison enjoyed partnering with Candlelighters through the golf tournament and his family made a long-term friend through the Adopt-A-Family Holiday gift-giving program.

Fortunately for Addison, his optimism and zest for life, which he had always possessed, aided him throughout the years of treatment and kept him from allowing his diagnosis to deter him from his plans, ambitions, and achieving his dreams. Even throughout his intense therapies, he continued to practice with his football team and worked with a tutor to ensure he stayed on top of his school work.

Addison's determination to endure and his intrepid approach to any obstacle in life has remained with him even beyond his treatment and has served him well. As a high school senior, Addison earned the National Rudy Award, which exemplifies character, courage, commitment, and contribution and is awarded to only one football player in the country each year! It was a major accomplishment. He went on to graduate in the top 10% of his senior class and was accepted to Texas A&M University, where his respect for medicine {forged from his own experiences with the clinicians who took part in his care} encouraged him to pursue a career as a Physician Assistant. In 2018, Addison graduated from UT Southwestern Medical School with not only his Physician Assistant degree, but also having met the love of his life, Natalie.

Once married, Addison and Natalie moved to San Antonio where they now reside with their three dogs and where Addison works as a Physician Assistant at University Hospital. Addison is thankful every day for his life's journeys, in which he is able to partake thanks to a dedicated team of oncologists, nurses, coaches, teachers, and friends. Because of their support he is truly able to continue "playing until the whistles blows." To hear more from Addison, please follow the link below.



To watch Addison's Lights of Courage video, visit <a href="http://tiny.cc/addisonmarshall">http://tiny.cc/addisonmarshall</a>

### LIGHTS OF COURAGE IN LOVING MEMORY HONOREE CAMERON GOOCH, FOREVER 10 YEARS OLD

One thing you should know about Cameron is that he was a baseball player. A love for the game was deep down in his soul from an early age. Baseball is interwoven with his entire life story, including his cancer diagnosis, his treatment and fight, and his joy throughout it all.

His journey with childhood cancer first began on the little league field, where 8-year-old Cameron's parents noticed his running looked a little stiff. Cameron ended up in the emergency room with severe abdominal pain, leg pain, and vomiting. The ER doctors suspected appendicitis and sent Cameron for a scan to prepare for an appendectomy. Then his family heard the first of many "we need to talk to your mommy and daddy alone" talks that would make their hearts race and their stomachs turn. Cameron's parents heard the dreaded words, "Your child has cancer."

Cameron was diagnosed with Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma, a relatively rare solid tissue cancer. Chemotherapy began right away, followed by surgery and proton therapy. Cameron topped off his treatment with starting back to school as a third grader when his dream to become an official Houston Astro was made a reality by The Astros Foundation, a big supporter of Candlelighters.

At his end-of-treatment appointment, the family received devastating news that Cameron's cancer had spread. Cameron continued to take all of this news with a sweet and peaceful demeanor, deciding to "make the best of it." He continued to live life with a positive attitude and finding the joy in everything, including hospital stays and treatment trips, always accompanied by an entourage of stuffed animals, led by a feisty hamster named Flash.

Candlelighters was with Cameron and his family, including his brave and kindhearted little sister, Audrey, through it all. Candlelighters helped the Gooch family with parking in the medical center, and offered fun, free events that allowed Cameron and Audrey to just be kids. Cameron's mom, Emmie, has fond memories of Candlelighters encounters in the hospital, saying staff and volunteers always had smiles and treats to offer and always remembered Cameron and Audrey's names and personalities. She remembers that Candlelighters never really talked about cancer - they saw Cameron and his family as people, neighbors, and as friends, and that meant so much to them.



Cameron passed away from childhood cancer in November of 2018. During Lights of Courage, Emmie said, "Cameron would be so thankful to Candlelighters for helping him, his parents, and his little sister throughout his journey. He'd have a special thank you for Parent Consultant Miss Linda Pena for being his friend. And he would remind everyone that no matter what you are facing, you can choose to make the best of it. For children like Cameron it is important to remember that they are not just patients, they are part of a family. And Candlelighters is to be commended for understanding this! Cameron, in his 10 years with us, was certainly bigger and stronger and had more of an impact on this world than any disease." Follow the link below to hear more from Cameron's family.

### To watch Cameron's Lights of Courage video, visit <u>http://tiny.cc/camerongooch</u>

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

To stay current with Candlelighters events, please make sure to follow us on Facebook!

### BREAK A CLAY FOR CANDLELIGHTERS CLAY SHOOT FUNDRAISER @ GREATER HOUSTON SPORTS CLUB FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021

NIGHT AT THE BALLFIELD WITH THE SUGAR LAND SKEETERS FREE FAMILY EVENT @ CONSTELLATION FIELD FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021

> SUMMER SURPRISES FREE DRIVE-THRU FAMILY EVENT | LOCATION TBD THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021

> > FUN WALK TERRY HERSHEY PARK Saturday, September 11, 2021

VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF WEEKEND FREE FAMILY EVENT | REGISTRATION BEGINS SUMMER 2021 WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 1 - 3, 2021

LIGHTS OF COURAGE Evening fundraising event @ Houston Polo Club Wednesday, October 27, 2021

> MARGARITA TASTE OFF FUNDRAISING EVENT @ KIRBY ICE HOUSE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY BRINGS HOLIDAY SMILES

Sponsors Band Together to Provide Gifts for Over 300 Candlelighters Families

The holiday season brings much joy and anticipation to the Candlelighters staff and our families. The annual Adopt-A-Family gift-giving program is the highlight of the year for so many and is certainly a bright spot during families' tough days battling cancer. This program recognizes that the diagnosis of childhood cancer affects the entire family and offers hope during what can be an overwhelming season. Adopt-A-Family provides much-needed emotional support to families - through partnering with amazing community sponsors, families know someone is thinking of them and making sure they have the best holiday possible!

Thank you to our incredible Adopt-A-Family Sponsors who jumped in to volunteer during a global pandemic. In 2020, we had more sponsor inquiries than ever before! Year after year, sponsors from the community adopt families and buy gifts from their personalized Wish Lists for each member of the family. We are overjoyed to share our sponsors adopted just over 200 families for the holidays, helping over 1,000 family members across the Houston and Gulf Coast areas.

This year, because of generous cash donations from sponsors, we were also able to provide gift cards for every in-patient family spending time at Texas Children's Hospital Cancer Center and MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital during Christmas. This effort served over 100 families in late December.

Thank You to our Jop 2020 Adopt-A-Family Nonors







**Kayne Anderson** Capital Advisors, L.P.







### The Bell Family

**The Butler Family** 

The Spedale Family

**IBERIABANK** 

SHEAR\//ATER

<u>Sponsors</u> - for more information on how to sponsor a family in 2021, contact Program Director Carly Bradshaw at cbradshaw@candle.org. Families - for more information on how to apply, contact your Parent Consultant. \*Sponsor & Family forms will be sent in late September 2021.

### SPRING 2021

### CANDLELIGHTERS CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

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### **MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT** A Candlelighters Parent Happy Hour Courtesy of Tito's Handmade Vodka!

If you know Candlelighters well, you know that pre-pandemic, we were physically present in the hospital every single day, available to childhood cancer families for emotional and practical support. Our Parent Consultant program is the heartbeat of the support we provide, free of charge to cancer families. It brings our Parent Consultants (fellow Cancer Moms) so much joy to walk the halls of Texas Children's Hospital Cancer Center and MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital to meet families, give out hugs, and provide a listening ear and encouragement. But as COVID-19 hit our area, and everyone was encouraged to stay home, we had to shift how we delivered those services. Throughout 2020, we worked hard to make sure Candlelighters cancer families knew we were still there, ready to support them however we could!

One of the ways we have been connecting with families is through our Parent Meet-Up Video Calls. What was once an in-person weekly meeting at our partner hospitals has turned into a weekly video chat, connecting from wherever we can! Throughout the year, we hosted many fun calls for patients and siblings, but we wanted something special just for the parents. Enter one of our friends and some of our favorite supporters at Tito's Handmade Vodka! They wanted to provide a fun outlet for Candlelighters parents this past holiday season and they jumped at the chance to sponsor our Candlelighters \*Parents Only\* Holiday Ugly Sweater call! We delivered goody bags beforehand with all the delicious ingredients they would need to make a yummy handcrafted beverage, donned our favorite ugly sweaters, and gathered together virtually for a night of games, laughter, and fellowship. Thank you, Candlelighters Parents, for joining us! We had a blast seeing you all and can't wait for our next virtual happy hour!

Special thanks to Fleming's Steakhouse for donating your time and bartending knowledge to teach us some mixology skills, along with a gift card for our ultimate prize! And thank you to Tito's Handmade Vodka for supplying the goody bags and prizes! Cheers!





### Taking aim to help children with cancer and their families!

**Doin US** as we take aim to help children with cancer and their families! Proceeds from this Clay Shoot will benefit Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, a local nonprofit that provides emotional, educational, and practical support to families of children with cancer.

#### COVID SAFETY MEASURES WILL BE ENFORCED AND MASKS ARE REQUIRED WHEN NOT SHOOTING OR EATING.

Upon arrival at Greater Houston Sports Club, you will check in at the Pavilion. Grab your score card and ammo and head to the course! After shooting, you will turn in your score card for review.

Participants must bring their own gun.

★★★ Experienced and novice shooters are encouraged to attend!

### TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

10:00 am - Check In
10:45 am - Welcome and Safety Briefing
11:00 am - Tournament Begins
1:30 pm - Lunch is Served
2:30 pm - Awards & Drawing
3:30 pm - Tournament Ends

Once your team has finished, don't miss out on mulligans and mixology!

### AWARDS, FOOD, and FUN!



Awards will be given to the first, second, and third place teams, as well as individuals, in both the Mens and Ladies Category.

Special Thanks to Ditta Meat Food Service Company and Planet Texas BBQ Team for providing tournament lunch! And to Tito's Vodka for providing post-tournament drinks!



Silent Auction Items, Door Prizes, Candlelighters Speakers, and more!

### \*\*\* Register Today! \*\*\*

See reverse side for Payment Information and to complete your registration.



www.candle.org Find under Fundraising Events! **713-270-4700** *Give us a ring!*  **Iwheeler@candle.org** *Email us your information!* 

#### TOURNAMENT RULES \_

- No alcohol will be allowed before or during the shooting activities no exceptions!
- Safety glasses and hearing protection are required in all shooting areas. *Glasses and hearing protection are not provided but are available for purchase.*
- Guns must be kept open and unloaded except in the shooting stations.
- Mulligans can be purchased the morning of the shoot.

- Individual awards will be determined by raw score.
- A 4-person golf cart is included in your registration. If additional carts are needed they
  can be added for \$125 each. Additional golf carts must be reserved a week in advance.
- *Ammunition is NOT included.* A minimum of 5 boxes of ammunition is recommended. Ammo is available for purchase from Greater Houston Sports Club.

## GOLFING 'FORE' GOOD

The Houston Relocation Professionals (HRP) held their annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, November 18th at Wildcat Golf Course. The tournament was a huge success, raising over \$21,000 for children with cancer and their families. Candlelighters has been honored to be the beneficiary of the HRP golf tournament for 13 years! Special thanks to HRP Golf Chairman, Alan Grantham for making the 2020 tournament possible. Candlelighters is looking forward to another amazing tournament this fall.

The Houston Relocation Professionals has actively been involved with Candlelighters for over sixteen years. HRP has embraced the mission of Candlelighters with financial support, their commitment to the families we serve, and their willingness to help our families in creative ways. One of the many projects they support is their annual holiday toy drive, which donates thousands of dollars' worth of toys to our Adopt-A-Family and Summer Surprises programs. They also hold an annual Astros event and golf tournament in honor of Candlelighters to raise funds towards our mission. Thank you HRP for making such a difference to Candlelighters!



## **SMILES FOR LIFE**

In 2020, Montz & Maher Dental Group hosted their Smiles For Life fundraiser where 100% of every whitening treatment went to charity!

Candlelighters was honored to have been chosen as their local charity partner again. Simply from whitenings, Montz & Maher Dental Group has donated more than \$14,300 for childhood cancer families in the last three years! THANK YOU!

If you're thinking about whitening your teeth, stay tuned to our social media for the announcement on the 2021 campaign! Whitening treatments start at just \$200 and you'll be so happy with your pearly whites!

### **MONTZ & MAHER DENTAL GROUP**

Locations in Pearland & Friendswood



## **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
- Financial support for funeral expenses

#### CANDLELIGHTERS PROVIDES EMOTIONAL & EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT THROUGH OUR FOLLOWING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

- One-on-one peer support from Parent Consultants (for families treated at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital, Texas Children's Cancer Center, and Children's Memorial Hermann)
- Support Group Meetings (held virtually on a weekly basis)
- Newsletter
- Camp CLIFF (Children Loved in Families Forever) weekend family camp
- Fall Family Festival
- Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program
- Skeeter's Night at the Ballfield
- 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 <u>Facebook:</u> Candlelighters Houston and <u>Instagram</u>: @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 Ruth Cheatham 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
- Dan's House of Hope
- Halo House Foundation
- Joe's House
- Project Joy and Hope
   Departed MarDare
- Ronald McDonald House
   The Ballard Llaure
- 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

### STEAK48 RAISES OVER \$23,000 FOR CANDLELIGHTERS CANCER FAMILIES!

At Steak48, hospitality may be their business, but philanthropy is their ethos. In November of 2020, during one of the toughest years for restaurants, Steak48 held a month-long campaign to support Candlelighters' efforts. The culmination was an evening where 100% of the proceeds from that night were donated, resulting in over \$23,800 raised for Candlelighters!

Steak48 has also invited Candlelighters families to dine in for a luxurious dinner on a quarterly basis in 2021. The families who attend have received the most delicious meal and amazing hospitality. We are so thankful for how this restaurant has jumped into partnering with us to directly connect with families! Thank you, Steak48, for giving these families a special night out to take their minds off of cancer for an evening.





Candlelighters Houston



www.candle.org



candlelighters\_houston

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

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.