



CELEBRATING A NEW YEAR

AND REFLECTING ON 2021

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LIGHTS OF COURAGE

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER



We are ECSTATIC to share that through our Lights of Courage event held on Wednesday, October 27th at the Houston Polo Club, our generous Sponsors, Table Hosts, Shining Opportunities Donors, Live Auction Bidders, Raffle Ticket Purchasers and Vendors helped us achieve our MOST SUCCESSFUL fundraiser in the history of Candlelighters!!!

More than \$450,000 was raised through the event for our children with cancer and their families. The excitement and energy from the night was incredible and everyone is already talking about the 2022 event!

A heartfelt thank you to our devoted Lights of Courage Chairs, [Beth Guinn](#) & [Kris Vallee](#), Host Committee, and our amazing Board of Directors for the success and growth of this event! Our chairs especially worked tirelessly to make sure the event was not only beautiful, but also a record-breaking fundraiser!

Each year, the Lights of Courage event celebrates children with cancer and their families. This year, over 370 guests joined us for a night at the Houston Polo Club and were inspired by the stories of courage, strength, and hope represented by the honorees. The stories of the honorees highlight their journeys that are shared by the thousands of other children facing or who have faced childhood cancer. (See pages 5-8 for these inspiring stories!)

Guests were greeted by a Professional Polo player and guitar playing by local artist, Guillermo, and offered a signature drink from [Tito's Vodka](#). Guests could then do some shopping before the event started at some of their favorite stores. Featured stores included: [Andrea Montgomery](#), [Aspire Accessories](#), [Clara Rose Bags](#), [Colorful Houston](#), [Elaine Atelier](#), [Find it Girl](#), [Gris Designs](#), [Jollie, Katie & Co.](#), [Kendra Scott](#), [Mirta Tummino Jewelry](#), [MUSE](#), [Nice Custom Goods](#), [Santalisa](#) and [Shopaholic Sanctuary](#). All of these charitable shops donated 20% of sales in support of Candlelighters.

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INFORMATION CENTER

CANDLELIGHTERS

CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

2022 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Katie Stanton - President
 Jenna Jackson - Vice President
 Alex Newton - Treasurer
 Chris Joseph - Secretary
 Aron Will - Immediate Past President
 Linda Evans - Co-Chair Advisory Board
 Lisa O'Leary - Co-Chair Advisory Board

BOARD MEMBERS

Jay Beasley, Brad Chin, Stephanie Deverka, Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer, Beth Guinn, Dr. Douglas Harrison, Dave Mally, Kenny Matula, Scott Newell, Ben Pisklak, Cindi Ditta Priebe, Joellen Snow, Andrew Snyder, Kris Vallee

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY RODEO COOKOFF

Saturday, February 26th

MARGARITA TASTE OFF

Saturday, April 9th

BREAK A CLAY FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

Friday, May 13th

FUN WALK

Saturday, September 10th

CAMP CLIFF

Friday, October 14th - Sunday, October 16th

LIGHTS OF COURAGE

Thursday, October 27th

Parent Support Group Meetings

ALL SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY VIRTUAL

MD ANDERSON CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL & CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HERMANN 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](mailto:jhutchinson@candle.org)

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](mailto:lpena@candle.org)

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(Continued from cover) This year we not only highlighted our incredible raffle featuring our super raffle packages, but we also had an amazing Live Auction. Special thanks to our Live Auctioneer, [Logan Thomas](#), for leading the auction this year. Logan was joined by Chair, Beth Guinn to highlight all of our incredible items. Items included: A stay at the Amangiri resort, incredible private home in San Miguel de Allende, Mauna Lani Resort in Hawaii, Northern Lights trip in Iceland, Four Seasons Resort in Punta Mita, a trip to Montage Big Sky Resort in Montana, and a Custom Bench designed by our Childhood Cancer artists. Congratulations to our live auction and raffle winners and many thanks to the generous individuals and businesses who donated these amazing items!

Candlelighters mom and local Fox 26 News Anchor [Melissa Wilson](#) was on hand to be our evening emcee. 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.

Another Candlelighters mom graciously shared her family's journey with childhood cancer, moving Lights of Courage guests to make direct donations to our mission. [Megan Probe](#)'s daughter [Dylan](#), was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma at age 11. Now almost 14-years-old and cancer-free, she is in High School and on the volleyball team! Dylan and Megan and the entire Probe family attended Candlelighters Camp CLIFF (our weekend getaway for Candlelighters families) and shared how much this meant to their family. Megan spoke of the support that 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."


[Dr. Doug Harrison](#) of [MD Anderson Children's Cancer Center](#) gave a video message to guests and [Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer](#) of [Texas Children's Hospital](#) presented our 2021 Honorees with their awards. Their stories of courage and hope are highlighted in this newsletter (pages 5-8).

Special thanks to [Jenna Jackson](#) and the talented videographers and editors at [P+R Productions](#) for once again producing our annual mission video, premiered at the Lights of Courage Luncheon. To see this year's Honoree videos, please visit our You Tube Channel: <http://tiny.cc/CandleYouTube>



2021 LIGHTS OF COURAGE HONOREES:

Elijah Delgado – On Treatment Honoree
Amelia & Peter Moore – Sibling Honorees
Anna Landry – Long Term Survivor Honoree
Anthony Murillo – In Loving Memory Honoree



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE CANDLELIGHTERS MISSION:

Hero Sponsor: The Stanton Foundation

Platinum Sponsor: Beth & James Woldert

Honors Sponsors: Quanta Services; Friends of Candlelighters: Stephanie Deverka, Jenna Jackson,
Joy Neely & Jess Rogers

Champions Sponsors: Christy & Webb Jennings; Lisa & Mike O'Leary/Linda & Mark Evans; Cristin & Guy Rogers; Tracey Rogan; JJ & Gerry Spedale; Texas Children's Hospital; Alex & Aron Will



LIGHTS OF COURAGE ON TREATMENT HONOREE

Elijah Delgado: Written by Eli's Mom



Elijah [Eli] Delgado was born on January 27, 2014 in Sugar Land, Texas. He was a healthy child until February 5, 2019. That was the day my world stopped. I will never forget that day! It was a week after his 5th birthday that I found out Eli was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). Eli and I were transferred from Methodist Hospital to Children's Memorial Hermann and I remember being told there, there was nothing they could do to treat him and he needed to be transferred again to MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital.

The first few days we met so many people. Doctors, nurses, child life specialists, anesthesiologists, and even more doctors came to see us and explain what was going to happen. There was so much information in those days and I desperately needed someone to be there for me! It was the second or third day we were in ICU that Jaynie came to my rescue. She told me she was from Candlelighters and knew exactly what I was going through. She gave me a hug and told me it was going to get better. She said her daughter was diagnosed with cancer years ago and that she was cancer free and was a nurse at the hospital. I didn't believe it was going to get better but loved having her support me and be there for me in my darkest days.

Eli spent a year in the hospital with a few breaks here and there. He was dying, and MD Anderson was trying to save my son. Eli went through hell and back; I almost lost him 5 times that first year, and then he turned the corner and started getting better. The second year came around, 2020, and we all went into pandemic mode. Today, 2 years in treatment, and I happily can say Eli is doing well. He has many side effects from the chemo and high steroid use. He battles neuropathy in his hands and feet, foot drop, headaches, glaucoma, osteoporosis, and right-side paralysis but Eli keeps on going.

Eli loves soccer and still plays. He returned to soccer with his walker and not being able to run. As he got stronger, he became able to run and play. He isn't the fastest on his team and can't always keep up with kids his age, but that doesn't stop him! He tried out for the competitive team and made it! He found his position as goalie and is very good and he impresses everyone out there. Eli has so much determination to fight and will overcome his battle with cancer.

Watch Eli's Video: <http://tiny.cc/LOC2021Eli>



LIGHTS OF COURAGE SIBLING HONOREES

Amelia & Peter Moore: Written by their mom, Laura

Our sibling story begins in September 2008, when Avelyn became a big sister to Amelia and in September 2011 when they both welcomed their little brother, Peter, to our family. As they grew, they enjoyed building forts, reading stories, going to the park, playing Thomas the Train and swimming together. Little did we know just how soon their bond would be tested and how much more deeply their relationship would grow.

On September 5th, 2015, Avelyn was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, just a couple months after her eighth birthday. When we sat down with the kids to tell them the news, Amelia, then seven years old, figured out quickly that the tumor would need to be cut out and cried with worry and fear. Peter, only three, was confused why everyone was upset, but ran upstairs to gather his sisters' favorite stuffed animals to comfort them. Then they were dropped off at a friend's house while we went to the ER for more testing. That turned into a five hour brain surgery the next morning and a two month hospital stay for Avelyn and Mom, while Dad balanced work and hospital visits.

After surgery, Avelyn developed Posterior Fossa Syndrome, which left her unable to talk, walk, swallow, or move on her own. With doctors and nurses constantly bustling in and out of the room, she laid still and quiet while we struggled to make sense of what was happening. Amelia would beg each day to visit her sister and Peter was desperate to see Mom again. When they arrived, it brightened us up in a way no words could describe. Soon, Avelyn began regaining some abilities with daily therapy and she found any way possible to ask for her siblings. She loved when Amelia came to play Barbies and Peter would make us all laugh endlessly with his antics.

Avelyn's treatment lasted 15 months and included proton radiation and nine cycles of chemotherapy at MD Anderson. Through it all, Amelia and Peter were by her side and found ways to include Avelyn in all their activities, giving her a reason to play and run even on the hardest days. On occasion, Amelia and Peter were able to sleep over at the hospital where they loved to play foosball, make forts in the inpatient room, sing to Taylor Swift, and watch Descendants before bed. Peter joined us on many hospital visits, giving Avelyn a playmate on long days, singing to her as she woke from radiation and always reminding us of God's love and faithfulness. He joined in countless hours of physical and occupational therapy and continues to make it more fun at home. Amelia was often sent to a friend's house after school, but was so happy to play board games and Legos when we picked her up on our way home. She eagerly learned to help by setting up Avelyn's feeding pump, taking care of Peter when we were busy and giving Avelyn growth hormone shots. Don't get me wrong, these three also know how to fight like siblings too. But if they can get Avelyn to holler at them, at least we can cross off Speech Therapy for the day!

Avelyn, Amelia and Peter have continued virtual learning this year and the extra time together has allowed them to grow even closer. They continue to demonstrate incredible resilience and understanding beyond their years. It will come as no surprise that Amelia is interested in pursuing a career as a pediatric oncology nurse or Child Life specialist. Peter would like to be an author and illustrator to continue entertaining us all.



Avelyn agrees that her siblings are awesome and always help her get through the hard times. Peter wishes to remind us all that God will use bad things for good. Amelia would like other siblings to know that it can be challenging, but you can rely on family and friends to get you through. We are forever grateful to Candlelighters for introducing us to so many other families through events like Camp CLIFF, Adopt-a-Family, parent support meetings and Rodeo Cook-off. These connections have given us all lifelong friends to rely on and to share hope, love and milestones with.

Watch Avelyn, Amelia & Peter's Video:

<http://tiny.cc/LOC2021AAP>

LIGHTS OF COURAGE LONG TERM SURVIVOR HONOREE

Anna Landry: Written by Anna

Anna Landry is a 31-year-old long-term cancer survivor. In March of 1993, her family moved to Bristol, England for her father's temporary work assignment, and just two months later she was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) at two and a half years old. They contemplated moving back to the United States to receive treatment in the Houston Medical Center, but luckily, they were able to find a wonderful oncologist and hospital a few minutes away from their new home in England. She was successfully treated overseas and was in remission when her family returned to Houston in 1995. Anna's family greatly benefitted by the community of other patients and families in the hospital ward. It was because of this that her father, Alex Newton, joined the Board of Directors and began working with Candlelighters shortly after they returned to Houston.



Upon returning to Texas, Anna began follow-up appointments at Texas Children's Hospital. Initially, these visits were every six months, then annually, and now they are every other year. The Long-Term Survivor Clinic really has been instrumental in tracking any long-term effects that may result from different chemotherapy drugs given during treatment. For instance, some of the medications could affect Anna's heart or bones, so she has an Echocardiogram (EKG) and bone density scan performed at these appointments among other tests.

An interesting by-product of cancer remission is the long-term relationships that result with your doctors as well. Dr. Dreyer (who now serves on the Board of Directors for Candlelighters), and then later Dr. Suzawa, were there through all of the major stages of Anna's life: grade school, high school, college, and eventually marriage to her husband, Blake, in April of 2017. Upon reaching adulthood, Dr. Suzawa explained that the chemotherapy treatments and dosages received could have affected her egg reserve since women are born with all of the eggs they would ever have, and the medication can affect both the quality and quantity of those eggs. With this knowledge in her back pocket, Dr. Suzawa was able to order specific lab tests and refer her to a fertility doctor earlier than the typical couple, once Anna and Blake decided it was time to start their family.

Even with early intervention, Anna and Blake did struggle to conceive. With help of a little science, and the wonderful folks at Aspire Fertility, they were able to get pregnant in 2018 after two IUI procedures. Anna gave birth to their daughter, Sadie Josephine, in May of 2019. Because she underwent fertility treatments with Sadie, Anna was planning to contact the fertility doctor in mid-2020, to get the ball rolling, when she unexpectedly found out that she was pregnant again, this time without any medical intervention! Vivian Blake Landry was born in April 2021; another miracle baby!

Professionally, Anna obtained an undergraduate and master's degree in Accounting from Louisiana State University (Geaux Tigers!). She holds two professional licenses: Certified Public Accountant and Certified Internal Auditor. She is currently working as a Senior Internal Auditor at Prosperity Bank based in Sugar Land, TX.

These days when not working, changing diapers or chasing a toddler, you can find Anna volunteering for Candlelighters through the Young Professionals Group (the "YPG") helping plan fundraising events such as 2019's beautiful cocktail event "A Toast to Candlelighters" and the always successful Annual Margarita Taste Off event. She also enjoys participating in the Fun Walk as a walk Team Captain each year to raise much-needed funds for Candlelighters services benefitting childhood cancer families! Anna enjoys sharing her experience to not only bring hope to many families for the long-term survival for their children, but also as an uplifting and hopeful story to parents concerned about their daughters' chances of having their own families one day.

Watch Anna's Video: <http://tiny.cc/LOC2021Anna>

LIGHTS OF COURAGE IN LOVING MEMORY HONOREE

Anthony Murillo: Written by Tony's Mom, Angie

I'll never forget October 10th, 2001, as it was the amazing day that Tony came into this world and taught me the true meaning of love. Aside from being born with Genetic Chromosome X which causes deafness, Tony was an overall healthy kid. We didn't realize that Tony was deaf until he started school at 5 years old. Since Tony could not hear, he developed a speech delay. We've always taught our kids not to allow these challenges to define them, but rather overcome them by working hard. I'm proud to say that's exactly what they did.

Tony was an adrenaline junkie! He was a dare devil who loved adventure, thrills, roller coasters and scary movies. But he also had a serious side, understanding the importance of responsibility, dedication and hard work. On the weekends Tony would go with his dad to work and quickly learned electrical and HVAC skills, along with many others. By the time Tony finished his Junior year in High School, he had a list of goals and a plan to meet and exceed them. He wanted to get his drivers license, get a job, and save enough money to buy a truck to drive to school. Tony was full of ambition, dedication and had the heart of a lion! Tony worked so hard all summer long and met every goal he set his mind to. While others made excuses, Tony was making it happen. He was the best big brother and role model, teaching his siblings that you could do anything you put your mind to as long as you work hard and never give up. Little did we know that, "NEVER GIVE UP" would quickly become the story of our life!

On August 9th, 2019 our physical, mental and spiritual faith was tested beyond all measure. It was Tony's first day of his senior year and he was so excited. The day was supposed to be filled with joy, friends, dreams of prom, wonderful memories, and the start of the best year yet! Instead of meeting classmates and teachers, he ended up meeting doctors and nurses in the ICU at Texas Children's Hospital. Our world turned upside down as the report came in and Tony was diagnosed with Acute Mix-Phenotype Leukemia (AML). The days and months that followed were filled with chemotherapy, radiation treatments, lots of medication and sleepless nights.

Shortly after Tony's diagnosis, we had special visitor in the hospital - Candlelighters brough Houston Texans Safety, Justin Reid, to visit the patients at Texas Children's Hospital. Tony had been bed-ridden for weeks, but as soon as he heard who was coming to visit, he told me he was going to muster up the strength to stand and shake Justin's hand - I couldn't believe my eyes when that very thing happened! That was the start of two amazing relationships - my personal friendship with the ladies at Candlelighters, especially Parent Consultant Linda, and Tony's with Justin. We later were able to go to a game to see Justin play - and even get down on the field! I am so grateful for these glimpses of happiness we had in Tony's final months with us.

May 15, 2020 we received the news that Tony's cancer was back, and stronger than ever before. Mine and Tony's eyes met, and together we asked the doctors what our next steps were. They said we could continue with different treatments but there was no guarantee that Tony would be getting out of the hospital alive. My brave son then asked what would happen if he didn't continue with treatments? The doctors advised that he would have weeks, maybe months left to live. With me by his side and his dad on the phone, Tony then told the doctors he didn't want to continue treatment, that we were a strong family and he would be ok, that he wanted to enjoy the rest of his life.

Despite this difficult news, Tony stayed in high spirits and was determined to walk the stage at Atascocita High School, as a 2020 graduate! Unfortunately, not only were Tony's plans shattered by cancer, but the lives of every High School senior across the world was impacted by COVID-19. Instead of walking across that graduation stage, we decided to hold a graduation parade to celebrate Tony's accomplishments - it was our last time celebrating our first-born son. We're so grateful Candlelighters, and even Justin Reid, came out to celebrate him with us.



Even in the face of defeat, he NEVER GAVE UP! June 16, 2021 the Lord called Tony to be with him and ended his suffering. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" Isaiah 40:31.

I pray that Tony's legacy, strength, courage and determination live forever! May others hear your story and fight with all their might and vow to NEVER GIVE UP!

Watch Tony's Video: <http://tiny.cc/LOC2021Tony>

HITTING A HOMERUN FOR CANDLELIGHTERS!

In 2021, the Astros Foundation hit it out of the park for Candlelighters! The Astros Foundation is the official non-profit team charity of the Houston Astros, and have been recognized across the Major League Baseball organization for their efforts to support many worthy causes. They strive for the passion of baseball fans to support youth baseball and softball programs and notably for our Candlelighters families, spread awareness about childhood cancer.

Each year the Astros Foundation recognizes Candlelighters at a home game during September - Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. They generously donate countless tickets to our Candlelighters families so they can attend the game and have a fun night out with their family.

At their September 7th home game, they invited Candlelighters teen, Mariana Valencia, to throw out the first pitch, Andrew Mathis said "Let's Play Ball" and waved to the crowd and a speedy Kayden Franklin stole the bases. We must have brought the Astros good luck because they won the game!

But the Astros Foundation didn't stop there. Candlelighters was also chosen as one of their charity of choice recipients at the Annual Astros Foundation Charity Game on September 10th! Candlelighters and childhood cancer were highlighted throughout the game and with a pre-game interview on the Astros AT&T Sports Net station. Videos with awareness information rolled throughout Minute Maid Park for all the attending fans to see. Sports Net commentators highlighted childhood cancer and the support Candlelighters provides to families who have a child with cancer before and during the game -- the awareness efforts were truly tremendous and have been noticed by a national audience.

During the game, fans could show their support [whether they were watching at home or in-person] by purchasing Astros Charity Bags. These bags were stocked full of amazing Astros items and memorabilia including: dugout seats to upcoming games; exclusive Astros merchandise; and an autographed baseball. Proceeds from the sales of these bags resulted in a record-breaking Astros Foundation Charity Game Night, raising hundreds of thousands for local childhood cancer efforts! Candlelighters was humbled to receive a VERY generous portion - \$50,000! These funds have already started making a direct impact on the children and families we serve.

Candlelighters extends a special thank you to the Astros Foundation for their support and passion for raising awareness about childhood cancer. Your impact in the Greater Houston area and on Candlelighters for our families has been so powerful. Thank you to our hometown heroes and the whole Astros organization! We're excited to get back into baseball season again soon!



2021 FUN WALK

Back together at Terry Hershey Park!

On September 11, 2021, Candlelighters hosted our Fun Walk – one of our first in-person events since COVID-19 swept the world! It was an AMAZING day seeing our families, volunteers, community, and corporate supporters in person for the first time in a year and a half! What a celebration it was! Families and friends walked with us at Terry Hershey Park and all over the world! Giving everyone the option to walk with us OR walk wherever they could was the perfect solution to the everchanging COVID climate.

Our Fun Walk motto is “Walking Alongside Childhood Cancer Families” and we love what a tangible representation the Fun Walk is of our daily mission serving this community. We challenged walkers to take 4,335 steps on Walk Day from wherever they could – each step represented a Candlelighters family served in 2021. By taking these steps, and raising awareness and funds, we were able to devote more than \$263,000 to our programs and services for childhood cancer families in 2021!

A signature of our Fun Walk is our raffle! Shout out to [Jianna Jewelers](#) for being our presenting sponsor for this portion of our event again this year donating beautiful sapphire and diamond earrings, reminiscent of Princess Kate’s engagement ring!

We were humbled to have over [130 teams participate](#), including 18 corporate teams, 24 community teams, and a whopping 91 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 90 Candlelighters families accepted our challenge to participate in 2021. 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!

Thank You to our 2021 Fun Walk Sponsors!

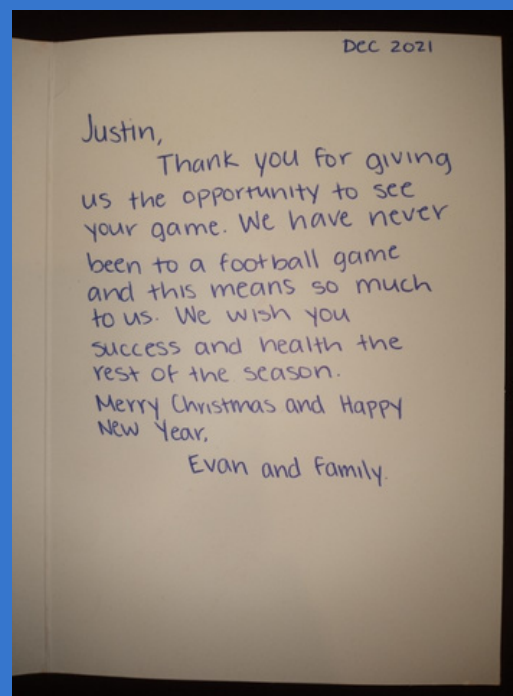


FUN WALK PHOTOS



REID RALLIES FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

It's no secret that Candlelighters loves Houston Texans Safety, #20, Justin Reid! In 2021 he continued and expanded his partnership with Candlelighters, sending 85 families to a home Texans game, hosting 10 families at his Thanksgiving Grocery Grab event, and hosting a small meet and greet in December to get a chance to hangout with some of his biggest fans! Justin was named Houston Texans nominee for the Walter Payton Man of the Year award, and we were honored to be a part of surprising him with this nomination! Considered the league's most prestigious honor, the award recognizes an NFL player for outstanding community service activities off the field, as well as excellence on the field. You can check out his nomination video [HERE: www.houstontexans.com/video/2021-walter-payton-nfl-man-of-the-year-nominee-justin-reid](http://www.houstontexans.com/video/2021-walter-payton-nfl-man-of-the-year-nominee-justin-reid). We cannot thank Justin enough for his passion for Houston's youth, and giving us a corner of his heart these past 4 years. We wish him a healthy off season and hope a new contract keeps him in Houston for many years to come!



TEXANS INSPIRE CHANGE

On Giving Tuesday, November 30, 2021, the Texans, ConocoPhillips, Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages and Miller Lite awarded \$400,000 through the Inspire Change Grant Fund to 15 local nonprofits and educational programs working to make a difference in the Houston community. We were surprised at a breakfast at NRG Stadium with Texans players, Vice President of the Houston Texans Foundation, Hannah McNair, and Texans Legends. Candlelighters is incredibly honored to be one of the first ever Inspire Change Grant recipients and received \$25,000 in support of our mission and programs for Houston's childhood cancer community! Thank you to the Houston Texans for choosing to partner with us to continue and expand our mission!



HRP GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Houston Relocation Professionals (HRP) held their annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, November 17th at Wildcat Golf Course. The tournament was a huge success, raising over \$20,000 for our children with cancer and their families. Candlelighters has been honored to partner with HRP and be the beneficiary for 15 years. Special thanks to HRP Golf Chairs, Alan Grantham, Samantha Hoffer and Meredith Morris for making this year's tournament possible. Candlelighters is looking forward to another amazing tournament in the fall of 2022!

The Houston Relocation Professionals has actively been involved with Candlelighters for over seventeen 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 organize 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 in honor of Candlelighters. Thank you HRP for making such a difference to Candlelighters!



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Thanks to Young Professional Group Member, [Lewis Ehrle](#), Candlelighters was invited to apply for a grant from the [IICF \(Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation\) Houston Associate Board](#). In August we were invited to attend their Casino Night fundraiser and were surprised with a \$4,500 grant towards our programs and services for Candlelighters families. They were especially impressed and interested in the ways Candlelighters has adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and made small changes to our current programs and services in order to reach our families at home, away from the hospitals and in isolation. We were so honored to be among the 5 charities chosen - thank you for believing in our mission to serve and support childhood cancer families!

The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) helps communities and enriches lives by uniting the collective strength of the insurance industry in providing grants, volunteer service and leadership. IICF is committed to helping support children, families and communities in need throughout the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.



Merry Mingle With Kris Kringle!

Candlelighters ended the 2021 year with a festive holiday celebration – Merry Mingle with Kris Kringle! Over 60 childhood cancer families were treated to a holly jolly drive-thru event. Every patient and their sibling who attended, received lots of holiday treats, including: hot cocoa kits, cookie decorating kits, custom beanies, stuffed animal pet adoptions, and a sweet meet and greet with some tiny reindeer. Elsa, Anna, and Olaf took pictures with families along the way and at the end the sweetest surprise of all – pictures with Santa Claus!

A huge THANK YOU to our presenting sponsor [GEODIS](#) and to the venue sponsor St. Luke's United Methodist Church, with their support we were able to gift every child in attendance a gift card for the holidays! We would also like to thank Revelry Goods, Flashbar Photo Booth, SIRE Therapeutic Horsemanship and Fairest of All Parties for making Merry Mingle a huge success and spreading cheer to our childhood cancer families!





ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Our Annual Holiday Program continues to grow!



The holiday season brings much joy and anticipation to the Candlelighters staff and our families. The annual Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays Program is the highlight of the year for so many families, and is a bright spot during their tough cancer journeys. Our Adopt-A-Family program recognizes that the diagnosis of childhood cancer affects the entire family and offers help and hope in the holiday season. The program helps to provide a much-needed emotional support to patients, siblings, parents and caregivers who need that extra bit of help, ensuring they have the best holiday possible. This extra boost wouldn't be possible without our amazing sponsors!

Year after year, sponsors from the community adopt our families, bringing gifts and spreading true holiday cheer. This program would not be possible without each and every one of them and is a beautiful way for our sponsors and families to connect directly. We are overjoyed to share our sponsors adopted 275 families for the holidays, helping over 1,200 family members across the Houston and Gulf Coast areas. This year, we were also able to bring gift cards to families at Texas Children's Hospital, MD Anderson and Children's Memorial Hermann who were spending their holidays inpatient, all due to our sponsors and their generous donations. A huge THANK YOU to all who brought happiness and blessings to our cancer families.

Stay tuned for information regarding our 2022 Adopt-A-Family program!



BOARD HOLIDAY PARTY

The Candlelighters Board and staff gathered for the last meeting of 2021 to celebrate an AMAZING year, packed full of new events, successful fundraisers, and more programs and support for families than EVER before!! After almost 2 years of virtual meetings, we were SO excited to all be back together again!

Thank you to the Candlelighters Board of Directors for your incredible support throughout another challenging year. In 2021, our Board of Directors was responsible for raising and/or giving more than \$350,000 for our childhood cancer families - we are so grateful to have such amazing Board Members who are passionate about our mission!



Taking aim to help children with cancer and their families!



Candlelighters
CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE



Please join us for our Clayshoot:
Break a Clay for Candlelighters on
Friday, May 13, 2022
at the Greater Houston Sports Club

Please join us for a day of fun to raise money for our Candlelighters children and their families. We will have delicious BBQ lunch provided by Planet Texas BBQ Team and Ditta Meat Food Service Company, Clay Shoot games, a silent auction and cocktails provided by Tito's Vodka after the shoot.

Register your team today at <https://us.givergy.com/2022Clayshoot>
For more information, please email Kelseyt@candle.org

You won't want to miss this very fun event!



VIRTUAL CAMP CLIFF

Our second Virtual Camp topped our first!

We are still on Cloud 9 over our 2021 Virtual Camp CLIFF! We knew we were making the right decision to go virtual once again for the safety of our families, staff and volunteers. Families and Candlelighters staff ended up crying many happy tears throughout the weekend, in awe of how much our families [and honestly we] needed this weekend. The "magic" of Camp CLIFF, truly lives on, even in virtual form!

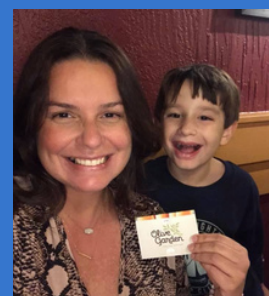
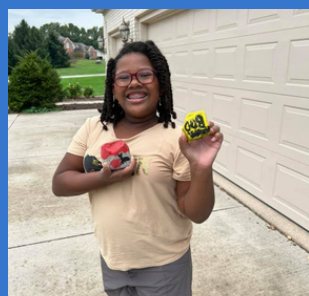
The participation in the "Camp CLIFF Hub" on Facebook was INCREDIBLE and more than we could have ever dreamed. We didn't think anything could top last year, but this year's interactions blew us away! While we all certainly missed being in person, we were still able to connect online and on our live video calls throughout the weekend.

With another year of virtual Camp, we realized one huge silver lining moment: Families who had on-treatment kiddos, who most certainly would have been too ill to attend in-person camp, were able to participate! We had a precious mom & daughter duo absolutely rocking their Camp CLIFF weekend from the treatment floor of Texas Children's Hospital! They even got a chance to meet Dr. Dreyer and tell her about all the fun they were having.

We served 57 childhood cancer families through Camp CLIFF, giving out over 215 "parent bags" and "camper boxes" STOCKED with goodies, activities, and gift cards!

Friday night started off with a Camp CLIFF Tradition – LASAGNA! We gifted every family with a gift card to Olive Garden so they could continue the tradition and start their weekend with a delicious family dinner! (Olive Garden was incredibly generous and provided a 10% discount for our families!)

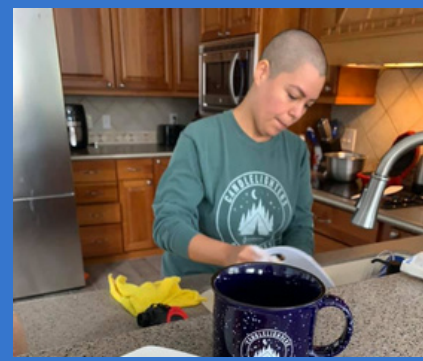
Then families moved on to their Friday Night at-your-own-pace activities: a campfire craft, s'more cupcakes, family game night, fort building, shadow puppets, and stargazing!



Saturday Morning, we woke up to some incredible Pancake Contest submissions and got ready for an all-camper video call, where we enjoyed some fun energizers and relaxation + yoga with longtime Camp CLIFF Counselor, [Tamara Medallian](#)!

We quickly jumped into another video call with campers to play a few rounds of BINGO! With gift cards and [Texans tickets](#) as prizes, it got a little competitive - and over 50 families attended the first call of the day! (WOW!)

In between our calls, families opened up more activity bags to participate in go-at-your-own-pace crafts and activities, including: rock painting, picture frame decorating, snapping a family photo in their brand new Camp CLIFF shirts, tie dye, participating in a Remembrance Ceremony to honor cancer warriors, creating their own gold luminary for an at-home Wish Boat Ceremony, and family movie night! We even passed out parent pampering packs and swag bags to give the adults some TLC! Each family received a [Chick-fil-A voucher](#) for Saturday lunch (shout out to Pearland Chick-Fil-A!), as well as a [gift card to HEB](#) for any other camp essentials they may have needed to grab throughout the weekend.



We ended the weekend with a live video call with all the families on Sunday morning, just like we end the camp weekend all together at our Reflections Ceremony. A returning family and a new family shared how Candlelighters has impacted them personally and what it meant to be involved in Camp CLIFF. It was a moving morning and there were SO many smiling, happy faces on the call. We received some of the sweetest notes and thank yous from families who were so grateful to have participated in Virtual Camp CLIFF!

Special shoutout to our volunteer Camp Director, [Rick Hutchinson](#), for jumping in on Sunday morning to facilitate our Reflections Call so we could continue the Camp CLIFF tradition - and waking us up every morning with his famous "HEYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY CAMPERS!"

While we're planning to be back in-person at Camp For All for Camp CLIFF in October 2022 - we're watching for protocols and guidelines from our local hospital partners, Board Members, and the Children's Oncology Camping Association and will continue to put the health and safety of our community first and foremost.





13th ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE OFF



We are still celebrating the fun and success of our 13th Annual Margarita Taste Off held on Sunday, November 7, 2021! We were overjoyed to be back together again, enjoying Houston's top margaritas and raising vital funding for childhood cancer families!

With your help, we raised over **\$90,000!!** Of course this couldn't be done without our Presenting Sponsors - **Don Julio Tequila** and **Kirby Ice House**!

Congratulations to the following restaurants:

1st Place Winner - **Los Tios Mexican Restaurant**
 2nd Place - **Emma's Mex Grill**
 3rd Place - **Kin Dee Thai Cuisine**
 4th Place - **Dish Society**
 5th Place - **Studewood Cantine**
 Best Margarita Presentation - **Harold's in the Heights**
 Most Refreshing Margarita - **Cilantro Mexican Grill**
 Most Buzzworthy Margarita - **Field & Tides**
 Best Use of Fresh Ingredients - **Eight Row Flint**
 Best Traditional Margarita Recipe - **Federal American Grill**
 Most Creative Margarita Recipe - **Mastranto's**
 Best Booth Decor - **State Fare**
 Best Appetizer - **Emma's Mex Grill**
 Most Festive Bartenders - **Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen**
 Don Julio Critics Choice - **La Fisheria - Houston**
 Celebrity's Choice, Dr. Lin Franklin - **Emma's Mex Grill**
 Celebrity's Choice, It's Not Hou It's Me - **La Fisheria**
 Celebrity's Choice, The Hangry Houstonian - **Los Tios**
 Celebrity's Choice, Jorge Raptis of Don Julio - **Kin Dee**
 Community Award - **Cilantro Mexican Grill**
 In Honor of Jose Mendieta Jr. - **Kin Dee**

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING RESTAURANTS FOR PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR! And thank you to our wonderful attendees for another year for the books!





JOIN US FOR OUR 14TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE OFF



It's almost MARGARITA TIME! We're back on your Spring Calendar and can't wait to kick off patio season with YOU!

Reserve your tickets or sponsorship now for our 14th Annual YPG Margarita Taste Off! Visit <https://us.givergy.com/margaritastasteoff> or scan the QR code below!

Hosted by Candlelighters Young Professionals Group, Margarita Taste Off guests sip, sample, and vote as local restaurants vie for the title "Best Margarita!" Enjoy the event DJ, Photo Booth, Silent Auction, Light Bites, and Tequila Tasting Station, along with the most Meaningful Margaritas in town! Entry to the event includes one free tasting-sized margarita from EACH of the participating restaurants, light bites, and beer & wine tickets!

All proceeds benefit Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance

SATURDAY

1:00 PM



APRIL

9



KIRBY ICE HOUSE
3333 EASTSIDE



FALL FESTIVAL DRIVE-THRU!

We had a blast at the 2021 Family Fall Festival Drive-Thru! Thank you to all of our wonderful families who joined us on Sunday, October 17th! We had over 250 people in attendance and loved getting to see so many precious faces!

A HUGE thank you to [St. John's School](#) for hosting Candlelighters and coming up with some amazing BOOths! The wonderful students, volunteers, parents, and staff at St. John's School generously donated their time pulling together another amazing event for our Candlelighters families! St. John's School has generously partnered with Candlelighters for over 18 years hosting this free, fun event where childhood cancer patients and their families can get away from the hospital to have some fun and take their mind off of treatment!

Our Candlelighters families enjoyed beautiful weather, carnival games, trick or treating, arts and crafts, cheerleaders, photo booth, lunch, music, a costume contest, pumpkin decorating, gifts, and prizes! [SIRE Therapeutic Horsemanship](#) outdid themselves dressing their ponies and donkeys in Halloween costumes for our kids! We are so honored to be able to carry our mission of supporting our childhood cancer families in a safe way despite the Covid Pandemic.

Candlelighters is so grateful for the incredible volunteers, donors, sponsors, and vendors who made this year's Fall Festival such a special day. Thank you to [St. John's School](#), [SIRE Therapeutic Horsemanship](#), [Seth Gammon Photography](#), [DJ Jeffrey](#), [Causeplay Alliance Project](#), [Princesses of The Woodlands](#), [Almost Anything Goes](#), and [Proof It Happened Event Photography](#) for celebrating our childhood cancer families and bringing them a day of fun and happiness!



Thank you for joining us at our Fall Festival!



*Thank You
Fall Festival Sponsors*



*The Causeplay Alliance Project
Seth Gammon Photography*





THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS



After nearly two years of ups and downs, unknowns and isolation, we wanted to surprise our families with something GOOD! Candlelighters was able to surprise 203 families with Thanksgiving blessing cards in 2021, which included a grocery gift card to help provide Thanksgiving dinner. Below are some of the beautiful thank you notes we received from our families:

the Akiyamen Family: "I would like to thank the Candlelighters family for the thoughtful gift card you sent to our family...Thank you ever so much and God bless each and everyone of you. Amen! Agnes"

"I'm so incredibly grateful for the support – even all the way to Louisiana! Clinic isn't the same without you. Thank you!" – the Scuderi Family

the Herc Family: "Thank you so much for all the support throughout the year!"

The Rambur Family: "I want to let you know how much you're appreciated. Thank you so much for the sweet card and \$50 gift card to HEB! It really made my day. You all are so thoughtful and I'm so blessed to be a part of the Candlelighters family."

"Thank you for the gift card! It came at just the right time! May God continue to bless you all." – the Liera Family

the Ibrahim Family: "Thank you and Candlelighters so much for the gift card! Many blessings to you and yours."



CANDLELIGHTERS CARES 2021

Thank You to Last Year's Sponsors!

JANUARY 	FEBRUARY 	MARCH 	APRIL 
MAY 	JUNE 	JULY 	AUGUST 
SEPTEMBER 	OCTOBER 	NOVEMBER 	DECEMBER 

CANDLELIGHTERS CARES TCH WEST CAMPUS 2021

JANUARY 	MARCH 	JUNE 
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CANDLELIGHTERS CARES AND BECOMING A SPONSOR FOR OUR MEDICAL CENTER PARTNERS OR OUR SATELLITE CAMPUSES (WEST & THE WOODLANDS), PLEASE EMAIL PROGRAM DIRECTOR CARLY AT CBRADSHAW@CANDLE.ORG



Candlelighters.
CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

REMEMBERING LONGTIME CANDLELIGHTERS FRIENDS

Jeff Daly (1950-2021)



Jeffery E. Daly passed away on Friday November 5, 2021 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 71 years old. During the summer of 1971 he met the love of his life, Roseanna. Jeff and Roseanna married in February of 1973. About a year later they became parents for the first time to Sean. Jeff was ecstatic about being a dad. Together they gave birth and raised three more children, Julia, Brian, and Rachel. He was the happiest when he was with his family, whom he loved greatly. Jeff was an amazing dad, which was apparent in the way his children loved him and sought his wisdom and advice.

Jeff cared about his community and gave back in various ways. Jeff was a founding member of Candlelighters Houston after his experience of having a child with cancer. Jeff was the second president of the Candlelighters board and Roseanna was a Parent Consultant for many years before retiring in 2017. Jeff also participated in the land selection of Camp For All, a barrier-free camp where campers of all abilities come to discover life. Camp For All is still where we host our Annual Camp CLIFF!

Jeff is preceded by his father, mother, brother Paul, his infant daughter Julia, father-in-law Julian Mendez, mother-in-law Minnie Mendez, and sister-in-law Judy Mendez. Jeff leaves behind his sister Kathleen Daly, wife of 48 years- Roseanna, son Sean Daly (Rosemary), son Brian Daly (Virginia), daughter Rachel Lothringer (Brian Lothringer), grandchildren Teresa, Cuauhtémoc, Marilyn, and Citlali. He leaves extended family and many friends, including lifelong friends Tom Campbell and Kurt Reimer from Glenbard West High School.

We are so grateful for Jeff, Roseanna, and their family who continue to support Candlelighters to this day.

Stan O'Neal (1950-2021)

George "Stan" O'Neal was born on September 30, 1950 in Houston, Texas where he lived most of his life. He passed on to his heavenly home where he was joyfully reunited with his daughter Ellen on November 14, 2021.

He was married to his beloved wife Joellen Snow in February 1983. They had two daughters, Megan and Ellen, a step grandson, Ewan, and two grandsons, Liam and Harry. Stan's daughters and grandsons were the light of his life. He loved spending time with them whether it be hanging out at home in the Heights or at the creek house in Brazoria County, going to Astros games, having fun at the beach, skiing, or traveling to national parks and other exciting places throughout the country and beyond. Stan was a very kind and gentle soul who always wanted to help others and never expected anything in return. Besides being a loving son, husband, parent, grandparent, brother, and uncle, he volunteered for many years as a counselor for the MD Anderson Children's Cancer Center's Camp Star Trails and Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance's Camp CLIFF, where he was frequently assigned to the cabin with the youngest boys.

Stan is survived by his wife Joellen, daughter Megan Taylor, grandsons Ewan, Liam, and Harry Taylor, brothers Mike O'Neal and wife Nancy, Kenneth O'Neal and wife Lisa, sister Sandra Stewart, mother-in-law Ellen Snow, brother-in-law J.H. Snow and wife Jamie, sister-in-law Edie Myer and husband Austin, and many beloved nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his father and mother G.W. and Glennis O'Neal, his brother-in-law Lee Stewart, his father-in-law Joe Snow, and his precious daughter Ellen who sadly died of brain cancer at age 7 in 2001.

Although he will be dearly missed, Stan and his daughter Ellen's memory will live on through his wife Joellen's work as a Candlelighters Board Member and volunteer. Their love for painting will show up at Camp CLIFF each year as each rock is painted - and his love for sports will inspire us to continue partnering with our local teams to help childhood cancer families make wonderful memories together.



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 Hospital)
- 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

Save the Dates!

2022 Calendar of Events

FAMILY EVENTS:

Rodeo Cookoff
February 26, 2022

Summer Surprises
July 2022

Camp CLIFF
October 14-16, 2022

Fall Festival
October 2022

FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

Margarita Taste Off
April 9, 2022

Clay Shoot
May 13, 2022

Fun Walk
September 10, 2022

An Evening Honoring our
Lights of Courage
October 27, 2022



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.