



# CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HONORING CHILDHOOD CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

## FEATURING

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by Mom, Marisa Garcia

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2022 Fun Walk

## SHARING CHRISTIAN'S JOURNEY

by Marisa Garcia, Christian's Mom

For the most part, our life was fairly normal. (During a pandemic, it was as normal as it could get, at least.) School was out for the summer, we were enjoying a day at the beach, and then our life was flipped upside down one random Monday afternoon. Our son Christian turned 6 years old, proudly graduated kindergarten, and was living a happy, healthy life. The night we came back from the beach, he first mentioned a pain behind his ear. After careful inspection, a large bump behind his earlobe became obvious and concerning. The following week, we visited his pediatrician twice, along with an urgent care doctor, and we didn't get any answers. The left side of Christian's face became swollen, and that's when we made the decision to go to the emergency room for scans.

On Monday, June 14, 2021, Christian, my 4-year old daughter Camila, and I arrived at the emergency room. Several doctors came in to inspect Christian, but I never allowed my worry to get ahead of me. Eventually, what I assumed were two doctors came in and asked to meet with me outside of the room. While a Child Life Specialist stayed in the room to occupy the kids, I followed the doctors to a waiting room. As we entered, they began moving chairs to situate our seating, and it was at that very moment I knew this was serious. Never in my wildest imagination would I ever think our reality was about to change like it did. All I remember hearing were the words, "It's a tumor and we believe it to be cancer."



Cancer. You see it in the world around you, but happening to your own child? How? That was just the beginning. It took another week of tests to reveal that not only was a baseball-sized tumor growing in Christian's neck, but the cancer had spread throughout his whole body - his arms, legs, pelvis, spine, and bone marrow. Soon after, Christian was officially diagnosed with Stage IV Rhabdomyosarcoma.

Continued on Page 3

# INFORMATION CENTER

## CANDLELIGHTERS CCFA

### 2022 Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

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 Alex Newton - Treasurer  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CANDLELIGHTERS FUN WALK

Saturday, September 10th

### CAMP CLIFF

Saturday, October 15th - Camp For All & Virtual

### LIGHTS OF COURAGE

Thursday, October 27th

### FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 30th

### HRP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, November 15th

### HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

October - December

### 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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## PARENT CONSULTANTS

### MD ANDERSON CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL & CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL

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### FAMILY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Opal Goodman: [ogoodman@candle.org](mailto:ogoodman@candle.org)



(Continued from cover) Learning this felt like a bomb going off, and from there, our family would be living apart from each other over the next few months. Another facet to navigate, and one of the hardest for me, was being away from our other children. In a matter of a couple days, Christian started the most aggressive chemotherapy in his 52-week treatment at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital.

Somehow, there was beauty in confusion, heartache, and pain. Our family's support system was strong, and everyone came to bat for us. Immediately after the doctors explained what we were facing, I posted our story to social media. Typically, I am not someone to post a lot, but I felt the need to rally everyone for prayer, and quite frankly there was no time to waste. I understand people trying to privately navigate a situation like this, but looking back, I could not have walked this journey without the help of the village around us. Family, friends, strangers, and churches were praying for us, and we could feel every word. That support is what got us through the dark times. That, and our faith.



Among the support, Candlelighters was the first organization to reach out to us. Although their Parent Consultants couldn't be in the hospital to meet us in-person because of COVID-19, they reached out immediately and let us know they were there to listen, vent, provide financial assistance; they were there for not only Christian, but for our whole family. Candlelighters provided events and programs and an outlet we needed to bring the whole family back together again and enjoy life. You can never remove yourself from the diagnosis, but you can let yourself enjoy the small things you previously took for granted. I never asked why this had to happen to our son, because that's something we will never get an answer to. I told myself, "I don't know how we got here, but we're here, and we will continue to walk through this with faith and with the people who stay along for the ride." Thankfully, Candlelighters' motto is – once a Candlelighters family, always a Candlelighters family.

Fast forward 2.5 months into treatment, and his oncologist declared Christian a "miracle" after scans revealed that all of his cancer was gone and the tumor was dead. It was another indescribable feeling and a rollercoaster of emotions. Christian, now 7 years old, rang the bell and completed treatment on May 23, 2022!

Since becoming a Candlelighters family, we have been able to enjoy family time at a Houston Astros game, attended their Virtual Camp CLIFF in 2021, and joined the festivities at their Fall Festival Drive Thru and their Merry Mingle event with Santa at the end of last year! So far this year, we received the Bell Ringing In A Box kit for Christian's end-of-treatment celebration, my husband and I felt the love on Mother's Day and Father's Day, we partied at Summer Surprises, and Christian got the honor of throwing out the first pitch at the Sugar Land Space Cowboys game! I even shared about our journey on a local podcast with Candlelighters staff. While we never thought we'd be in this childhood cancer "club", we're glad we've found this group and all the people we've met along the way.

CHRISTIAN AND HIS FAMILY WILL BE WALKING IN THE FUN WALK & RAISING MONEY TO HELP OTHER CANCER FAMILIES RECEIVE ALL THE SUPPORT CANDLELIGHTERS HAS TO OFFER. TO MAKE A DONATION TO THEIR TEAM, VISIT: [GIVE.CANDLE.ORG/GOTO/CHRISTIANBEATCANCER](https://give.candle.org/goto/christianbeatcancer)

# 18TH ANNUAL PLANET TEXAS BAR-B-QUE COOK-OFF

On February 27, 2022, we kicked off the year with some boot scootin' fun! Candlelighters families dressed in their cowboy hats, boots, and their best western gear to enjoy the day at the [Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Bar-B-Que Cook-Off](#)! The last time we gathered for this event was in 2020, before the country went into pandemic quarantine; needless to say, we were ecstatic to be back together this year!

Every year, Candlelighters families are treated to a private bus ride with VIP admission. This year, over 150 Candlelighters family members filled 3 luxury buses with direct access to the cook-off grounds to enjoy the festivities with the [Planet Texas Cook-off Team](#)! When we arrived, there was live music reverberating through the tents, a cheering section welcoming families, face painting and balloon animals for the kiddos, rodeo clowns, two-stepping, and delicious food! Jim Petree and his grill masters provided a mouth-watering bar-b-que lunch for all of our families!

Candlelighters Board Member Jay Beasley, along with Shannon Ferguson and Joanne Crouch, planned this year's event with Planet Texas Team Leaders Marty Wells and Jim Petree. Over 70 other Planet Texas tent members and volunteers put in hours of work to ensure our families had an extra special day. After a big group picture in front of their larger-than-life Alamo backdrop, Planet Texas gifted every child in attendance a Carnival Pack of tickets so they could enjoy the rides, games, and tasty fried foods at the carnival. This donation alone is valued at over \$17,500! Families were able to enjoy hours of fun!

In addition to all the wonderful things the Planet Texas Cook-off Team does to make this a day to remember for our Candlelighters families, they also raise money in memory of their team member, [Jeff Primm](#), that helps fund Camp CLIFF in the fall. This year, we'd like to honor two other beloved Planet Texas team members who were gone too soon and instrumental in supporting Candlelighters.



[Tony Hatley](#) worked tirelessly to help raise donations for the complimentary carnival books that have been gifted to thousands of children since this event's inception. Every year, he would work his rolodex to fundraise and help make sure every child could enjoy the carnival after their time in the Planet Texas tent. In the words of another team member, "Tony had hundreds of close friends, and thousands of others, having never met a stranger."



[Tracey Stanley](#) attended the Candlelighters event every year with his wife, Wednesday, to volunteer. He could always be seen with a huge smile as he helped the families make their way into the tent. He donated to the Primm's Posse fundraiser for Camp CLIFF each year and even recruited his daughters, Bethany and Gracie, to perform as entertainment for the families. [Thank you to Tony and Tracey for their dedication to Candlelighters. Our hearts are with their families and the Planet Texas team.](#)






THANK YOU PLANET TEXAS COOK-OFF TEAM!





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



## Be Aware & Know the Facts:

1. Candlelighters supports 4,491 childhood cancer families annually
2. Childhood Cancer is the #1 cause of death of children by disease
3. 80% of childhood cancer families face financial hardships
4. 43 kids in the US are diagnosed every day with a form of childhood cancer
5. 1 in 4 elementary schools has a student who has or had childhood cancer
6. The average age of a child when diagnosed with cancer is 6 years old

## Support Candlelighters Families by Collecting & Donating:

7. Grocery Gift Cards
8. Restaurant or UberEats Gift Cards
9. Gas Gift Cards
10. Target or Walmart Gift Cards
11. \$15 for one day of Hospital Parking
12. Art Supplies/DIY Activities for Patients in the Hospital
13. Travel-sized toiletries for unexpected hospital stays
14. Kindles & Amazon Gift Cards
15. Blankets, Cozy Socks, & Knit Caps

## 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. Join us at the FUN WALK on Saturday, September 10 at Terry Hershey Park!
21. FUN WALK RAFFLE - Visit link: [go.rallyup.com/candlefunwalk22](http://go.rallyup.com/candlefunwalk22)
22. Join our Young Professionals Group!
23. Sponsor our Camp CLIFF weekend - <http://tiny.cc/fundcamp>
24. Sponsor & Attend our LIGHTS OF COURAGE Event on October 27th
25. Sponsor a cancer family through our HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY Program
26. Volunteer your time at our office

## Donate:

27. Make a Tax-Deductible Donation to Candlelighters at [www.candle.org](http://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 and Unique Experiences for our Lights of Courage Raffle!

# TEAM REJOYCE WEEKEND OF HOPE

## 8 Siblings & Their Dad Band Together To Honor Their Mom and Fight Back Against Cancer

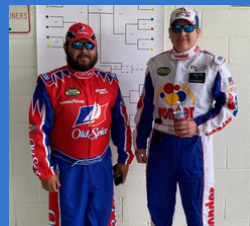
Team ReJoyce was formed by the Stevenson Family to honor those they love who have lost their lives to cancer, are battling cancer, and are cancer survivors. After losing their mother, Joyce, to a long, hard-fought battle with cancer, they decided it was time to "fight back." In 2009, [Team ReJoyce](#) was created and what started out as a small fundraiser in their backyard has turned in to a community-wide annual event in their hometown of Moulton, Texas. It is their goal to fight this awful disease and to help ease the burden of those currently on a cancer journey. Their efforts have now blossomed into the [Weekend of Hope](#) where they host a 2-day event to raise money for organizations supporting cancer patients.

This year's festivities started on Friday, April 29th at [Pavlas Tavern](#) in Moulton, with a big crowd enjoying live music, delicious burgers, and drinks! Supporters brought their own lawn chairs, danced, and enjoyed each other's company until the sun went down! The next day, everyone gathered at the Moulton Park Pavilion for the weekend's hallmark 3-Hole Washer Tournament, 50/50 Raffle, Silent Auction, music, dancing, and complimentary lunch.

Supporters, friends, and family enjoyed the sunshine, the familiar ping of washers clinking, laughter, feel-good music curated by DJ Darilek, mouthwatering chicken sandwiches, and children running around and playing in the grass. With hard work, dedication, support, and hope, this event came back after a two-year hiatus and no one missed a beat! The community in Moulton and surrounding the Stevenson family blew everyone away with their commitment to supporting Team ReJoyce and Candlelighters this year!

Shortly after the big event weekend, high school math teacher and Team ReJoyce member, Randy Stevenson, was surprised with a generous check from the [Moulton High School - Home of the Katz and Kittens Student Council](#), totaling over \$4,410! Thank you students of Moulton ISD and thank you, parents, for instilling the notion of giving back within your children!

In total, Team ReJoyce's Weekend of Hope brought in [\\$26,823](#) to support Candlelighters and our programs that serve childhood cancer patients and their families! Joyce's beautiful legacy lives on through every single Candlelighters family member served through these donations!





# RECORD-BREAKING MARGARITA TASTE OFF!

## Candlelighters' Young Professionals Group Plans Quick Turnaround Event with All-Time High Fundraising

After a couple years of pivoting to keep our fundraising gatherings safe, the Candlelighters Young Professionals Group was back to hosting one of our favorite events in the spring, the 14th Annual Margarita Taste Off! After a quick turnaround from the 2021 event, this year's Taste Off was held on Saturday, April 9th, at Kirby Ice House with another sold out crowd!

This year, there were 19 restaurants that competed for the title of Best Margarita. Attendees sipped, sampled, and voted for their favorite concoctions while the anticipation for the awards ceremony built. [Don Julio](#) graciously provided each station with delicious, smooth tequila to ensure quality and consistency among contestants. Guests also had beer and wine tickets so they could cleanse their palates with ice-cold [Karbach](#) on tap, along with a selection of wines generously donated by [Southern Glazer's Wines & Spirits](#) and [Constellation Brands](#). There was a gorgeous Don Julio tasting station where guests could sip various samples and snap selfies, and the fan favorite proved to be their 1942 Anejo Tequila. [DJ Senega](#) kept the crowd dancing by playing everything from old school tunes like Earth, Wind & Fire to today's hits. The wine pull was a popular stop, with patrons paying for a chance to take home a pricey bottle. Bidders vied for this year's amazing auction packages, including winery tours, a stay in Crystal Beach, suite tickets to see a Sugar Land Space Cowboys game, and so much more! New this year, [Diamonds Direct Houston](#) hosted a raffle for a dazzling pair of beautiful diamond earrings! Overall, this record-breaking Margarita Taste Off raised over **\$114,000** for Candlelighters a mere six months after the last event! Special thanks to the [Candlelighters Young Professionals Group](#) for working so hard on such a fun event!



Thank you to the participating restaurants who really brought their A-game this year! Some of the memorable margaritas included Bosscat's spicy margarita garnished with a gummy worm, KICPOPS' out-of-the-box pineapple ginger margarita popsicle, Dish Society's trendy lavender margarita, and Daily Gather's coconut margarita. Restaurants not only dazzled the crowd with their margaritas, but they also made sure to show off with some delicious appetizers! Guests walked away with new favorite restaurants to visit to hold them over until next year's event. **Be sure to save the date for the 15th Annual Margarita Taste Off on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at the Kirby Ice House Memorial Location!** Thank you to all of our participating restaurants and sponsors who made this year's event the best yet!



# 14TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE OFF



## Thank You 2022 Restaurants & Sponsors

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNERS:

1st Place Winner – Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen  
 2nd Place – Los Tios Mexican Restaurant  
 3rd Place – Studewood Cantine  
 4th Place – Dish Society  
 5th Place – El Tiempo Cantina  
 Top Ten – Kin Dee Thai Cuisine, Daily Gather,  
 Federal American Grill, Tres, & Eight Row Flint

Best Presentation – Kin Dee Thai Cuisine  
 Most Unique Garnish – Bosscat Kitchen & Libations  
 Most Unforgettable – Cilantro's Cocina  
 Most Buzzworthy – Field & Tides  
 Most Exotic Flavor – Guard and Grace  
 Best Fresh Ingredients – Harold's in the Heights  
 Best Traditional Recipe – Texas Tamale Company  
 Smoothest Margarita – KICPOPS  
 Best Legacy Restaurant – La Fisheria  
 Best Booth Decor – State Fare Kitchen & Bar  
 Best Cold Appetizer – Field & Tides  
 Best Hot Appetizer – Kin Dee Thai Cuisine

### CELEBRITY'S CHOICE WINNERS:

Don Julio – Kin Dee Thai Cuisine & Ambriza  
 Jorge Raptis of Don Julio – Daily Gather  
 It's Not Hou It's Me – Daily Gather  
 Melissa Wilson, FOX26 – Studewood Cantine  
 Lauren Kelly, Click2Houston – Ambriza  
 Dr. Frank Lin – Kin Dee Thai Cuisine  
 Aaron and Stefanie Lyons – Studewood Cantine



## THANK YOU SPONSORS

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**IN-KIND SPONSORS**





**IN-KIND SPONSORS (continued)**





**IN-KIND SPONSORS (continued)**





**IN-KIND SPONSORS (continued)**





*Thank You to This Year's Sponsors!*

# CANDLELIGHTERS CARES 2022

JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



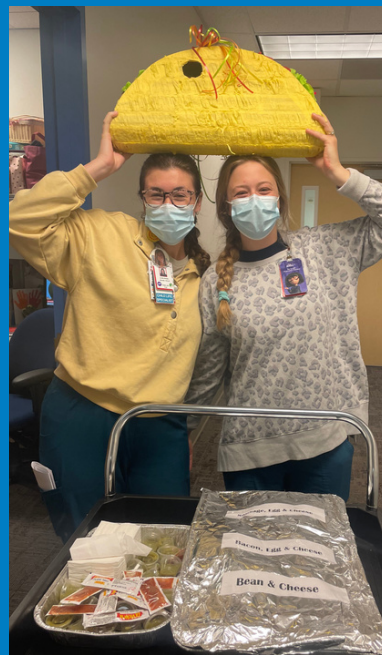
NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CANDLELIGHTERS CARES AND BECOMING A SPONSOR,  
PLEASE CONTACT PROGRAM DIRECTOR CARLY BRADSHAW AT [CBRADSHAW@CANDLE.ORG](mailto:CBRADSHAW@CANDLE.ORG).





# TREATING CANDLELIGHTERS PARENTS

## Amazon Wish List Donors & Kendra Scott Help Provide Gifts for Cancer Parents

Candlelighters understands that when a child receives a cancer diagnosis, the whole family goes through the treatment journey. Our programs, support services, and events are offered to every person in the family: the patient, siblings, and parents. To celebrate our Candlelighters moms, and to give them some much-deserved pampering and love, we posted an Amazon Wish List full of self-care items including nail polish, notebooks, coffee, relaxing bath salts, tumblers, essential oils, and so much more! Our generous Amazon Wish List Donors helped us spread the love by donating these items to be packaged in practical, reusable totes. These goody bags were gifted to moms who happened to be with their children on the pediatric oncology floors of our Medical Center partner hospitals during Mother's Day weekend. This was just a small way to show our appreciation and support as they spent their special day with their child receiving treatment.

After two years of virtual meetings, countless texts, and phone chats, our Parent Consultants (and fellow cancer moms) planned a special face-to-face meetup with Candlelighters moms in May to celebrate Mother's Day. Moms with kids who received treatment at Texas Children's Hospital gathered for a sunny picnic, played games, were gifted beautiful plants, and enjoyed each other's company. Moms whose children were treated at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Children's Memorial Hermann gathered and met for brunch, fellowship, and lots of laughs!

In partnership with the generous [Kendra Scott](#), we were able to shower these moms with another dazzling gift! Each mom in attendance received a beautiful necklace, earrings, or bracelet from our favorite jewelry store partner!

We also hold a special place in our hearts for the unsung heroes of the childhood cancer world: DADS! Over 75 Candlelighters dads were treated with gift cards to help celebrate Father's Day! [Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day to the strongest parents we know!](#)

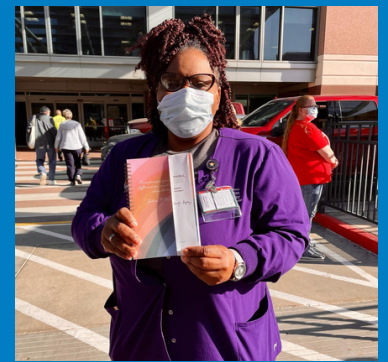
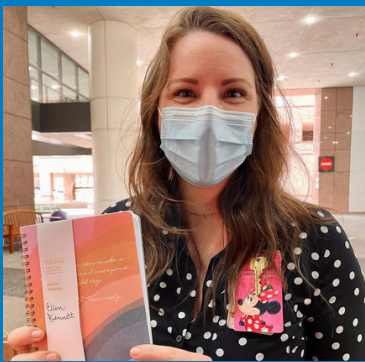




# CELEBRATING HOSPITAL PROFESSIONALS

## Honoring Our Childhood Cancer Caretaker Village

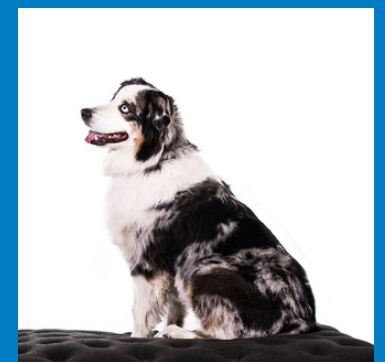
We've all heard the saying "It takes a village" and that saying has never been truer when it comes to childhood cancer! This spring, Candlelighters honored an integral part of the childhood cancer community: the nurses, doctors and social workers who pour their hearts into serving our families. Nurses were gifted Candlelighters t-shirts, so they can remember we are wrapping them in comfort as they in turn comfort and care for their patients. The amazing doctors who spend countless hours taking care of our families were treated with a delicious lunch to help fuel their bodies and minds so they can continue to treat and heal their patients. Candlelighters honored the hospital social workers' dedication and many hours of service to our families with beautiful notebooks, so no family or thought goes unforgotten. Thank you to all of our hospital staff who are a huge part of the Candlelighters village!



# KARINDA K EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY

## Local Fine Art Photographer Raises \$10,800 with Horse & Dog Portrait Sessions

Once again this year, the incredibly talented Karinda Kinsler offered on-site equine portrait sessions at the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Candlelighters. Later in the season, when an opportunity to photograph dogs at the Reliant World Series of Dog Shows presented itself, she jumped at the chance, as she's snapped photos for many pups at the horse show, too! Her horse and pooch portraits helped contribute to her biggest fundraising campaign to date! 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. **This year, she surpassed her goal yet again and raised \$10,800! Thank you to Karinda K Equine Photography for your tireless efforts making this fundraiser a success!**





# PIN OAK CHARITY HORSE SHOW

by Long-Term Cancer Survivor, LeighAnna Hutchinson

My love for horses started as a young girl. One of my favorite books was “The Good Luck Pony” by Elizabeth Koda-Callan, which included a golden horse necklace that I still have to this day! Like my younger self, the little girl dreamed of growing up and riding horses. My dream of riding horses did not come true until many years later at Candlelighters Camp CLIFF. Calming, gentle, graceful - those are just a few words to describe how these majestic animals make me feel. At Baylor University Line Camp, my roommate introduced me to competitive equestrian jumping; so when I was invited by Candlelighters to attend the 2022 Pin Oak Charity Horse Show, I was elated to sit ringside!

Known for its rich history, traditions, excellence, and philanthropic giving, the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show is one of the oldest and most prestigious horse shows in the country. Pin Oak has also been a long-time supporter of Candlelighters, so I was happy to see they were still inviting childhood cancer families to enjoy the festivities. As we entered the Yellow Rose Sponsor Club, we were greeted by the welcoming committee, escorted to our seats, and given the royal treatment! After an incredible dinner and dessert, it was time for the show! After an opening ceremony, complete with a Shetland pony drawn cart carrying the Stars and Stripes during the National Anthem, the competition began. As each horse and rider navigated the course, the crowd watched in silence as the pairs glided through the air. The athleticism of these horses and riders was incredible to watch up close!



Course Walk. Fault. Clear Round. Runout. Jump-Off. Competitive Equestrian Sports comes with a whole new language! Thankfully, we were seated next to an expert in equestrian jumping who was kind enough to teach us the lingo and share more about this sport. It was such a treat to learn something new!

After attending the first night of the 2022 Pin Oak Charity Horse Show, we knew we wanted to go again! This experience was a memory my family won't forget! Thank you to Pin Oak Charity Horse Show for supporting Candlelighters families by providing such a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

# BREAK A CLAY FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

Companies Band Together to Take a Shot at Cancer

On Friday, May 13th, Candlelighters held our [2nd Annual Break A Clay For Candlelighters](#) fundraiser at the [Greater Houston Sports Club](#). We invited local businesses and sponsors to participate and had a sold out crowd of over 124 shooters who had an incredible time breaking clays for Candlelighters! Our talented attendees [helped raise over \\$74,000](#) to fund programs and support for children with cancer and their families!

The weather was perfect for lots of shooting, fun target games, and a delicious barbecue lunch thanks to the [Planet Texas Barbeque Cook-Off Team](#) and [Ditta Meat Food Service Company](#). There was a competitive silent auction full of amazing packages including vacations, golf swag, goodies from local breweries, winery tours, and so much more. While eating lunch, attendees heard from Candlelighters mom, Jodi Vasquez, with a moving testimony about her son Peyton's childhood cancer journey. She shared how Candlelighters impacted their whole family throughout Peyton's cancer diagnosis and beyond. Peyton has now graduated from high school and is officially a long-term cancer survivor! He even got to join us and played with one of the shooting teams. After attendees were 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 [Karch Brewing Co.](#)

Congratulations to the 2022 1st Place Team – [Garrett Farms](#)! Our Mixology Game Winner was [Wilson Orr](#) and the Top Shooter (for the second year in a row!) was [Thomas Nasser](#). The 2nd Place Team consisted of [Thomas Nasser](#) and [Wilson Orr](#) and the 3rd Place Team was [Team Northwestern Mutual](#), who also won the Flurry competition! The Last Place Team deserves an honorable mention for their effort – [Team Soto/Wheeler](#) – and excitingly, they didn't leave empty handed! They walked away with brand new tubes of tennis balls as their prize, so they can think about trying a different sport next time!

Thank you to [Gerald Thomas](#) for donating a YETI cooler for our drawing. Special thanks to Greater Houston Sports Club and their crew for helping us host this fun event. [Please save the date for Friday, May 12, 2023 for next year's 3rd Annual Break A Clay for Candlelighters Clay Shoot Tournament fundraiser!](#) You won't want to miss this growing, fun event!



## Thank you SPONSORS



VALHIL CAPITAL



Chris Joseph



The Shackouls  
Foundation









# CAMP CLIFF 2022: HELP US LIGHT THE WAY!

After 2 long years, we're headed back to in-person camp, but we need your help to get us there!

Camp CLIFF (Children Loved in Families Forever) is our cancer-free getaway for Candlelighters families. For over 20 years we have been hosting this time away from the "cancer bubble" to relax, unplug, enjoy unique camp experiences, and connect with other childhood cancer families. After a two-year in-person hiatus, we will be **BACK IN ACTION** at Camp For All in Burton, Texas! On **Saturday, October 15th**, we will be hosting an in-person day camp with families **AND** continuing with our Virtual Camp option for our more fragile families; but to pull this off, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** By partnering with us as a Camp CLIFF Donor or Sponsor, you will be an integral part of providing life-long, cherished memories for children with cancer and their families. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to "light the way" back to camp! Please consider supporting this year's Camp CLIFF efforts and follow our social media account for fundraising updates!

Camp Donor	\$100	HELPS PROVIDE A FUN CAMP EXPERIENCE!
Camper Sponsor	\$250	SENDS 1 CAMPER TO CANDLELIGHTERS CAMP CLIFF
Activity Sponsor	\$500	HELPS FUND EXCITING CAMP ACTIVITIES!
Bronze Sponsor	\$750	PROVIDES GAS CARDS SO FAMILIES CAN ATTEND CAMP
Family Sponsor	\$1,000	SENDS AN ENTIRE CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILY TO CAMP CLIFF!
Silver Sponsor	\$2,000	OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A BRANDED ITEM FOR ALL CAMPERS
Gold Sponsor	\$3,500	SPONSOR A CAMP BREAKOUT ACTIVITY! *Logo with activity
T-Shirt Sponsor	\$5,000	PRINTING OF CAMP SHIRTS! *Logo on shirts; only 2 available
Platinum Sponsor	\$7,500	HELP FUND ALL CAMP ACTIVITIES! *Logo on boxes & at stations
Presenting Sponsor	\$10,000	ENSURING THE BEST WEEKEND EVER! *Logo on shirts, boxes & at activity stations



To sponsor, or to send a gift of any amount to support Camp CLIFF, please make checks payable to Candlelighters or donate online here - <http://tiny.cc/fundcamp>. If returning by mail, please use the enclosed envelope to designate your desired giving level. Contact Program Director Carly Bradshaw at [cbradshaw@candle.org](mailto:cbradshaw@candle.org) or 713.270.4700 with any questions regarding Camp CLIFF. **All sponsorships and donations are 100% tax deductible.** Thank you!

# FINISHING THE YEAR SERVING CANCER FAMILIES

Help Candlelighters Finish The Year Strong by Supporting Family Programs

Candlelighters offers all of our programs, parties, services, and support to childhood cancer families free of charge. As an organization started by cancer families, and with 5 cancer moms on staff, we know just how extensive the financial burden can be. We have a few more large efforts to serve childhood cancer patients and their families this year and we are asking for your support! We can only offer programs like our Family Fall Festival, Thanksgiving Blessings, and Adopt-A-Family through the giving hearts of our supporters, donors, and sponsors. See below for more details on each program and how you can help us finish the year strong in supporting cancer families!

## Family Fall Festival

**GOAL: \$5,000**

The students at St. John's School host Candlelighters families for a day full of fall-themed fun! They create fun carnival games with loads of prizes, crafts & activities, a bounce house, costume contest, and so much more! The festival also includes raffle packages filled with toys, yummy treats, music, and lots of smiles. We are so excited to be back in person for this family-favorite event this year, but we need sponsors and donors to help us make it the most fun Fall Festival yet!



## Thanksgiving Blessings

**GOAL: \$15,000**

Help us bless 300 Candlelighters families with grocery store gift cards this holiday season! When you have a child going through cancer treatment, your priorities change and your focus shifts. Our hope is that the Thanksgiving Blessings initiative provides



a meaningful gift so that a nice Thanksgiving meal doesn't feel like a financial burden or stress, and still puts a smile on their faces. We were able to send these to 250 families last year and with your help, we can expand the program this year!



## Adopt-A-Family

**GOAL: \$15,000**

This program offers groups the opportunity to interact with Candlelighters families and provide them gifts for the holiday season. This program is heartwarming for both families and sponsors in celebrating the true meaning of the holidays. Spread cheer by adopting a family who may find the season especially difficult while coping with a child diagnosed with cancer or having recently lost a child to cancer. We will also be spreading cheer to inpatient families, but we need your help!

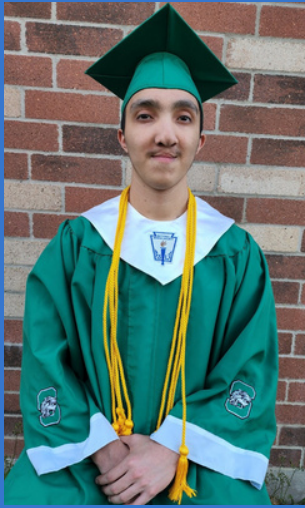


# CELEBRATING GRADUATES: SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Honoring childhood cancer families for accomplishing such a big milestone!



Aaliyah Harris



Adrian Saenz



Aidan Higdon



Alexandria Gordon



Alixzander Moser



Ariana Cordero-Rosales



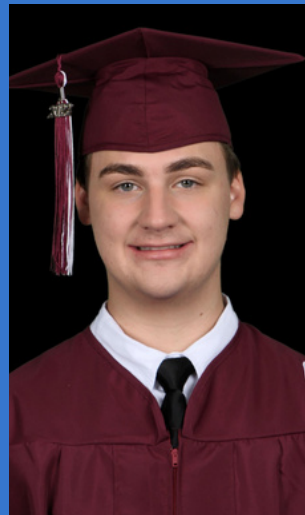
Austin Gordon



A'Vree Greene



Aya Jordan



Benjamin McKean



Blake Gray



BrinlyAnn Ford



Cameron Fain



Caroline Peters



Cassandra Gordon

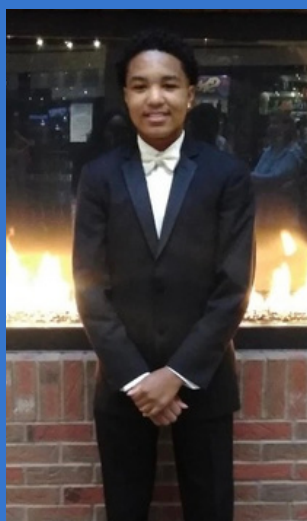


# CELEBRATING GRADUATES: SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Honoring childhood cancer families for accomplishing such a big milestone!



Chas Curry



Chico Glover



Christian Alfonso



Colin Ordaz



Cordell McClendon



Dara Billeck



Dominic Dybala



Dorian Moreno



Dylan Meilleur



Emily Pena



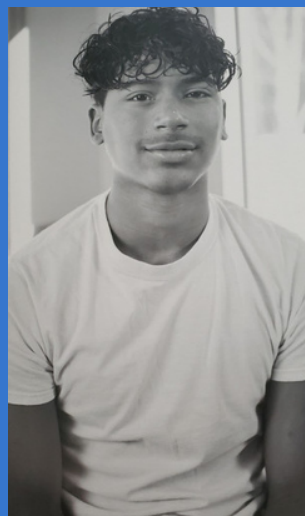
Emily Robinson



Evelyn Martinez



Gabriel Rodman



Greg Giraldo



Jasmine Hernandez



# CELEBRATING GRADUATES: SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Honoring childhood cancer families for accomplishing such a big milestone!



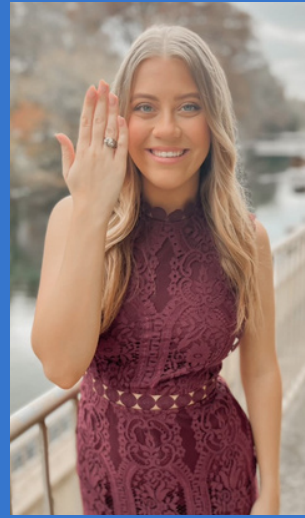
Jayden Lewis



Jazmine Harris



Jeremy Lejeune



Jessica Lucas



Jessica Taylor



John Crawford



Justin Angel Cid



Keegan Mason



Kyle Gray



Lashanda Jackson



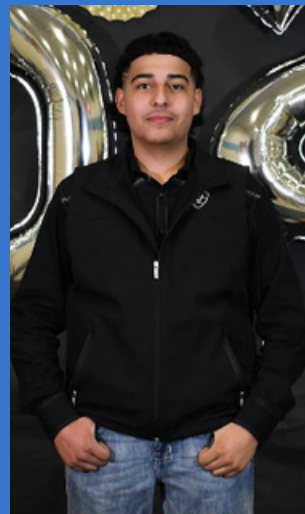
Leah Van Beveren



Lexie Garcia



Luis Angel Gutierrez



Luis Zavala



Mariana Mendizabal





Matthew Lopez



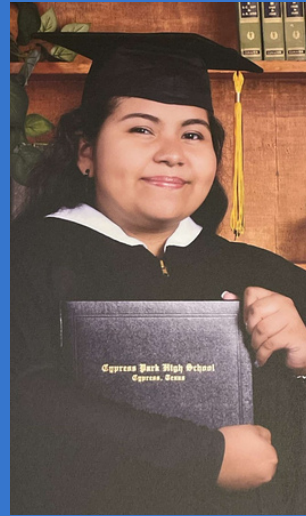
Maya Coleman



Melanie Cutera



Miguel Echegollen



Nathalia Ventura-Sanchez



Riley Blum



Savannah Demus



Congrats Seniors!



Sebastian Garbot



Serenity Luna



Taylor Small Calhoun



Ty Gribble



Tyler Small Calhoun



Zayne Foster



Zekariah Williams

We were so happy to continue our efforts to honor graduating seniors this year! Along with our social media campaign to spotlight all of their great accomplishments and future plans, with the help of [GEODIS](#), we also honored 59 seniors with \$75 Target Gift Cards! Congratulations, Class of 2022!



**GEODIS**



# A NIGHT WITH THE SPACE COWBOYS

The Houston Astros' Newest AAA Affiliate Treats Cancer Families to a Night Out!

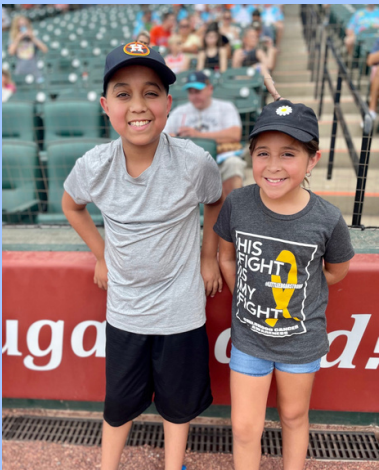
The Sugar Land Skeeters are now the [Sugar Land Space Cowboys](#)! In a joint effort by the Astro's newest AAA Affiliate team and Candlelighters sponsor [Constellation Energy](#), over 250 Candlelighters family members were treated to a night of fun to kick off summer. The Space Cowboys generously donated tickets to their June 11th game against the Las Vegas Aviators, as well as parking passes for each family, concession and gift shop gift cards, and use of the shady picnic space in left field. It was a hot night, so thankfully patients and families were able to take advantage of the pool and splash pad area!

Those who made it to the ballpark early were gifted custom Parrot Head tropical-themed replica jerseys in honor of Jimmy Buffett Night! Volunteers from the [Ascend Cares Foundation](#) were on site to greet families as they arrived and to hand out Candlelighters t-shirts just for this special event. Families were able to safely gather and enjoy the newly overhauled yummy stadium food, play on the new space-themed playground, and cheer on the Space Cowboys! Throughout the game, photos of Candlelighters warriors were featured on the big screen and the announcer shared childhood cancer awareness statistics, along with information about the programs and services Candlelighters provides cancer families in the area. The players wore their tropical Parrot Head-themed jerseys and honored our families by inviting a group of Candlelighters patients and siblings on to the field during the National Anthem. Patient [Alexander Dillingham](#) kicked off the game by announcing, "Let's Play Ball!" and patient [Christian Garcia](#) threw out the ceremonial first pitch!

Afterward, the game-worn and player-signed jerseys were sold via auction, with the proceeds benefiting Candlelighters! We are so grateful for the continued support from Constellation Energy, the Sugar Land Space Cowboys, the Houston Astros, and the Ascend Cares Foundation for enabling us to provide exciting experiences at no cost to our childhood cancer families – the memories made at these events are priceless and precious to every family that is able to attend!









# HAVING A BLAST AT SUMMER SURPRISES!

Annual Party Brings Summertime Fun and Gifts Galore

Popsicles, princesses and superheroes, mini horses, and face painting were just a few of the surprises at this year's Candlelighters Summer Surprises Party! Previously held indoors at our partner hospital locations, this free family event was held outdoors at St. Luke's United Methodist Church this year. Parent Consultants greeted families that they've been missing with big smiles and even bigger hugs! After last year's drive-thru event, even the scorching heat couldn't keep families away from getting back together in-person again. Everyone enjoyed the festive lawn area and all of the day's activities, including tile painting, giant yard games, a summer-themed photo booth with Moana and Ariel, craft kits, refreshing popsicles donated by KICPOPS, custom Candlelighters blankets, a meet & greet with mini horses from SIRE Therapeutic Horsemanship, yummy Chick-fil-A lunches, dancing and games with DJ Jeffrey, and a favorite of the day - wrapped gifts for each patient and sibling in attendance! The team at Kendra Scott also brought their [Kendra Cares Mobile Color Bar](#) and provided the opportunity for attendees (both kids and adults!) to create their own custom jewelry with their favorite color gemstones!

It was honor to carry on our mission of supporting cancer families with this event. Special thank you to our host, [St. Luke's United Methodist Church](#), and our presenting sponsors [OlerRelo](#) and [Adam's Angels](#)! Thank you to our incredible in-kind sponsors, [Kendra Scott](#), [KICPOPS](#), [SIRE](#), [DJ Jeffrey](#), [UR Photo Booths](#), [Fairest Of All Parties](#), [Causeplay Alliance Project](#), [Diamond Lion Photography](#), and [Jessica Small](#) for making the day extra special. And thank you to all the volunteers from Adam's Angels, Ascend Performance Materials, Astros Foundation, Constellation Energy, Higginbotham, National Charity League Memorial Chapter, OlerRelo, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Thompson Custom Homes, and friends of Candlelighters for helping us celebrate our childhood cancer families and bring them a day of fun away from treatment. Without our sponsors and volunteers, these events wouldn't be possible!







Thank You Summer Surprises Sponsors

oleRRelo  
GROUP

Adam's Angels Ministry  
Serving families who face childhood cancer.

KENDRA  
SCOTT

SIRE  
THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP  
RIDE BEYOND

St. Luke's  
United Methodist Church

KIC  
POPS  
KEEP IT CHILL

St. Luke's UMC Middle School Group & Senior Service Group  
Causeplay Alliance Project Diamond Lion Photography  
UR Photo Booths DJ Jeffrey Fairest Of All Parties Jessica Small





# 2022 FUN WALK | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Taking 4,491 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 <http://give.candle.org/2022FunWalk>
- Take the pledge to [Walk 4,491 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/candlefunwalk22>

Our goal is to raise \$250,000 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:





# 2022 FUN WALK FUNDRAISING TIPS & IDEAS



## Online Fundraising Tips

1. Register online at <http://give.candle.org/2022FunWalk>
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, no fees!
3. Make specific asks: 15th day of the month ask for \$15 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

1. **Share your Story**: the most effective way to fundraise in 2022 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 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 9th at NOON.

Fun Walk Questions? please contact Kelsey Tarpinian at [kelseyt@candle.org](mailto:kelseyt@candle.org).



# AN EVENING OF THANKS FOR SUPPORTERS

Candlelighters Hosts an Appreciation Event Generously Donated by Steak 48

Candlelighters' top supporters were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres, champagne, and cocktails, all generously donated by and served at the luxe fine dining [Steak 48](#) restaurant in Houston. For the past couple years, Steak 48 has served Candlelighters families by inviting them to celebrate special milestones with a complimentary meal at their restaurant. This gesture has meant the world to families who have attended these dinners, and the staff at Steak 48 has gone above and beyond to make each and every Candlelighters family member feel honored and supported.

This year, they helped Candlelighters realize a dream to bring together and simply honor and thank our top donors that have supported our programs and services for childhood cancer families. This evening was even more meaningful because donors could enjoy the night knowing the event was courtesy of Steak 48 and no fundraising dollars were used to host this event.

The ambiance in the private dining room was dazzling and the sentiment was simple: thankful. Our honored donors mingled with each other, sharing stories of their favorite Candlelighters programs, events, and families they've encountered along the way. Candlelighters mom, Angela Daniels, took the stage to share about her son Henry's cancer journey and how Candlelighters made an impact on her family. Her story represented the thousands of families we serve through our free programs, events, and practical support for childhood cancer families. The whole room was moved by Henry's strength and the Daniels Family's courage. Thank you to all who joined us and who have supported us over the years!





# 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. Last year, we held this event in the evening for the very first time, and it was such a success that we will be continuing on in this fashion!

Along with **Event Chairs: Shannon & Travis Francis, Jenna Jackson & Brendan Gilbert, and Tiffany & Randall Wong**, we are looking forward to hosting our guests, sponsors, and honorees at the beautiful **Houston Polo Club** in October! 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**, lawn games, an exhibition polo match, and a raffle boasting great packages from local businesses. This year's dinner will be served by our great friends from **Masraff's**, and will be followed by our amazing Live Auction featuring:

- 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
- Dove, axis, and whitetail hunt and lodging for 4 at the former **Moody Ranch in Del Rio, Texas**, the filming location for **Lonesome Dove** along the Rio Grande
- Stunning 14k white gold oval hoop earrings adorned with 2.4 carats of brilliant diamonds & an elegant 14kt white gold pendant necklace with three graduated brilliant round diamonds, valued at over \$5,000 and generously donated by **Diamonds Direct Houston**
- Original mixed media painting by **Shelley Shanks**
- with more added to the auction & raffle every day!

The shining feature of the night will be honoring four courageous childhood cancer families and sharing their journeys with our guests. Every year, Lights of Courage attendees are inspired by stories of courage, strength, and hope, represented by each of our honorees. Their experiences represent the thousands of children facing childhood cancer in the Houston area alone. We can't wait to introduce them to you!

## RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY!

Visit [givergy.us/lightsofcourage2022](http://givergy.us/lightsofcourage2022) for more information about Lights of Courage, to sponsor this event, and to reserve your table!



## Lights of Courage

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022 at 5:30 PM

HOUSTON POLO CLUB

8552 MEMORIAL DRIVE, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024

### EVENT CHAIRS

SHANNON & TRAVIS FRANCIS

JENNA JACKSON & BRENDAN GILBERT

TIFFANY & RANDALL WONG

COCKTAILS + LAWN GAMES

EXHIBITION POLO MATCH

DINNER

LIVE AUCTION + RAFFLE

### EMCEE

MELISSA WILSON

FOX26 News & Candlelighters Mom

ON TREATMENT HONOREE: Posey Raish

IN LOVING MEMORY HONOREE: Lauryn Criswell

LONG TERM SURVIVOR HONOREE: Rachel Daly Lothringer

SIBLING HONOREES: Perez Family

### ATTIRE

TEXAS POLO CHIC

*Wear your favorite boots, wedges or flats!*



# SAVE THE DATES!

---

## 2022 FUN WALK

TERRY HERSHEY PARK

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2022**

## TENNIS CLASSIC

FUNDRAISING TENNIS TOURNAMENT @ HOUSTON RACQUET CLUB

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022**

## CAMP CLIFF: IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL

FREE FAMILY EVENT | REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022**

## LIGHTS OF COURAGE

EVENING FUNDRAISING EVENT @ HOUSTON POLO CLUB

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022**

## FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

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

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022**

## HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

SPONSORS & COMMUNITY GROUPS BUY GIFTS FOR CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES

**ACCEPTING FAMILY & SPONSOR APPLICATIONS IN MID-SEPTEMBER**

## HRP GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITING CANDLELIGHTERS

WILDCAT GOLF CLUB | REGISTRATION THROUGH HRP

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022**



# 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 - 1 for MDACCH/CMH families & 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 Space Cowboys, 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](http://www.candle.org)



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

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

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.