



# SPRINGING INTO A NEW YEAR

KICKING OFF 2023 SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND RAISING FUNDS

## FEATURING

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## *Making Spirits Bright!*

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM BRINGS CHEER DURING HOLIDAYS

Every year, we move into the holiday season with great excitement of bringing joy to Candlelighters families through our gift-giving program called Adopt-A-Family. This program was designed to serve not just the childhood cancer patient, but also their siblings and parents - because at Candlelighters, we believe when a child is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family needs us.

The holidays are supposed to be magical, fun, and uplifting, but cancer doesn't care about the month on the calendar. Coping with the overwhelming stress of a surprising cancer diagnosis for their child, going through time- and physically-intensive treatments, and sadly, sometimes the passing of their warrior, can be just the thing to put holiday cheer on the back-burner. This is where our incredible Adopt-A-Family Sponsors step in.

Being an Adopt-A-Family Sponsor is so much more than purchasing gifts. They provide hope and support during a season that can be so tough for so many of our Candlelighters families. Sponsors are directly connected with the families they adopt so they can get to know them better and learn more about their family's journey. They take on the task of finding gifts from the whole family's Wish List and wrapping them for an exciting in-person delivery closer to Christmas time. Many times, our sponsors go above and beyond, treating families to a meal and exchanging encouraging texts.

Parents have reported that the care and attention given to them during this program has meant the world to them; and for some families, especially as they are dealing with astronomically high medical bills, say that without this program, their children would not have received holiday gifts. The special touch for sponsors is being able to treat those parents with gifts, too, as they are often putting themselves last during the childhood cancer journey.



Continued on Page 3

# INFORMATION CENTER

## CANDLELIGHTERS

CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

### 2023 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, Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer, Beth Guinn,  
 Dr. Douglas Harrison, George Malek, Kenny Matula,  
 Scott Newell, Ben Pisklak, Cynthia Ditta Priebe,  
 Joellen Snow, Andrew Snyder, Kris Vallee, Tiffany Wong

#### HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Berard, Sally Bosse, Eddy Blanton, Michael Conway,  
 Stacy Crumley, Sam Governale, Cindy Hamann, Mary Helmreich,  
 Norma Johnson, Dave Mally, Harvey Zinn, Jr.

#### ADVISORY BOARD

Jeanine Anderson, Louise Bland, Loretta Bueso, Gerardo Camarillo,  
 Sylvie Crum, Shelley Gatlin, Karen Gonsoulin, Dory Gordon, Cynthia  
 Guill, Becky Hobson, Kate Hughes, Suzie James, Christy Jennings,  
 Peppo Lausen, Liz Loucks, Jane McCarroll, Becky McCullough, Kathy  
 O'Neil, Tami Owen, Louise Parsley, Sheryl Rapp, Dr. Sheila Rice,  
 Michele Stoll Mitchell, Kay Watson, Lynn Wilson, Elynn Wulfe

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BREAK A CLAY FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

Friday, May 12th

### SUMMER SURPRISES PARTY

Thursday, July 13th

### FUN WALK

Saturday, September 9th

### LIGHTS OF COURAGE

Thursday, October 26th

### FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 29th

### HRP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, November 15th

### 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

YUVI SIFUENTES: [YSIFUENTES@CANDLE.ORG](mailto:YSIFUENTES@CANDLE.ORG)

### TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER

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)

## CANDLELIGHTERS STAFF

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Carly Bradshaw | Dir. of Programs & Communications | [cbradshaw@candle.org](mailto:cbradshaw@candle.org)

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## PARENT CONSULTANTS

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

Jaynie Hutchinson | Yuvi Sifuentes  
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### TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER

Linda Pena | Maria Pena  
[lpena@candle.org](mailto:lpena@candle.org) | [mpena@candle.org](mailto:mpena@candle.org)

### FAMILY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

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



(Continued from cover) In 2022, we were humbled by the incredible response to our growing number of families impacted by cancer who needed some holiday cheer. We are thrilled to share that over 215 companies, families, and community groups signed up to sponsor Candlelighters families through the Adopt-A-Family program, with so many new groups and companies getting involved! Together, [sponsors provided gifts for 283 families](#), giving gifts to [1,287 Candlelighters family members](#) across the Greater Houston area! In total, it is estimated that Adopt-A-Family sponsors [provided over \\$225,000 in gifts](#) and support!

In addition to the sponsorship efforts mentioned above, because of our generous Adopt-A-Family program donors, Candlelighters was also able to provide gift cards for [190 childhood cancer patients](#) who were admitted for inpatient care at one of our three partner hospitals in the Medical Center. Although nothing can completely take away the sting of staying in the hospital during a holiday, patients were happy to receive surprise gift bags in their rooms.

## 2022 Adopt-A-Family Impact

FAMILIES ADOPTED: 283

INPATIENT GIFTS PROVIDED: 190

TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED: 1,477

This program is a bright spot among tough journeys for our families, and it would not be possible without each and every one of our Adopt-A-Family sponsors and donors. For those of you who sponsored families this year and donated towards these efforts, THANK YOU! Seeing the photos of so many joyful gift drop-offs is a beautiful reminder that giving is so much more special than receiving.





# DECKING THE HALLS WITH ADOPT-A-FAMILY SMILES





## A SEASON OF GRATITUDE

In November of 2022, thanks to generous donations throughout the year to bolster our family practical support efforts, Candlelighters was able to bless childhood cancer families again with grocery store gift cards to help relieve some of the burden around providing a holiday meal for their families. Just as Adopt-A-Family provides a spark of joy during the holidays, our Thanksgiving Blessings effort was a big source of support for our families during a time when prices were high for groceries.

We wanted to share some of our Candlelighters families' thank you notes about both Thanksgiving Blessings and Adopt-A-Family to share with the community just how impactful these programs, and your donations towards practical support, are!



From an Adopt-A-Family recipient: "We just wanted to say thank you! Thank you for taking the load off of us as parents. Thank you for your generosity in ALL of our gifts. You made our Christmas so special. Because of you, we were finally able to rest and simply enjoy being present with each other this Christmas."

From a Thanksgiving Blessings recipient: "Thank you Candlelighters for the H-E-B gift card and the Thanksgiving wishes!! This will definitely help with our Holiday Feast!! Happy Thanksgiving!!"

From an Adopt-A-Family recipient: "I wanted to thank you all for your love and support, and to let you know how much the Adopt-A-Family program has saved our Christmas. It brings so many smiles to my son's face, much more than what I can express in words! I just wanted to let you all know how special you are to us and how much of a difference these programs make to us!"

From a Thanksgiving Blessings recipient: "Thank you so much for the grocery gift card for the holidays. It was much needed and came at the exact right time."

From an Adopt-A-Family Inpatient Gift recipient: "My daughter received a present and gift card from Candlelighters while she was getting an infusion at Texas Children's Hospital around the holidays. On our way home, she was able to stop and pick out a special toy, and I can not thank you enough for the big smile that was on her face that day! Your organization is truly amazing and blesses people in so many ways. Thank you again for all that you do!"

# PARENT CONSULTANTS ARE BACK!

We are so excited that Candlelighters Parent Consultants are back working in the hospitals, and back to meeting families on inpatient floors and in the clinics! We are grateful that our partner hospitals have embraced our Parent Consultant staff members and see the benefit of the peer-to-peer support they provide families on their childhood cancer journey.

## What is a Candlelighters Parent Consultant?

PARENT CONSULTANTS ARE CANDLELIGHTERS STAFF WHO ARE FELLOW CHILDHOOD CANCER PARENTS

They stood by their children as they fought childhood cancer, and now they are here to stand with you. They provide daily emotional & practical support filled with words of hope, gestures of kindness, knowledge, and an understanding that can only come from someone who has walked in your shoes.

### HOW DO PARENT CONSULTANTS HELP FAMILIES?

The Parent Consultant Program was developed to directly meet the needs of families being treated at our partner hospitals - to inform them of potential community resources and provide assistance through Candlelighters. Each Parent Consultant knows what it's like to be the parent of a child with cancer. They provide emotional, educational, and practical support to families of children being treated at The University of Texas MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital, Texas Children's Cancer & Hematology Center, Texas Children's Hospital West Campus, Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands, and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Some examples of the emotional and practical support Parent Consultants provide childhood cancer families on a daily basis includes:

- Parking Assistance
- Weekly Virtual Support Group Meetings
- Providing Hospital Meal Passes and Meal Delivery Assistance
- Gas & Grocery Store Gift Cards
- 1-on-1 Emotional Support
- Invitations to free family events (for the whole family!) hosted by Candlelighters

Keep an eye out for our Parent Consultants at your hospital! They can't wait to meet you!

### SERVING TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER FAMILIES



**LINDA PEÑA**

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*¡Se habla Español!*



**OPAL GOODMAN**

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**MARIA PEÑA**

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*¡Se habla Español!*

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



**YUVI SIFUENTES**

ysifuentes@candle.org

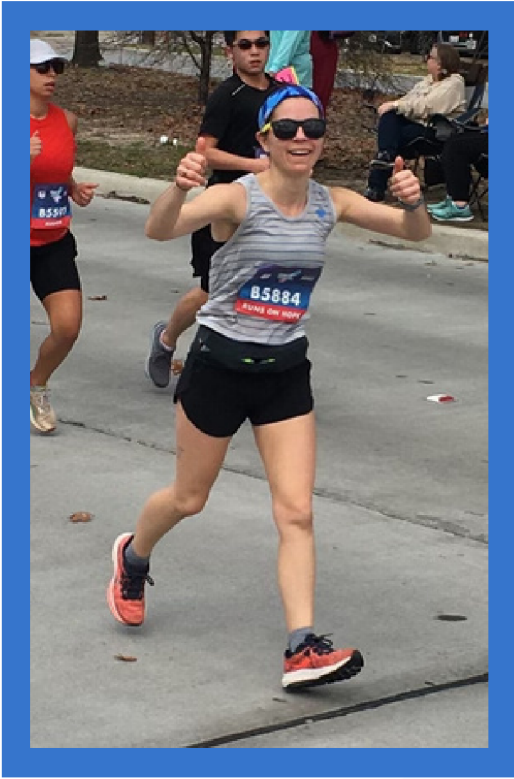
*¡Se habla Español!*

*Our beloved Jaynie has retired after 22 years!*



## RUNNING FOR A REASON

BY: KATI-LYN TIERNEY



Hi! My name is Kati-Lyn and I'm a Pediatric Physical Therapist. I knew I wanted to help individuals get back to activities they enjoyed, which lead me to a career in physical therapy. One of my professional passions is Pediatric Oncology Rehabilitation and I have the privilege of working with childhood cancer patients on a daily basis. I strive to give them some control of their life and body through physical activity. The families I work with led me to learn more about Candlelighters. The organization's mission to help these children and their families aligns with my passions as well, and I have been amazed by the work they do!

One of my other personal passions is running! I wanted to use my ability to run to raise awareness and funds for Candlelighters. I chose the Houston Marathon as my race in 2022. Training to run 26.2 miles is hard, but thinking of the impact the donations would make on these families is what kept my legs moving! On race day, I crossed the finish line; and although it was slower than I wanted, it was with all the gratitude in the world for what my body could do. My hope is to bring that joy and gratitude to the families I work with as much as possible. I choose to RUN ON HOPE!

## SMILES FOR LIFE

BRIGHTENING THE LIVES OF CANCER FAMILIES

In 2022, Montz & Maher Dental Group hosted their annual Smiles for Life fundraiser where 100% of every whitening treatment purchased was donated to charity! Candlelighters was honored to have been chosen as their local charity partner once again, and received more than \$5,200 in donations for services and programs benefiting childhood cancer families right here in Houston. We are so grateful for their generosity!

Well, they're back at it for 2023! If you're wanting to whiten your teeth and brighten that smile for the summer, look no further! The Smiles For Life promotion will run through June and Montz & Maher Dental Group have several options, with whitening treatments starting at just \$200! Tell them Candlelighters sent you - we know you'll be thrilled with your pearly whites and happy with 100% of proceeds going to charity!

### MONTZ & MAHER DENTAL GROUP

Locations in Pearland & Friendswood





# A BOOT SCOOTIN' FUN TIME!

## 19TH ANNUAL RODEO COOK-OFF EVENT TREATS FAMILIES & RAISES FUNDS

On February 25, 2023, Candlelighters dusted off our cowboy boots and kicked off the year with some family fun! Families dressed in cowboy hats and their best western gear to enjoy a beautiful day at the [Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Bar-B-Que Cook-Off](#) with the [Planet Texas Cook-off Team](#)!

Every year, Candlelighters families are treated to a private bus ride with VIP admission thanks to the [Rodeo Express Committee](#). This year, over 250 Candlelighters family members enjoyed a warm welcome, being greeted by cheering volunteers and neighboring tents! When we arrived, there was live music playing by the band [The Trips](#), face painting and balloon animals for the kiddos provided by [Cheerful Clown Alley](#), rodeo clowns, two-stepping, and delicious food! Jim Petree and his grill masters with the Planet Texas Cook-off Team provided a mouth-watering bar-b-que lunch for all of our families!

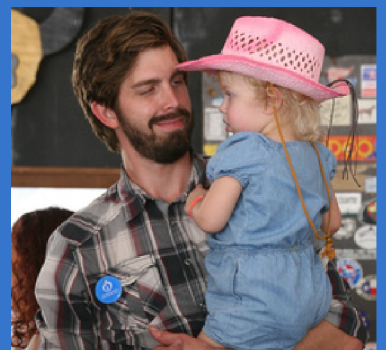


Candlelighters Board Member Jay Beasley, along with Joanne Crouch, planned this year's event with the Planet Texas team leaders, Marty Wells and Jim Petree. Over 70 other Planet Texas team members and volunteers put in hours of work to ensure our families had an extra special day. After a big group picture in front of their larger-than-life Alamo backdrop, our gracious hosts gifted the 150 children in attendance a Carnival Pack so they could enjoy the rides, games, and tasty fried foods at the carnival. This donation alone was [valued at \\$23,925](#) this year! Families were able to enjoy hours of endless fun and make memories that will last a lifetime with their family and Candlelighters friends!

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 funds in memory of their team member, Jeff Primm, that helps fund the Candlelighters family camp, Camp CLIFF. This year, [Primm's Posse](#), the Planet Texas team, and the incredible event committee [raised over \\$6,400](#)! THANK YOU!!



# 19TH ANNUAL RODEO COOK-OFF WITH PLANET TEXAS





# CAMP CLIFF: A WEEKEND AWAY FROM CANCER

## PREPARING FOR OUR NEXT INCOMPARABLE FAMILY CAMP!

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 three years of virtual camps and last year’s day camp, we are looking forward to getting back to our full camp weekend at Camp For All in Burton, Texas! We will be hosting our next Camp CLIFF during the weekend of **February 16-18, 2024**; and this summer, we will be providing Camp CLIFF activity packs to inpatient families at our partner hospitals. **By partnering with us as a Camp CLIFF Donor or Sponsor, you will be an integral part of providing life-long, cherished memories for childhood cancer families.** Please consider supporting our upcoming Camp CLIFF efforts and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates! **Candlelighters Families: the application to attend Camp CLIFF will be open in late August - stay tuned for more details on how to apply!**

<i>Camp Donor</i>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>HELPS CONTRIBUTE TO A FUN CAMP EXPERIENCE!</b>
<i>Camper Sponsor</i>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>SENDS 1 CAMPER TO CANDLELIGHTERS CAMP CLIFF</b>
<i>Bronze Sponsor</i>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>HELPS FUND EXCITING CAMP ACTIVITIES!</b>
<i>Silver Sponsor</i>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>HELPS PROVIDE THEMED CABIN FAVORS FOR CAMPERS</b>
<i>Family Sponsor</i>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>SENDS AN ENTIRE CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILY TO CAMP CLIFF!</b>
<i>Gold Sponsor</i>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A BRANDED ITEM FOR ALL CAMPERS</b>
<i>Signature Sponsor</i>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>SPONSOR A SIGNATURE CAMP ACTIVITY! *Logo at Activity Area</b>
<i>Activity Pack Sponsor</i>	<b><del>\$5,000</del></b>	<b>FUND ACTIVITY PACKS FOR INPATIENTS *Logo on Activity Packs</b>
<i>Cabin Sponsor</i>	<b>\$7,500</b>	<b>ELEVATING THE CAMPER EXPERIENCE *Logo on all Cabin Signage</b>
<i>Presenting Sponsor</i>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>ENSURING THE BEST WEEKEND EVER! *Logo on shirts, at activity stations &amp; throughout camp</b>



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>. Contact Program Director Carly Bradshaw at [cbradshaw@candle.org](mailto:cbradshaw@candle.org) or 713.270.4700 with any questions regarding Camp CLIFF. Sponsorships and donations are 100% tax deductible.



# FUND PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR CANCER FAMILIES

GEARING UP FOR FALL PROGRAMS TO HELP LOCAL PATIENTS, SIBLINGS, & PARENTS

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. In the fall, we will have programs that provide direct practical support to childhood cancer patients and their families, and we need 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 Candlelighters!

## 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 continue this tradition for one of our family-favorite events this year, but we need sponsors and donors to help us make it the most fun Fall Festival yet!



[tiny.cc/fundfall](https://tiny.cc/fundfall)

## Thanksgiving Blessings

GOAL: \$16,000

Help us bless 320 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



[tiny.cc/fundfall](https://tiny.cc/fundfall)

a meaningful gift so that a nice Thanksgiving meal doesn't feel like a financial burden or stress on our cancer parents, and still puts a smile on everyone's faces. With your help, Candlelighters can expand the Thanksgiving Blessings program this year!



[tiny.cc/givetoaaf](https://tiny.cc/givetoaaf)

## Adopt-A-Family

GOAL: \$15,000

This program offers companies and 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. We will also be spreading holiday cheer by providing gifts for inpatient families!



# RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR MARGARITA TASTE OFF!

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP PLANS ANOTHER SOLD-OUT CROWD-PLEASER

The 15th Annual Margarita Taste Off was held on Saturday, April 15th, and it was another one for the record books! Selling out of tickets days before the event, an estimated 900 people showed up to support Candlelighters in a big way, [raising over \\$131,000](#) - our best year yet! Eighteen local restaurants joined us for a chance to impress guests with their specialty margarita recipes and bites, all turning on their charm and hospitality while vying to win some highly coveted awards and bragging rights!

[Don Julio](#) tequila wasn't the only thing on the menu as guests also received beer and wine tickets to enjoy tastings from [Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits](#), [No Label Brewing Company](#), [Austin East Ciders](#), and [Shiner Bock](#). When guests weren't busy snacking and sipping, they browsed some fun and unique auction items, entered for a chance to win a diamond tennis bracelet donated by [Diamonds Direct Houston](#), tested their luck at the wine pull, and danced to tunes mixed by the one and only [DJ Senega](#)! New this year, thanks to the [Ascend Cares Foundation](#), guests could purchase custom tasting trays to hold 6 margarita samples at a time, making it easier to move through the lines and really compare! There was also a gorgeous Don Julio tasting station where guests could sip various samples and snap selfies in the photo booth. It was a sunny, humid Houston day, but thankfully the rain changed courses at the last minute. We loved our new location this year at [Kirby Ice House - Memorial](#). Guests enjoyed the turf lawn, big screen televisions, the much needed shaded areas, and the best staff to help pull off this event!



A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the participating restaurants, in-kind donors, sponsors, and enthusiastic attendees that made this year so fun! Special shoutout to the [Candlelighters Young Professionals Group](#) for helping plan and organize, and our amazing group of event day volunteers to help us execute this fan-favorite event. We are taking this incredible momentum with us into 2024 and are already looking forward to the 16th Annual Margarita Taste Off - save the date for [Saturday, April 6, 2024](#)!



# AND THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNING MARGARITA IS...!

AMBRIZA SOCIAL MEXICAN KITCHEN MAKES A REFRESHING SPLASH ON A HOT DAY!

Event attendees visited 18 restaurant booths to sample margaritas and appetizers and to vote for their favorites of the day. [Don Julio](#) generously provided their signature tequila to all participating restaurants as the perfect base for a quality, smooth margarita. The competition was fierce this year with everyone bringing their A-game and thinking outside the box to try to win the coveted title of People's Choice Best Margarita. Some restaurants even prepared two options in case their unique concoctions weren't crowd-pleasers! There were margaritas with boba, brown sugar graham cracker "salt", Mexican candy garnishes, and lots of spice this year!

Congratulations to [Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen](#)! Special thank you to all our participating restaurants for joining us - this event wouldn't be the success it is without each of you. See below for this year's big winners!

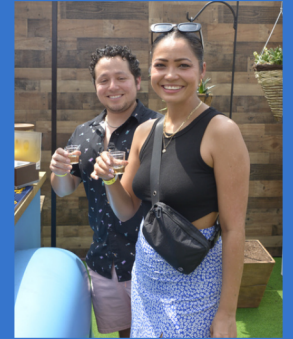
## 2023 Restaurant Awards

- 1st Place Winner - [Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen](#)
- 2nd Place - [Federal American Grill](#)
- 3rd Place - [Kin Dee](#)
- 4th Place - [El Tiempo Cantina](#)
- 5th Place - [Daily Gather](#)
- Top Ten - [Field & Tides](#), [Texas Tamale Company](#), [Chuy's Tex-Mex](#),  
[Harold's Restaurant Bar & Terrace](#), and [Guard and Grace](#)
- Best Booth Décor - [Kin Dee](#)
- Best Overall Theme - [Daily Gather](#)
- Most Festive Bartenders - [Johnny McElroy's Irish Pub & Patio](#)
- Friendliest Bartenders - [Federal American Grill](#)
- Most Spirited Award - [Daily Gather](#)
- Hot Tamale Award - [Texas Tamale Company](#)
- Best Appetizer Presentation - [State Fare Kitchen & Bar](#)
- Best Cold Appetizer - [Guard and Grace](#)
- Best Hot Appetizer - [Studewood Cantine](#)
- Best Margarita Presentation - [Kin Dee](#)
- Most Unique Margarita Garnish - [Harold's Restaurant Bar & Terrace](#)
- Most Refreshing Margarita - [Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen](#)
- Most Unforgettable Margarita - [SIPPLE Non-Alcoholic Bottle Shop](#)
- Most Buzzworthy - [Los Tios Mexican Restaurant](#)
- Best Use of Fresh Ingredients - [Dish Society](#)
- Most Exotic Margarita Flavor - [Eight Row Flint](#)
- Smoothest Margarita - [El Tiempo Cantina](#)
- Most Unique Margarita - [Guard and Grace](#)
- Best Traditional Margarita - [Texas Tamale Company](#)
- Best NEW Restaurant Margarita - [Chuy's Tex-Mex](#)
- Best NEW Restaurant Appetizer - [Johnny McElroy's Irish Pub & Patio](#)
- Community Award: [Chuy's Tex-Mex](#)
- Don Julio Choices - [Field & Tides](#) and  
[Harold's Restaurant Bar & Terrace](#)





# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THIS YEAR'S TASTE OFF!







# THANK YOU SPONSORS

## PRESENTING SPONSORS



## PLATINUM SPONSORS



SOUTHERN GLAZER'S  
WINE & SPIRITS

Cristin & Guy  
Rodgers

BELMONT *Village*  
SENIOR LIVING

Ryan  
Kelting

Aron & Alex  
Will



DIAMONDS DIRECT

## GOLD SPONSORS

MetroNational



The O'Leary Family

Hayley & Joey  
Rippel



The Jennifer Grube Team



DJ Senega



## SILVER SPONSORS

BRACEWELL

Brad & Audrey Chin

Dr. Julie Longoria &  
Dr. Stephen Chen



Scott Newell



Ashley & Patrick Bullion

Heather  
Layton



## BRONZE SPONSORS

Angelina Keck Properties | Austin Eastciders | Kim Benoit | Chick-fil-A, 59 & Kirby | David & Shayna Dahlson  
Guaranteed Rate Affinity - Vaughan Team | Guinn Family | Higginbotham | Sandra Kantor | LM Photography  
Choeun Ngep | No Label Brewing Company | Party Jess Productions | Cynthia Ditta Priebe | PRN Realty  
ProLift Garage Doors | Shewillsay | Shiner Bock | Kelsey & Jeffrey Tarpinian | Richard & Irene Wang

# A NIGHT WITH THE SPACE COWBOYS

## AN EXTRA-SWEET OUTING IN SUGAR LAND FOR CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES

In a joint effort by the Astro's local Triple-A Affiliate team and longtime Candlelighters sponsor [Constellation Energy](#), over 350 childhood cancer family members were treated to a night at the ball park! The [Sugar Land Space Cowboys](#) generously donated tickets to their home game on April 21st 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 beautiful evening thanks to the mild Houston spring weather, and we were so glad to see families coming out in droves to enjoy all Constellation Field has to offer.

Those who braved the long line and made it to the ballpark early were gifted a replica Yordan Álvarez Astros World Series ring! Volunteers from our wonderful friends at [Ascend Cares Foundation](#) were on site to greet families as they arrived and to hand out new Candlelighters t-shirts made especially for the game. Families were able to gather and enjoy the hallmark ballpark food of hotdogs, pretzels, peanuts, and Cracker Jacks! The kids had free reign of the space-themed playground and the fun splash pad, too!

Throughout the game, photos of Candlelighters warriors were featured on the Texas-shaped big screen and the announcer shared childhood cancer awareness statistics with the crowd, along with information about the programs and services Candlelighters offers cancer families in the area. The team helped honor our families by making us part of the exciting pre-game ceremonies! Acute lymphoblastic leukemia patient [Lilleigh Presswood](#) threw out the ceremonial first pitch and got a standing ovation from the crowd as the announcer let everyone know that not only is it her 9th birthday soon, but that she's also just a couple months away from ringing the bell and being cancer free! After the National Anthem, T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia patient and survivor [Zachary Badillo](#), along with his [twin brother Liam](#), kicked off the game by announcing, "Play Ball!" The boys were excited to become quick friends with the Space Cowboys cosmic canine mascot, Orion!



During the 6th Inning, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma warrior [David Montemayor](#), and his brothers Ruben and Josue, were able to get a behind-the-scenes tour of the press box and even announce the Space Cowboys players as they came up to bat! Patient [Dulce Gutierrez](#) played an on-field game where she challenged a Space Cowboy to a quick-thinking quiz; and patient [Hazel Saldinger](#) raced sibling [Callum Raish](#) in an on-field tractor race! Candlelighters families ended this special night out with some fabulous Friday fireworks!

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 like this at no cost to our childhood cancer families. The memories made at these outings are priceless and precious to every family that is able to attend! Three game-worn jerseys will once again be auctioned off this season with proceeds benefiting Candlelighters. To watch for these dates, themes, and learn about opportunities to bid, follow us on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/candlelighters](https://www.facebook.com/candlelighters).



# SWEET MEMORIES WITH THE SUGAR LAND SPACE COWBOYS







## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN ENERGY CRAWFISH BOIL BENEFITS CANDLELIGHTERS

After a three-year pause, Candlelighters was approached by the [Young Professionals in Energy](#) group in Houston to be their new partner and beneficiary for their annual crawfish boil and concert event! We are so grateful for their passion to support local childhood cancer families, and together we raised **\$60,000** for Candlelighters programs and services!

On Friday, March 31st, ticket holders were invited to join us at [Goode Company Armadillo Palace](#) for some delicious crawfish, cold beer, and live music by Jason Boland and The Stragglers. We could not have asked for a better day and had around 300 people there learning about the impact Candlelighters is making in the community, all while having a fun time!

Special thanks to the dedicated Event Co-Chairs for making this year such a success: [Stephen Morgan](#), [Ashley Sloan](#), and [Crystal Winters](#). Thank you to our sponsors and the Goode Company Armadillo Palace staff for making this a memorable and truly impactful afternoon. We can't wait for next year! Stay tuned for our 2024 date!



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN ENERGY



Matt & Amy  
Gelotti

Stephen & Julianna  
Morgan

Crystal Winters

Delta Compression  
& Equipment





# THANK YOU 2023 CANDLELIGHTERS CARES SPONSORS!

MONTHLY TREATS FOR HOSPITAL PARTNERS TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION

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).



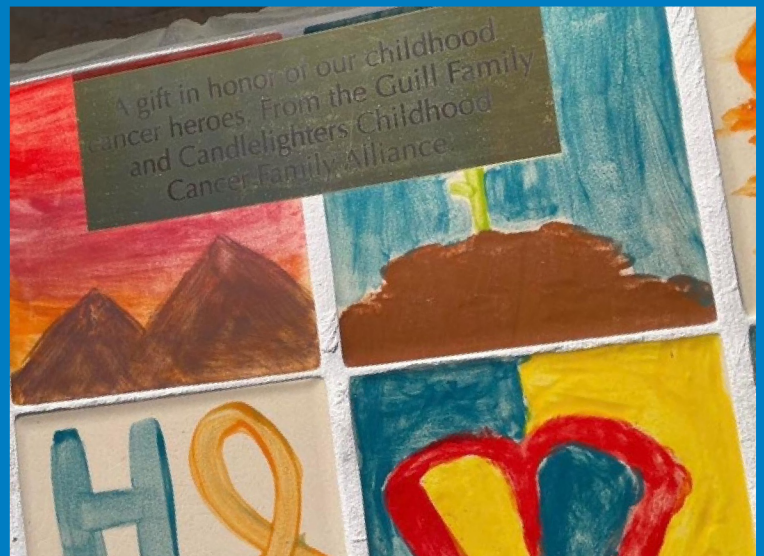


# CANDLELIGHTERS PATIENTS & SIBLINGS LEAVE THEIR MARK

## CUSTOM BENCH IS AUCTIONED AND DONATED BACK TO MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

At the 2022 Lights of Courage event in late October, the Live Auction featured a beautifully decorated outdoor bench. The previous year, this item received so much attention and love, we just had to remake it and include it again! Designed by Candlelighters patients and their siblings, each tile that adorned the bench was hand painted by a childhood cancer survivor or family member; each and every tile held a special, sentimental story. After an exciting bidding war, longtime Candlelighters supporters, The Guill Family, won the item for an incredibly generous **\$37,000!** This remarkable gesture was met with teary eyes when they announced they would like to gift the bench to be on display at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

This heartfelt piece of art now sits at the LeRoy Melcher, Jr. Memorial Fountain outside of MD Anderson Cancer Center for all to see! Now our families and other patients who need a break from the hospital walls can sit and enjoy this precious art piece and find a glimpse of cheer and hope. A heartfelt thank you to The Guill Family for supporting Candlelighters in such a big way and providing a lovely gift for all to appreciate.





# DAZZLING DESIGN PARTY

## JIANNA JEWELERS HOSTS FAMILIES AND CREATES A PRICELESS PIECE FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

On Thursday, February 16th, [Jianna Jewelers](#) hosted Candlelighters families for a private gem class to learn more about precious stones and what goes into creating fine jewelry. A group of childhood cancer families gathered together to learn and, excitingly, provide design input on a one-of-a-kind jewelry piece that will benefit Candlelighters!

Owner of Jianna Jewelers, Vraj Shah, a third-generation jeweler, along with his wife and parents, encouraged families to try on all the sparkling, beautiful jewelry they wanted to! The group was educated about different gemstones, taught about clarity, coloring, and classifications, and shown how Jianna Jewelers designs custom pieces by sketching and using 3D modeling software.

The Candlelighters group, which included survivors, patients on treatment, siblings, and parents, picked a theme, overall design look, and chose specific gems for a custom jewelry piece that will be [up for auction at our Lights of Courage fundraising event](#) in the fall. The sale of this priceless piece designed by childhood cancer families will benefit Candlelighters programs to serve the childhood cancer community right here in Houston. You will not want to miss the unveiling of this incredible piece at the Houston Polo Club on Thursday, October 26th! For more information on this event, visit [www.candle.org](http://www.candle.org).

Special thank you to Vraj, The Shah Family, and Jianna Jewelers for hosting such a unique and meaningful evening for our families! To see more of their creations, visit [www.jiannajewelers.com](http://www.jiannajewelers.com).





# SAVE THE DATES!

## SUMMER SURPRISES PARTY

FREE FAMILY EVENT | FAMILIES MUST RSVP!

**THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023**

## 2023 FUN WALK

TERRY HERSHEY PARK | TEAM REGISTRATION OPEN SOON!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023**

## HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

SPONSORS & COMMUNITY GROUPS BUY GIFTS FOR CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES

**ACCEPTING FAMILY & SPONSOR APPLICATIONS IN SEPTEMBER**

## TENNIS CLASSIC

FUNDRAISING TENNIS TOURNAMENT @ HOUSTON RACQUET CLUB

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023**

## LIGHTS OF COURAGE

EVENING FUNDRAISING EVENT @ HOUSTON POLO CLUB

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023**

## FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

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

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023**

## HRP GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITING CANDLELIGHTERS

WILDCAT GOLF CLUB | REGISTRATION THROUGH HRP

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

## CAMP CLIFF WEEKEND

FREE FAMILY EVENT | REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES IN AUGUST

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

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



# 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
- Meal passes to Texas Medical Center cafeterias & Uber Eats gift cards
- Grocery store gift cards
- Gas gift cards
- Funeral expense support

## 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 and 3 at Texas Children's Hospital)
- Parent Support Group Meetings (Wednesdays via Zoom - 1 for MDACC/CMH families and 1 for TCH families)
- Newsletter
- Camp CLIFF (Children Loved in Families Forever) Weekend Family Camp
- Summer Surprises Party for patients and siblings
- 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
- B.I.G. Love Cancer Care
- 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
- Ruth Cheatham Foundation
- Snowdrop Foundation
- The Simon Cancer Foundation Scholarship Program
- The Sunshine Kids Foundation
- The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
- The SAMFund for Young Adult Survivors of Cancer
- The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults
- TutorVille Foundation

### 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 Medical Appointments

- Houston Children's Charity
- Houston Ground Angels

### 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 Date!



## FUN WALK



walking alongside childhood cancer families  
**EVERY STEP OF THE WAY**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH**

**9:00 AM**

**TERRY HERSHEY PARK**

15200 Memorial Drive, Houston TX 77079

Join us as we walk a family-friendly 3-mile route in honor of childhood cancer families. Stay tuned for registration details coming soon!



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.