



CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HONORING CHILDHOOD CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

FEATURING

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MY SIBLING CANCER EXPERIENCE

by Amelia Moore, 12 years old

The first sign that something was wrong was when Avelyn started throwing up every morning. I felt so bad for her. I knew that when I was sick I felt miserable, I couldn't imagine feeling like that every day. Avelyn's balance was off, she fell down the stairs once and she needed help roller-skating. All of the doctors thought that she had acid reflux and she was having side effects to the things she was eating. They gave her medicine but it didn't help. One day when we were walking home from piano lessons, Avelyn said that when she took a step, the back of her head hurt. Mom called the doctor again and scheduled another appointment; she knew something was really wrong, Avelyn was unbalanced, in pain, and still throwing up.

Finally (at the appointment my mom scheduled when we were walking) the doctor noticed right away that acid reflux was not the problem. She scheduled an MRI (a special scan that shows what is going on inside your body) for the next day.



Avelyn did the MRI, then after that, we all went to our friend Lukas's house where we ate pizza and played. We got the MRI results the next day. The results were bad. Avelyn had a cancerous brain tumor in the back of her head. My mom explained the tumor to us: there was a bad cell when Avelyn was born, and it "recruited" other cells and made them bad over the years; this is what made the tumor. My mom and dad sat us all down on the couch and told us the bad news. The tumor was pushing on part of Avelyn's brain and that was causing her to throw up and feel sick. I was confused, but I understood that cancer was a bad illness. I started to cry along with my sister and mom. My brother Peter was young and did not really understand, he only knew something was wrong. He saw us crying and brought us stuffed animals to cheer us up.

Continued on Page 3

INFORMATION CENTER

CANDLELIGHTERS CCFA

2021 Board of Directors

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CANDLELIGHTERS FUN WALK

Saturday, September 11th

CAMP CLIFF

Virtual Camp CLIFF - October 1st-3rd

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

Drive-Thru Event - Sunday, October 17th

LIGHTS OF COURAGE

Wednesday, October 27th

MARGARITA TASTE OFF

Sunday, November 7th

HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

October - December

Parent Support Group Meetings

VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR MD ANDERSON CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL

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

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FAMILY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Opal Goodman: ogoodman@candle.org

(Continued from cover) Avelyn, Mom, and Dad packed a bag and went into the hospital that day for more tests. Peter and I had a sleepover with our friend. Mom and Dad called a lot of people to tell them the news. Within 4 hours of Mom calling her, my grandma was on a flight to Houston. Our other grandparents drove to Houston from Upper Michigan. I was scared for Avelyn, surprised at how brave she was, and confused about what was happening. I was honestly also happy to see my grandparents. Avelyn was scheduled for surgery the very next morning to remove the tumor.

The doctor was able to remove 95% of the tumor in a 6-hour surgery. My grandma picked Peter and I up from our friend Katie's house in the morning. We went back home and waited for news about the surgery. The brain is very delicate and the surgery irritated it. This caused Avelyn to have posterior fossa syndrome, which was described to me as the brain shutting down lots of functions because it was irritated. She could not walk, talk, or even swallow, and she then needed a feeding tube.

After surgery, Avelyn and Mom lived at Memorial Herman for 10 days until her port and feeding tube were placed. I do not remember being able to visit her a lot there. After that stay, Avelyn and Mom moved to Shriners Hospital and Avelyn did more therapy to recover. I was sad that I did not get to see them that much, but we still got to FaceTime with each other. She also started radiation to get rid of the rest of the tumor. Radiation was explained to me as a process where the tumor gets "zapped" with lasers until it shrinks down and hopefully goes away. The radiation caused her to lose her hair just a few weeks in. Avelyn rode in an ambulance to radiation, and once they even turned the sirens on to brighten her spirits! Since Peter was so young, he even got to ride, too. Radiation lasted for 6 weeks and she had to go every day, Monday through Friday. When she finished, she got to 'strike the gong' - a tradition that symbolizes the end of treatment at MD Anderson.



Avelyn also had to start chemotherapy to get rid of the rest of the cancer. Chemotherapy is a treatment that kills the cancer cells, but unfortunately it also kills other cells like hair and immune system cells. She lost her hair during chemo and we had to be VERY careful around her - if we were sick and got her sick, it could be very, very bad. She did radiation at the MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center, chemo treatment, then went back to Shriners. She had to do nine cycles.

Mom and Avelyn stayed at Shriners for two months and we visited them there often! Peter and I even celebrated our birthdays there. I played with Avelyn a lot and could not wait for her to come home again! When it was time, all of her schoolmates made posters and stood outside, cheering as they drove home. I wanted to jump right into the car and leave school to go play with Avelyn and hug Mom. I was so relieved to have them back home!

Avelyn still had to occasionally go to MD Anderson overnight to get more chemo. I was always nervous and sad when they had to leave for a few days again, but sometimes they allowed us to sleep there with her. Avelyn had to do Homebound school, which is when a teacher comes to your house to teach you at home; this was to keep her safe from different germs because her body was still too weak to fight them. She did speech, physical, and occupational therapy three times a week. I was bored sometimes, but other times I got to do the games and activities with her!

Avelyn still goes in for checkups from time to time, and still gets MRIs to make sure that there is no more cancer or tumors. Cancer is absolutely horrible and no one should have to go through it or experience their sibling, kid, husband, wife, or friend fight it. Cancer was a terrible thing for our family, but it also led us to meet new people and become closer to God. Going to camps, like Candlelighters Camp CLIFF, and doing activities and events with childhood cancer organizations helped us meet people who have had similar experiences. [I am so glad that we are still all together.](#)

CELEBRATING HOUSTON ASTROS OPENING DAY!

Watch Party Boxes Knock it Out of the Park!

The Houston Astros baseball organization has been a constant supporter of the childhood cancer community here in Houston. They offer tickets, swag, once-in-a-lifetime experiences, and happiness to many children and families. Back in March of this year, everyone was craving some normalcy and we couldn't wait for baseball season to start back up! Candlelighters joined forces with the Sunshine Kids Foundation to provide an epic take-home experience for Astros Opening Day! The staff had a blast filling boxes with Astros gear, ballpark snacks, Academy gift cards, sunglasses, crafts, and more! Over 90 childhood cancer families participated in the Virtual Opening Day drive-thru event and joined us on a virtual video call for games and making up fun cheers.

Thank you to the [Houston Astros](#) and [The Astros Foundation](#) for supplying fun swag for these boxes, and thank you to the [Sunshine Kids Foundation](#) for partnering with us on this fun event! Let's go, 'Stros!



PIN OAK CHARITY HORSE SHOW

Candlelighters "War Horse" Glory Steals The Show!

Throughout Candlelighters history, the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show has provided financial support as well as amazing experiences for childhood cancer families. We are so thankful for this partnership and out of all the years of support, 2021 will be hard to beat! In 2019, Candlelighters families, volunteers, and staff placed colorful handprints on a life-size plexiglass horse at our Camp CLIFF weekend, symbolizing all the important roles that make up the childhood cancer community. Artists [Tara Royer Steel](#) and [Danna Lynde](#) donated their talent to complete the piece and it was an absolute stunner! The Candlelighters "War Horse" was ready to be auctioned Pin Oak's 25th Anniversary, but the show was cancelled due to COVID-19. Fast forward to April 2021, and our beautiful horse "[Glory](#)" sold for [\\$80,000](#)! Candlelighters families were also invited to attend various shows and enjoy a night away from cancer meeting horses and having fun!

Thank you to [Lauryn Sanford](#) and the [Pin Oak Charity Horse Show](#) for dreaming up this idea, to Tara and Danna for beautifying our horse, and to [Wiesner Buick GMC of Conroe](#) for your incredibly generous gift! You have made a HUGE impact on the childhood cancer families we serve and we can't thank you enough! For those in the Conroe area, make sure you stop by the dealership to see our beauty on display!



KARINDA K EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY AT PIN OAK

Stunning Fine Art Photography Sessions Raise Over \$10,000!

In addition to the horse auction at Pin Oak, the incredibly talented Karinda Kinsler offered on-site portrait sessions with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Candlelighters. The childhood cancer community is near to her and her husband Austin's hearts; at the age of 7, Austin lost his little sister Jessica to cancer. Karinda dreamed up this fundraiser to give back to an organization that supports the whole family through a childhood cancer diagnosis, and Candlelighters was the perfect fit. She had a big goal of photographing at least 100 horses, and she ended up taking photos of 120 horses and dogs during the show! [She surpassed her goal and raised \\$10,350](#)! She also plans to use the images in a picture book to gift to families in local hospitals. [Thank you to Karinda K Equine Photography](#) for your tireless efforts making this fundraiser a success! Be sure to check out more of her stunning work on Facebook and Instagram!



TAKING THE COURT FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

The Inaugural Mixed Doubles Tennis Classic Benefiting Candlelighters

April 25, 2021 was a picture-perfect day for the first ever Mixed Doubles Tennis Classic tournament at the Houston Racquet Club benefiting Candlelighters! It was Candlelighters' first in-person fundraiser in over a year due to COVID-19 and we were overjoyed with the turnout. Twelve teams volleyed for prizes and bragging rights, all with the goal of helping to raise funds and resources for children with cancer and their families. After a rousing 5 rounds of competition, teams came together for a delicious lunch, awards ceremony, and moving testimony by Candlelighters child, [Ryder Solberg](#). Raffle winners were announced and an exciting mixed doubles exhibition match was played between four of Houston Racquet Club's professionals, [Thomas Cook](#), [Tammy Morris](#), [Andrew Fitzpatrick](#), and [Kaysie Smashey](#), with hilarious commentating by [Sue Bramlett](#). Congratulations to the big winners of the day, [Tiziana & Roberto Velasco](#), followed closely by [Beth & Steven Guinn](#)! The matches were competitive and fun and the day was full of sunshine, beautiful weather, and happy, giving hearts.

Thank you to this year's [Event Chairs Jenna Jackson and Kris Vallee](#) for pulling together this new event! Thank you to the teams who participated for our childhood cancer families. Thank you to [Tricia and Ryder Solberg](#) for sharing about your personal childhood cancer journey and to [Thomas Cook](#) and the [Houston Racquet Club](#) for hosting this exciting event. We already can't wait for 2022! For anyone interested in participating in next year's Mixed Doubles Tennis Classic Benefiting Candlelighters, please contact Lynn Wheeler at lwheeler@candle.org.



BREAK A CLAY FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

Companies Band Together to Take a Shot at Cancer

There's a first time for everything, and this year has been full of firsts! In May, Candlelighters hosted a brand new fundraising event: Break A Clay For Candlelighters! We invited local businesses to sponsor and participate, and over 100 shooters had an incredible time in the clay shooting tournament, **raising over \$61,000** for children with cancer and their families! Rain was looming in the forecast, but the weather held out just long enough for lots of shooting, fun games, a delicious barbeque lunch thanks to the **Planet Texas Barbeque Cook-Off Team** and **Ditta Meat Food Service Co.**, and a competitive silent auction full of amazing packages including vacations, golf bags, paintball parties, a big-screen television, winery tours, and more! While eating lunch, attendees heard from **Candlelighters Dad, Chip Probe**, with a moving testimony about his daughter **Dylan's** childhood cancer journey and how Candlelighters has impacted his whole family throughout that journey and beyond.

After attendees were all done shooting and the scores were being tallied, they got to enjoy cold beer and spirits, thanks to **Tito's Handmade Vodka**, **St. Arnold's Brewing Company**, and **Karbach Brewing Co.** Congratulations to the 2021 1st Place Team including **Mixology Winner and Top Shooter Thomas Nasser, Mike Danna, and Bert Knight!** 2nd Place Team was **Intercontinental Terminals Co. LLC**, who also won the Team Flurry competition, and the 3rd Place Team was **Team Anton**. The Last Place Team deserves an honorable mention for their effort and they walked away with brand new tubes of tennis balls as a prize (so they could try a different sport next time!) - thank you for joining us, **Team BMC Software!**

Thank you to **Donna & Jack Molho** for donating our Grand Prize Yildiz Legacy Shotgun for our top shooter. And special thanks to **Greater Houston Sports Club** and their crew for helping us navigate this brand new event. Please save the date for **Friday, May 13, 2022** for next year's Break A Clay for Candlelighters clay shoot tournament fundraiser!



THANK YOU 2021 SPONSORS!



LIVE
PWRFULLY

HUNTON
ANDREWS KURTH



Chris Joseph



Intercontinental
Terminals
Company



The Shackouls
Foundation



Dr. Wendy Willett
Orthodontics
(713) 436-4280
braces@pearland.com



A NIGHT WITH THE SUGAR LAND SKEETERS

The Houston Astros' Newest Triple-A Affiliate Treats Cancer Families to a Night Out!

In a joint effort by the [Sugar Land Skeeters](#) baseball team and long-time sponsor and supporter Constellation Energy, over 250 Candlelighters family members were treated to a night full of fun to kick off the beginning of summer! The Skeeters generously donated tickets to their June 12th home game vs. the Round Rock Express, as well as parking passes, a buffet dinner, bottomless beverages, and use of their party-perfect picnic space in left field. Families were able to safely gather with plenty of space to socially distance and enjoy the game and festivities, all free of charge. It was a hot one, so the pool area and splash pad did not disappoint!


Those who made it to the ballpark early were gifted custom tropical-themed Skeeters jerseys in honor of Parrothead Night and could attend the pre-game live concert at the Ice House! The Sugar Land Skeeters wore their bright, themed jerseys during the game and afterward auctioned them off, with proceeds benefiting Candlelighters and our programs and services that provide daily support for childhood cancer families! The jersey auction was such a success, that they held two more jersey auctions later in the summer, [raising over \\$8,100](#) for Candlelighters!

This event was one of our first opportunities to see some of our Candlelighters families in person again, and we were so glad to see so many smiling faces! Throughout the evening, Candlelighters kiddos were featured on the big screen and the announcer shared about childhood cancer awareness and the programs and services we provide for families. A group of Candlelighters patients got the chance to kick off the game off by announcing, "Play ball!" Thank you to [Madelyn Arista](#), [Edgar Rea](#), and [Mariana Valencia](#) for representing us!

It was so fun to see the stadium full of supporters and exciting to even see some Houston Astros players on the field! We are so grateful for the support from Constellation Energy, the Sugar Land Skeeters, and the Houston Astros, all enabling Candlelighters to provide exciting experiences at no cost to our childhood cancer families - the memories we've made are priceless!



30 *days of honoring* CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH *in September!*



Be Aware & Know the Facts:

1. Childhood Cancer is the #1 cause of death of children by disease
2. 80% of childhood cancer families face financial hardships
3. 43 kids in the US are diagnosed every day with a form of childhood cancer
4. 1 in 4 elementary schools has a student who has or had childhood cancer
5. The average age of a child when diagnosed with cancer is 6 years old

Support Candlelighters families by collecting & donating:

6. Grocery Gift Cards
7. Restaurant or UberEats Gift Cards
8. Gas Gift Cards
9. Target or Walmart Gift Cards
10. Items off our Camp CLIFF Amazon Wish List: <https://tiny.cc/campwishlist>
11. Kindles & Amazon Gift Cards
12. Art Supplies/DIY Activities for Patients in the Hospital
13. \$13 for one day of Hospital Parking
14. Blankets, Cozy Socks, & Knit Caps
15. Items off our Bell Ringing Box Amazon Wish List: <https://tiny.cc/bellringingbox>

Connect with Us & Join Us!

16. Follow us on Facebook!
17. Host a Facebook Fundraiser in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
18. Follow us on Instagram
19. Subscribe to our Newsletter
20. FUN WALK - Saturday, September 11 at Terry Hershey Park!
21. FUN WALK RAFFLE - Visit link: go.rallyup.com/candlefunwalk2021
22. Join our Young Professionals Group!
23. Sponsor Virtual CAMP CLIFF - <http://tiny.cc/campsponsor>
24. Sponsor & Attend our LIGHTS OF COURAGE Event - October 27th
25. Attend MARGARITA TASTE OFF - Sunday, November 7th
26. Sponsor a cancer family through our HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY Program

Donate:

27. Make a Tax-Deductible Donation to Candlelighters at www.candle.org
28. Double your gift through your employer's Matching Gift program
29. Your Talents: Photography, Graphic Design, Music, Kids Activities, etc.
30. Items for our Lights of Courage Raffle!

CELEBRATING GRADUATES: SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Honoring childhood cancer families for accomplishing such a big milestone!



Abby Siler



Abel Pena



Aidan Perry



Arionna Fulton



Asa Gordon



Ashlan Alexander



Benjamin Coldwell



Brandon Billeck



Cameron Taylor



Caroline Fitzgerald



Christabel Suarez



Claire Spedale

CELEBRATING GRADUATES: SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Honoring childhood cancer families for accomplishing such a big milestone!



Connor Wilson



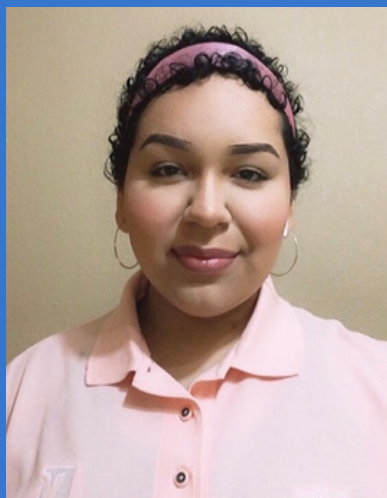
Consuelo Diaz



Cosme David Camacho



Daphne Ibarra



Denisse Acosta



Douglas R. Ferguson



Elena Vasquez



Emanuel Enrique Cruz



Erik Caballero



Freddy Oliva Jr.



Gracie Wahle



Hugo Diaz

CELEBRATING GRADUATES: SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Honoring childhood cancer families for accomplishing such a big milestone!



Janie Spedale



Jesus Padilla



Jocelyn Arista



Jorge Giraldo



Justus Mendoza



Kamron Lewis-Jackson



Lucas Grossman



Mariana Valencia



Mateo Gardella



Maya Edgu-Fry



Natalie Silva



Olesea Simileac

CELEBRATING GRADUATES: SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

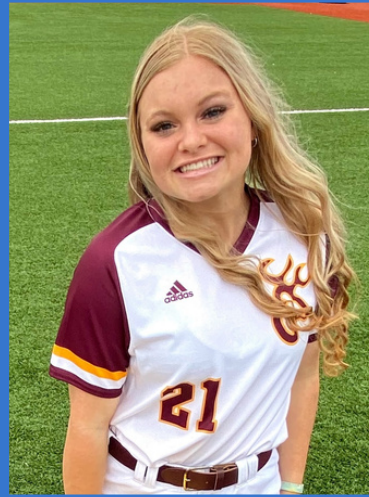
Honoring childhood cancer families for accomplishing such a big milestone!



Precious Hanley



Sophia Anagoustou



Tabatha Bailey



Tayson Ulewelyn



Timothy "Scott" Wren III



William Higdon



We are so happy to share that we were able to continue our Senior Surprises Program this year! We had 42 seniors submit their information to be spotlighted on social media - we absolutely loved reading about and sharing their accomplishments and future plans! We honored patients, siblings, AND a couple childhood cancer parents! We understand that when a family is affected by cancer, future milestones are put in jeopardy. So when a patient, sibling, or parent reaches graduation, that's a BIG DEAL! Thanks to our generous donors, Candlelighters was able to provide \$100 Target Gift Cards to each graduate submitted this year!

Congratulations, Class of 2021 Graduates!

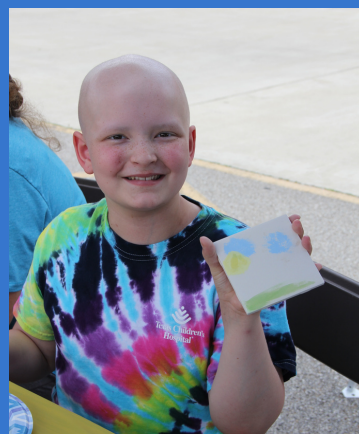
SUMMER SURPRISES DRIVE-THRU PARTY

Moving Outdoors to Provide Safe Summer Fun

Superheroes, princesses, and mini horses were just a few of the surprises at this year's Candlelighters Summer Surprises Party - it was also our very first drive-thru event! Usually held indoors at our partner hospitals, Summer Surprises is a family-favorite event, free to childhood cancer families, and provides a distraction from cancer treatment. Candlelighters safely brought this beloved annual event outdoors so we could treat our families to tile painting, arts and crafts activity bags, a mobile photo booth to take snapshots with princesses, music and games with DJ Jeffrey, delicious and refreshing popsicles by [Kicpops](#), yummy Chick-fil-A lunches for every family, adorable mini horses and donkeys from [SIRE Therapeutic Horsemanship](#), and probably the most favorite - wrapped gifts for every attendee! The route was adorned with colorful balloons, and Candlelighters Parent Consultants got to greet families that they've been missing at the start of the drive-thru line. The smiles were unending, even from car windows and behind facemasks, and it felt incredible to carry on our mission of supporting childhood cancer families.

Thank you to our host, [St. Luke's United Methodist Church](#), and to our Presenting Sponsors, [OlerRelo](#) & [Adam's Angels](#), for making this day so special and for helping us celebrate our childhood cancer families, bringing them an afternoon of fun away from treatment.





SUMMER SURPRISES DRIVE-THRU PARTY!



Thank You Summer Surprises Sponsors

oleRRelo
GROUP



St. Luke's United Methodist Church Middle School Group & Senior Service Group

Causeplay Alliance Project

DiamonLion Photography

Chick-fil-A

DJ Jeffrey

Princesses of The Woodlands

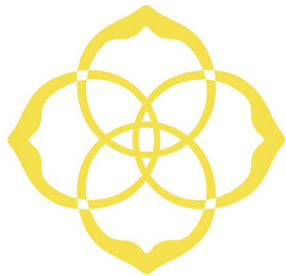
TREATING CANDLELIGHTERS PARENTS

Amazon Wish List Donors Help Provide Gifts for Cancer Parents

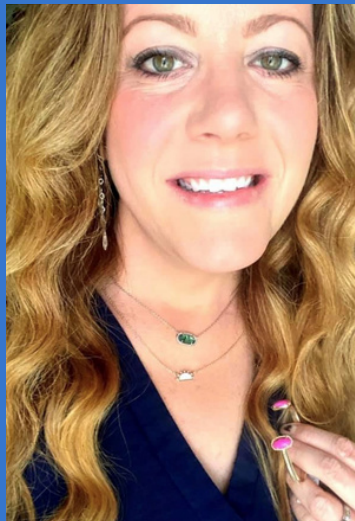
Here at Candlelighters, we know the whole family is greatly impacted by a childhood cancer diagnosis. This is why our support, programs, and events extend not only childhood cancer patients, but also their siblings and parents. We believe all of our warrior parents should be celebrated every day! So this year, after what's been an exhausting year-and-a-half for cancer families, we felt like Mother's Day and Father's Day deserved a little extra attention! Thanks to our amazing partner, [Kendra Scott](#), and generous [Amazon Wish List Donors](#), we were able to provide some extra pampering to parents this year!

This summer, we surprised over 200 parents with gift bags to celebrate them on their special days! Every pediatric oncology in-patient room at our partner hospitals in the Med Center received goody bags over Mother's Day and Father's Day weekends! Dads were gifted with sleek, navy Candlelighters baseball caps. For Mother's Day, we posted an Amazon Wish List full of adorable reusable tote bags, lotion, lip balm, nail polish and nail files, refreshing skincare masks, relaxing bath salts, and more, and donors purchased items to fulfill those gifts! In addition to our goody bags, long-time partner [Kendra Scott](#) donated over \$5,200 worth of jewelry to surprise our childhood cancer moms with some extra sparkle! Happy Mother's Day & Father's Day to the strongest parents we know!

"You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have."



KENDRA
SCOTT



BECOME A SPONSOR FOR VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF

Providing a Weekend Away From Cancer, Full of Fun & Activities!

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 October 1-3, 2021.

You can make a donation & submit your sponsorship online at <http://tiny.cc/campsponsor> or purchase from our 2021 Virtual Camp CLIFF Amazon Wish List at <http://tiny.cc/campwishlist>.

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



MEET THE CANDLELIGHTERS STAFF!



Lynn Wheeler
Executive Director



Kelsey Tarpinian
Associate Director



Carly Bradshaw
Director of Programs & Communications



Sydney Williams
Office Manager



Opal Goodman
Family Development Coordinator



Jaynie Hutchinson
Parent Consultant, MD Anderson



Linda Pena
Parent Consultant, Texas Children's



Maria Pena
Parent Consultant, Texas Children's



Yuvi Sifuentes
Parent Consultant, MD Anderson

BELL RINGING IN A BOX

New Program to Honor Childhood Cancer Survivors Provides Celebration Kits!

One of the greatest milestones in a childhood cancer patient's life are the words "No Evidence of Disease" and marking that end-of-treatment date on the calendar. The date when your doctors and care team tell you, "After this day, you will be done with your cancer treatments!" It's a date that is forever-remembered and cherished by families, held in the highest regard right alongside birthdays.

Such an important day would need a celebration, right? Absolutely! It is a tradition that on the last day of treatment, patients participate in a Bell Ringing Ceremony, signifying the end of treatment and the beginning of a new chapter of life. This tradition started right here in Houston at MD Anderson Cancer Center in the mid-1990s and is now a cherished milestone for cancer patients.

To say that the pandemic has put a damper on so many "normal life" things would be an understatement!

But we had no idea that this virus would keep Candlelighters staff out of the hospitals as long as it has. Before COVID-19, our staff would attend countless Bell Ringing Ceremonies for our cancer warriors. These momentous occasions would sometimes have thirty or more people gathered to cheer on the patient, hear speeches from grateful parents, and cheer on this next phase of life. Now, kiddos are lucky if they get to have even two visitors at their bell ringing.

Candlelighters knew we had to do something! We couldn't let these milestones go uncelebrated. So with the help of generous donors, special thank you to [The Guill Family](#), and so many supporters who purchased items from our Amazon Wish List, we pulled together the best celebration-in-a-box to honor these cancer-conquerors! We're taking the party out of the hospital and to their doorstep so they can ring the bell and celebrate with loved ones from the safety of their own homes.

Ring this bell, three times well, it's toll to clearly say, "My treatment's done, this course is run, and I am on my way!"

EACH BELL RINGING PARTY KIT COMES WITH:

- Keepsake hand bell for the patient to ring!
- Tiny gold bells to serve as a memento for this meaningful occasion
- \$25 Baskin Robbins gift card to purchase sweet treats for the party!
- Gold and confetti balloons for party decorations
- Gold streamers for a picture-perfect photo backdrop
- Gold ribbon stickers, decorations, and a gold "Congratulations!" banner
- Framed 'SURVIVOR' certificate, customizable with the patient's name and end-of-treatment date!
- Confetti wands to shower the bell-ringer in fun
- Window marker to decorate your car for that last-day-of-treatment trip to the hospital
- Custom yard sign to let everyone know you've conquered cancer!

FAMILIES: To reserve your Bell Ringing In A Box kit, please contact your Parent Consultant with end-of-treatment date!

TO DONATE to keep this brand new program going, visit tiny.cc/givetocandle and send email notification to Carly Bradshaw at cbradshaw@candle.org about your donation!



2021 FUN WALK | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Taking 4,354 Steps For Childhood Cancer Families



This year we're giving you the option of walking with us at TERRY HERSHEY PARK or walking in your own neighborhood or park!

Either way, participating in this year's Fun Walk means you are raising vital awareness and funds for childhood cancer families!

- Register to participate in the Fun Walk for FREE <https://give.candle.org/2021FunWalk>
- Take the pledge to [Walk 4,354 Steps on Walk Day](#) (about 2 miles) - [one step for each of our Candlelighters Families!](#)
- Help by sharing the Candlelighters mission AND fundraising efforts via social media & email!
- Purchase tickets to win prizes from our online raffle! <https://go.rallyup.com/candlefunwalk2021>

Our goal is to raise \$225,000 this year and [we can't do it without YOU!](#) Funds raised will go toward daily support, programs, and services for childhood cancer families, as we need them more than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic. [CANCER DOESN'T STOP](#) and neither will we! We know you will help us and we can't wait to see what we will accomplish together!

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



2021 FUN WALK FUNDRAISING TIPS & IDEAS



Online Fundraising Tips

1. Register online at <https://give.candle.org/2021FunWalk>
2. Once registered, utilize the Participant Center to:
 - a. **Personalize your Page** - so your friends and family know WHY you're walking and WHAT their donation will go towards
 - b. **Email friends and family** - upload contacts and use the email templates to ask for donations AND thank your friends and family who donate
 - c. **Connect to Facebook** - at the top of your Participant Center Homepage look for the "Connect to Facebook" button - this enables the Fun Walk site and Facebook to link, making it easier to receive donations from Facebook friends! *Facebook fundraisers are 100% safe AND we get 100% of the donation!
3. Make specific asks: 13th day of the month ask for \$13 to pay for one day of hospital parking; 5 year cancer survivor ask for \$50, etc.
4. Studies Show it takes on average 3-7 "asks" for someone to donate - you're not being annoying, don't worry!

Unique Fundraising Ideas & Activities

We've had to come up with some COVID-friendly fundraising ideas this year, it's been a challenge, but also fun to try new things!

1. **Share your Story**: the most effective way to fundraise in 2021 via social media and email is simple: Share Your Story. Write a heartfelt letter, film an honest video, share with your friends and family that CANCER HASN'T STOPPED and you're doing something about it!
2. **Post-it Palooza**: write out numbers 1-50 on post-its and take a picture - ask your friends and family to claim a number to donate, your challenge is to have them all claimed!
3. **Fundraising Challenges**: have a friendly competition between the members of your walk team, or a fellow walk team!
4. **Online BINGO**: host a virtual game night and ask friends and family to make a donation to play. Don't forget to have a few small prizes along the way! Check online for free online templates!

FUNDRAISING AWARDS

Rookie of the Year - Top Fundraising First Year Walk Teams

- Community
- Corporate
- Family

Top Fundraising Teams

- Top 2 Community Teams
- Top 4 Corporate Teams
- Top 10 Family Teams

Top Facebook Fundraisers

- Community Walker
- Corporate Walker
- Family Walker

SPECIALTY AWARDS

Best Team Name

Best Walking Location

Best Team T-Shirts

- Corporate
- Family

Awards are given out on walk day and are based on fundraising totals from Friday, September 10 at NOON.

With any questions please contact Kelsey at kelseyt@candle.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 FUN WALK TEAMS!

Family Teams



#ArthurJrStrong	MightySam Warriors
#BUBBASTRONG	Mila and Friends
#KaleoStrong	Morningdove
#TeamAndrew	Nikki Strong
#TeamChrissie	Overcomer
#TonyStrong	Peyton's Posse
A Circle of Friends	Pirates of the Cure a Being
Aidan's Army	Rainbowsforrhea
Aldon's Army	RayRayStrong
Awesome Austin	SUPER MARIO
B&B Team	Saylor's Anchors
Benavides Clan	Sergio's Team
Benji's Helping Heart	Skylar
Corriendo Con Mariana	Stay Dylan Strong
Costa for Courtney	TEAM ULISES
Dylan's Warriors	TEAMLOGAN
Ellen O'Neal Team	Team Alden
Fighting with Gordo	Team Andrew
Holt's Journey	Team Blake
Hops of Hope	Team Eli
JAVIERSITO	Team Eli & Lillian
Jaywalkers1	Team Enya
Jennifer Ramirez	Team Judson
Jordyn's Journey	Team Keyonte
Kaelyn's Answer for Cancer	Team Lopez
Kalieb H	Team Luke Fights Leuk
Kayden Strong	Team MJ
Kelli's Heroes	Team Maisie Rae
Korie's Krusaders	Team Mason
Kure Kyndal	Team Sampson
LiamStrong	TeamParker
Lilliegh Strong	The Running Sloths
Linda's Team	The Dragons
Little Edgar's Army	Tiago's Team
Lucas7boss	Victor
MDACCH Families	Walker's Walkers
Magical Miles	Warriors for Alex
Michelle's Team	

Company Teams



Coldwell Banker United	KICPOPS
Realtors Baytown, Heights & Kingwood	Marsh McClellan
Constellation Energy	P+R Productions
FexEx ZHOUL	PRN Realty
First Horizon Bank	Team Tutorville
GEODIS Cares	Thermo-Temp Inc.
Gexa Energy	Weichert Realtors, Weichert Mobility and Wayne Murray Properties
Houston Relocation Professionals	WellBoss

Community Teams



Candlelighters Young Professionals Group	Team Chaos and Mayhem
Carly's Crew	Team Haines
Coollest Camp Counselors	Team Mally
Crosby BFC	Team ReJoyce
Dashing for Dreyer	Team Stanton
Maleks on a Mission	Team Tarpinian
Nathaniel's Animals	Team Williams
Posey's Posse	The Kings
Stepping up with the Symeckos	Walk with Rox
Tamara's Tribe	Wheeler's Walkers

JOIN US AT LIGHTS OF COURAGE

An Evening Honoring Inspiring Candlelighters Families

Each year, Candlelighters hosts our Lights of Courage event to celebrate children with cancer and their families. Up until last year, this event has been known as the Lights of Courage Luncheon, but we are excited to make some changes this year!

Along with **Event Chairs Beth Guinn & Kris Vallee**, we are looking forward to hosting our guests, sponsors, and honorees at the beautiful **Houston Polo Club** this fall! This gorgeous outdoor venue provides peace of mind so we can gather to raise much-needed funding to continue serving children with cancer and their families. We will have pre-event signature cocktails thanks to **Tito's Handmade Vodka**, shopping with a wonderful lineup of Houston's best boutiques and stores, and our raffle, boasting great packages from local businesses. New this year, we will be gathering during **dinnertime** and enjoying mouthwatering catering from **Ruth's Chris Steak House**! We will still be honoring four courageous childhood cancer families throughout the night, and will also **host our first Live Auction which will feature some very luxurious and exotic vacations**:

- 5-night stay in **Iceland** seeing the Northern Lights!
- 1-week stay in a beautiful private home in colorful **San Miguel de Allende in Mexico**
- 2-night hideaway at the stunning celebrity favorite **Amangiri Resort** in the peaceful mountains of Utah
- 4-night retreat in beautiful, breezy **Belize**
- 3-night stay at the luxurious Four Seasons in dazzling **Punta Mita, Mexico**
- 3-night oceanfront stay at the **Mauna Lani Resort** in stunning **Kamuela, Hawaii**
- with more added to the auction & raffle every day!

Every year, Lights of Courage is inspired by the stories of courage, strength, and hope represented by each of our honorees. Their journeys represent the thousands of children facing or who have faced childhood cancer. We can't wait to introduce them to you all as they share their stories.

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY!

Please visit www.candle.org/LOC for more information about Lights of Courage, to sponsor this event, and to reserve your table!



Lights of Courage
BENEFITING
CANDLELIGHTERS
CHILDHOOD CANCER
FAMILY ALLIANCE

SAVE THE DATE!
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021

Join us for an evening at the
Houston Polo Club
8552 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024

SHOPPING & COCKTAILS
DINNER
RAFFLE DRAWING
LIVE AUCTION
EVENT CHAIRS
BETH GUINN & KRIS VALLEE
BENEFITING

 **Candlelighters.**
CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

The mission of Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance is to provide emotional, educational, and practical support to children with cancer and their families.

For more information, and to reserve your table today, visit candle.org/events/LOC or call 713.270.4700.

CANDLELIGHTERS
12919 Southwest Freeway, Ste. 100
Stafford, Texas 77477

NEW VENUE! NEW TIME!

13TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE OFF



SUNDAY
1 - 5 PM

NOVEMBER
7

KIRBY ICE HOUSE
3333 EASTSIDE

SOLD OUT!

Tickets only currently available with a sponsorship. Please email ehaines@candle.org for more information.

2021 Restaurant Line-Up

AMBRIZA SOCIAL MEXICAN KITCHEN
CALLE ONZE
CILANTRO'S COCINA
DISH SOCIETY
EIGHT ROW FLINT
EMMA'S MEX GRILL
FAT BOOTS
FEDERAL GRILL
FIELD & TIDES
HAROLD'S IN THE HEIGHTS
KICPOPS
LA FISHERIA
STATE FARE KITCHEN & BAR



Thanks to our Sponsors!

CRISTIN & GUY
RODGERS

BELMONT *Village*
SENIOR LIVING

ALEX &
ARON WILL

MATTHEW
WHITLOCK

BRACEWELL



HAYLEY & JOEY
RIPPEL

KELSEY & JEFFREY
TARPINIAN



ROBERT D AYERS

BETTER HOMES &
GARDENS | DEANNA
DAWSON

JULIE LONGORIA CHEN DDS

LIFE-LIKE LABORATORY

SYNTEX ENERGY LLC

AXIS COMMUNICATIONS

CHICAGO TITLE COMMERCIAL

EXXONMOBIL FOUNDATION

HIGGINBOTHAM

ORIGIN BANK

CINDI & KARL PRIEBE

RICHARD & IRENE WANG

SAVE THE DATES!

2021 FUN WALK

TERRY HERSHEY PARK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF WEEKEND

FREE FAMILY EVENT | REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 1 - 3, 2021

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL DRIVE-THRU

FREE FAMILY EVENT @ ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL | FAMILIES MUST RSVP!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

STAY TUNED FOR NEW DETAILS THIS YEAR!

ACCEPTING FAMILY & SPONSOR APPLICATIONS IN MID-SEPTEMBER

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

HOLIDAY DRIVE-THRU EVENT

FREE FAMILY EVENT @ ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MORE DETAILS TO COME | FAMILIES MUST RSVP!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

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 and Children's Memorial Hermann; 2 at Texas Children's Cancer Center)
- Support Group Meetings (happening Wednesday via Zoom call - 1 for MDACC families and 1 for TCH families)
- Newsletter
- Camp CLIFF (Children Loved in Families Forever) Weekend Family Camp
- Fall Family Festival
- Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program
- A Night at the Ballpark with the Sugar Land Skeeters, Triple-A Affiliate of the Houston Astros
- Many others throughout the year! Stay up-to-date on programs and events by joining our email list: <https://candle.org/subscribe-to-candlelighters> 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
- Dan's House of 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



September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

8 children are diagnosed with cancer every day in Houston, Texas

229 patients treated every day at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital

238,000 family members receiving direct services from the Candlelighters Parent Consultants in our partner hospitals every year

PARTNER WITH CANDLELIGHTERS TODAY TO MAKE A LASTING, MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY CHILDHOOD CANCER.



Candlelighters Houston



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.

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.