



AN EPIC WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN

KICKING OFF 2024 WITH OUR CAMP CLIFF FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND!

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"Children Loved In Families Forever"

Camp "CLIFF" - A Longstanding Candlelighters Tradition

After four years of reimagining and adapting our Camp CLIFF experience to navigate the challenges of the pandemic, we were thrilled to reintroduce our full family camp weekend this year! Transitioning from the bustling fall season to a crisp setting in February, Camp CLIFF brought together 55 Candlelighters families during the weekend of February 16th. And what a remarkable comeback it was!

Camp CLIFF 2024 was the perfect weekend for a Wild West getaway! With cowboy boots on and 10-gallon hats in tow, we headed west to Camp For All in Burton, Texas for another unforgettable retreat with Candlelighters families. This year, we filled the cabins with 230 campers, counselors, and volunteers, creating a vibrant and lively community, perfect for forging new friendships and rekindling old ones!

The switch in seasons allowed for a whole new group of counselors and volunteers to join us in serving our childhood cancer families for the weekend. The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Squadron 17 brought an impressive contingent of students to volunteer! Tyler Wheeler, son of Executive Director Lynn Wheeler, played a key role in recruiting fellow Aggies, and they brought incredible energy and excitement to camp. The enthusiasm and dedication of all our volunteers, both veteran and new, helped make Camp CLIFF 2024 an unforgettable experience for everyone involved!

Camp was packed with classic favorites and exciting new surprises ready to wow everyone in attendance. As campers arrived on Friday night, they were treated to dinner and a thrilling performance by the Texas A&M Aggie Wranglers Country Western Dance Team! Their twisting, twirling, and flipping across the dance floor captivated us all, and the evening reached new heights when they invited campers to join in for some two-step lessons.



Continued on Page 3

INFORMATION CENTER

CANDLELIGHTERS

CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

2024 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Jenna Jackson - President

Kris Vallee - Vice President

Alex Newton - Treasurer

Scott Newell - Secretary

Katie Stanton - Immediate Past President

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BOARD MEMBERS

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Beth Guinn, Dr. Douglas Harrison, Chris Joseph,
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Conway, Stacy Crumley, Sam Governale, Cindy Hamann,
Norma Johnson, Dave Mally, Harvey Zinn, Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER SURPRISES PARTY

Thursday, July 11th

FUN WALK

Saturday, September 7th

LIGHTS OF COURAGE

Thursday, October 24th

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 3rd

HRP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, November 20th

Parent Support Group Meetings

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY HAPPENING
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY - SEE BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS

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

IN-PERSON ON WEDNESDAYS @ 11:00 AM IN THE PEDI DOME

VIRTUAL LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH VIA VIDEO CALL

TO RSVP AND GET THE CALL LINK, PLEASE EMAIL

YUVI SIFUENTES: YSIFUENTES@CANDLE.ORG

TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER

IN-PERSON ON TUESDAYS @ 1:00 PM

IN THE WEST TOWER 7TH FLOOR FAMILY ROOM

VIRTUAL LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH VIA VIDEO CALL

TO RSVP AND GET THE CALL LINK, PLEASE EMAIL

LINDA PENA: LPENA@CANDLE.ORG

CANDLELIGHTERS STAFF

Lynn Wheeler | Executive Director | lwheeler@candle.org

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Elizabeth Haines | Senior Director of Grants | ehaines@candle.org

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12919 SOUTHWEST FWY, SUITE 100, STAFFORD, TEXAS 77477

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PARENT CONSULTANTS

CANDLELIGHTERS STAFF WHO HAVE ALL PERSONALLY
BEEN THROUGH A CHILDHOOD CANCER JOURNEY

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

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Maria Pena

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(Continued from cover) We were amazed by their talent and had an absolute blast dancing with them! After dusting off our boots, we took a quick trail ride to the equestrian arena for some good old-fashioned fun. The mini rodeo commenced with a galloping presentation of the flags, followed by a heartfelt rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner. The night continued with barrel racing, an exciting trick roper duo, and a dazzling trick horse rider, leaving the crowd in constant awe. Campers bundled up and bonded with their new cabin mates and counselors while enjoying the show, along with bottomless popcorn and cotton candy!

As the rodeo wrapped up, campers headed to an all-time favorite activity – the campfire! On a windy, chilly evening, everyone gathered close around the fire, roasting marshmallows for s'mores, singing and dancing to music, and relishing the escape from city life under the starlit sky. After everyone ventured to their cabins, parent campers enjoyed a fun-filled bingo session, winning lots of prizes and indulging in ice cream sundaes!

Saturday at Camp CLIFF was all about enjoying fun-filled camp activities. Campers had a packed schedule of fishing, canoeing, archery, a nature walk and animal meet-and-greet, rock climbing, ziplining, and creating art in the Art Barn with their 'sister' and 'brother' cabins. The weather was quite chilly, so the Dining Hall was open and ready to warm people up with an all-day hot chocolate station! Some groups eventually ventured inside Star Place to experience the indoor ropes course, play in the gym, and to get a break from the cold!

Meanwhile, just across the campgrounds, parents enjoyed a relaxing spa experience complete with chair massages, haircuts, and hairstyling, all set in the serene environment of one of the Retreat Centers. It was the perfect opportunity for parents to unwind and relax in peace while also building new friendships with fellow cancer parents. This year, we introduced some exciting new activities for the parents to enjoy! [Delaney Maberry](#), a Certified Mindset Mentor and Retreat Leader, led a vinyasa yoga class, a Yoga Nidra guided meditation session, and a calming sound bath experience for parents and the older girl campers. Additionally, thanks to [Jollie](#), each camper was generously gifted a luxurious yoga mat to enjoy yoga and meditation at home!

When parents weren't spending time relaxing and refreshing, they were invited to participate in the camp activities or join a rustic bouquet-making class. Thanks to [Brenda Maldonado](#), owner and creator at [BM Floral Botanica](#), parents learned a new skill and walked away with a gorgeous, cheerful rustic floral arrangement. These new activities added an extra layer of joy and creativity to the Camp CLIFF experience!



(Continued from Page 3) These precious moments, when campers are surrounded by others who have been through similar journeys, are where lifelong relationships are built. Saturday concluded with a deeply moving "Wish Boat Ceremony" - a tradition usually held around a campfire but was moved indoors to provide relief from the cold weather, creating a cozy, more intimate setting. During the ceremony, each cabin shared heartfelt wishes for the coming year and lit their cabin's candle, symbolizing their shared hope for the future. The inspiring wishes touched everyone deeply, bringing tears to many eyes as we eventually watched each cabin's candle flicker in the field behind the dining hall.

Just as everyone thought the ceremony was complete, campers were surprised with a breathtaking, four-minute, up-close-and-personal fireworks display. The sparkling finale left us all in awe, adding a magical end to an already unforgettable evening!



Sunday morning was a time to reflect on all the healing, hope, and newfound friendships made at camp. Campers, counselors, volunteers, and staff left the weekend feeling refreshed and renewed after such a special and meaningful time together. We are already looking forward to next year's Camp CLIFF weekend...

Save The Date for Friday, February 14 - Sunday, February 16, 2025!

UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS FROM CAMP CLIFF 2024!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 CAMP CLIFF SPONSORS



• THANK YOU SPONSORS •

The Cockrell Family Fund



GEODIS

LOVE.

Tito's

The Guinn Family

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IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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**CAMP
CLIFF**
2024
*A Wild
West
Weekend*

Arch Capital Group
Camp CLIFF Counselors
Stephanie Deverka
Sylvia Kase
Amy & Peter Kvapil

Donna & Jack Molho
Cynthia Priebe
Kelly Siler
Texas A&M University
Corps of Cadets
Squadron 17

HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE
FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER



KICKING SOME OF CANCER'S CHALLENGES

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO HOUSTON TEXANS PLACEKICKER KA'IMI FAIRBAIRN



Throughout the 2023-2024 season, Texans Placekicker #15, Ka'imi Fairbairn, generously sent over 48 Candlelighters families to Houston Texans home games! Through his support and the Houston Texans Community Huddle Ticketing Program, these childhood cancer families received game tickets, parking passes, and food vouchers, providing a cost-free opportunity to enjoy some family time. Some even had the special chance to meet Ka'imi on the field during warmups!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for Ka'imi's incredible generosity. His kindness has given these families unforgettable experiences and moments of joy, providing a much-needed break from the daily challenges of facing cancer. By sharing the excitement of NFL games, he has given families the priceless gifts of hope, unity, and cherished memories. Ka'imi, thank you for being a true champion for childhood cancer families and making a lasting impact on their lives.

One Candlelighters family recently wrote to Ka'imi about their experience at one of the games last season:

"I knew that [my son] attempted to express how that experience of getting to just be a kid cheering for the local team was more valuable to him than just going to a game and spending some time with Dad. That this all was, in some small way, working towards healing the emotional scars left behind from cancer this past year. So, on behalf of our whole family, I thank you deeply for allowing us to have this experience!"

Families at our annual Family Fall Festival helped us create some custom cleats to gift to Ka'imi at the end of the season! While he won't ever get the chance to wear them on the field, we hope they will serve as a reminder of how much we appreciate him and how he now has a special place in all of our hearts! We are looking forward to another season cheering on the Texans and cannot wait for Ka'imi to meet more of our Candlelighters families soon!

GIFTING HOLIDAY JOY THROUGH ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Every year, we eagerly anticipate the holiday season, bringing joy to Candlelighters families through our heartwarming Adopt-A-Family gift-giving program. This cherished initiative supports not only the childhood cancer patient but also their siblings and parents. At Candlelighters, we believe that when a child is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family needs our unwavering care and support, especially during high-stress times like the holidays.

Our incredible Adopt-A-Family Sponsors provide more than just gifts – they offer hope and compassion during a season that can be incredibly challenging. These sponsors connect with families to understand their unique journeys, fulfilling specific Wish Lists, and delivering wrapped presents with the excitement of meeting the families in person. Often, this connection extends beyond gifts, including shared meals and encouraging messages that lift spirits and create lasting bonds. Parents have expressed profound gratitude, highlighting that without this program, their children might not receive holiday gifts. For many families grappling with high medical bills and overwhelming stress, this program is a beacon of joy and provides tangible, impactful support. By serving the entire family, especially parents who often put themselves last, our sponsors make a significant and inspiring impact on their lives.

2023 Adopt-A-Family Impact

NUMBER OF CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES ADOPTED: 291
 NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED & WISH LISTS FULFILLED: 1,325
 RECORD-BREAKING TOY & GIFT CARD DRIVES: OVER \$15,000 GIFTED

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 who sponsored families and donated towards these efforts, THANK YOU! Seeing the joyful gift deliveries is a reminder that giving is so much more special than receiving.



SMILING ALL THE WAY WITH ADOPT-A-FAMILY



CARNIVAL THRILLS AND BARBEQUE SKILLS

20TH ANNUAL EVENT CELEBRATING FAMILY FUN AND HONORING A LEGACY

On February 24, 2024, Candlelighters kicked off rodeo season with some family fun! Donned in cowboy hats and their finest western attire, families enjoyed a delightful day at the [Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Bar-B-Que Cook-Off](#) with the [Planet Texas Cook-off Team](#)!

In December, we were deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend and supporter, [Ray Carter](#). Ray was a champion for our childhood cancer families and brought immense joy by hosting the annual Rodeo Cook-off Family Event for us year after year. His dedication and empathy were touching, and his presence was greatly missed at this year's gathering. As we recognized his wife, Kay, and his children, Alicia, Kathy and Robert, we took a moment to applaud Ray's remarkable legacy as his giving spirit lived on through this special event. Thank you to the Carter Family for being part of this special day.

Each year, Candlelighters families are treated to a private bus ride with VIP admission, thanks to the [Rodeo Express Committee](#). This year, over 280 Candlelighters family members received a warm welcome, greeted by cheering volunteers and neighboring tents! Upon arrival, there was live music performed by [The Trips](#), face painting, and balloon twisting for the kids provided by [Cheerful Clown Alley](#), two-stepping, and delicious food! Jim Petree and his grill masters with the Planet Texas Cook-off Team served a mouth-watering bar-b-que lunch for all of our families, topped off with sweet tea and cupcakes!



Candlelighters Board Member [Jay Beasley](#), along with [Joanne Crouch](#), organized this year's event with Planet Texas team leaders [Marty Wells](#) and [Jim Petree](#). Over 70 other Planet Texas team members and volunteers dedicated hours of work to ensure our families had an unforgettable day. After a big group photo in front of the larger-than-life Alamo backdrop, our generous hosts gifted over 150 children in attendance a Carnival Pack, allowing them to enjoy the rides, games, and tasty fried foods at the carnival. This donation alone was valued at \$24,396 this year! Families enjoyed hours of endless fun, creating memories that will last a lifetime with their family and Candlelighters friends!

In addition to all the wonderful efforts by the Planet Texas Cook-off Team to make this a memorable day for our Candlelighters families, they also raise funds in memory of their team member Jeff Primm, which helps fund the Candlelighters family camp, Camp CLIFF. This year also included donations in honor of Ray Carter. Together, they raised over \$4,350 for Candlelighters programs and family events! Thank you to everyone who made this special day happen!

19TH ANNUAL RODEO COOK-OFF WITH PLANET TEXAS



WELCOMING EXXON MOBIL INTERN

SUMMER INTERN, MAYA NEWELL, SHINES WITH CANDLELIGHTERS

We are thrilled to introduce Maya Newell, this year's Candlelighters Summer Intern! Maya is a proud graduate of Dawson High School in Pearland and will soon enter her junior year at Texas A&M University this fall. Thanks to the Exxon Mobil's Community Summer Jobs Program, Maya joins the team to delve into the nonprofit sector and witness firsthand the profound impact Candlelighters has on the local childhood cancer community.

In addition to her passion for nonprofit work, Maya fills her free time with diverse interests such as traveling, baking, babysitting, and cherishing moments with loved ones. Recently, she developed an interest in Mahjong, enjoying both playing and teaching others about the game. And if you're thinking Maya may look familiar, you'd be correct! She is no stranger to Candlelighters! Maya has been an active volunteer with various Candlelighters programs and events in the past; her most recent volunteer role had her serving as a camp counselor in the littlest girls cabin during our Camp CLIFF Family Camp weekend!

Reflecting on her journey, Maya shared, "I've been involved with Candlelighters for years, so when the opportunity arose, it felt like the perfect fit!" We are delighted to welcome Maya and look forward to a rewarding time with her help.



SMILES FOR LIFE EFFORTS BENEFIT CANDLELIGHTERS

LOCAL DENTAL OFFICES BRIGHTEN SMILES AND RAISE FUNDS FOR CANCER FAMILIES

From March 1st to June 30th, Montz & Maher Dental Group proudly hosted their annual Smiles For Life fundraising effort, where every whitening treatment that was purchased contributed 100% of its proceeds to charity!

We are delighted to announce that Candlelighters was once again selected as their local charity partner. With whitening treatments starting at \$200, and dedicated appointments available just for these whitening services, both new and existing patients were warmly welcomed to participate in this meaningful initiative.

In 2023, Montz & Maher Dental Group raised an impressive \$11,000 to support childhood cancer families right here in Houston. We eagerly anticipate the results of this year's fundraiser and know it will have a positive impact on our community and childhood cancer families!



Thank you to our friends at Montz & Maher Dental Group!

Visit their locations in Pearland & Friendswood!

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 4 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

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



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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 will be able to expand the Thanksgiving Blessings program this year!



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!

CHEERS TO SUCCESS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 16TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE OFF!

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP PLANS ANOTHER SOLD-OUT CROWD-PLEASER

The 16th Annual Margarita Taste Off, held on Saturday, April 6th, was another fundraising event for the books! Tickets sold out days before, with an estimated 900 attendees showing up to support Candlelighters in a big way, and impressively raising over \$122,000! Seventeen local Houston area restaurants participated in the fun, showcasing their specialty margarita recipes and delicious bites. Each establishment brought charm and hospitality while donating their time and resources, vying for highly coveted awards and bragging rights.

In addition to the margaritas, all made with Don Julio tequila, guests enjoyed beer and wine tastings from Austin Eastciders, No Label Brewing Company, Shiner Beers, and Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits. When not indulging in the food and drinks, attendees explored unique auction items, entered a raffle for a diamond tennis bracelet donated by Diamonds Direct Houston, tried their luck at the wine pull, and danced to DJ Big John's beats.

With custom tasting trays provided by Ascend Cares Foundation, a beautiful backdrop from Party Jess Productions, and a photo station by FotoPop, navigating and enjoying the event was seamless. The Kirby Ice House - Memorial location was once again a huge hit, featuring a turf lawn, big screen TVs, shaded areas, and exceptional staff, contributing to the event's immense success!



We extend our deepest gratitude to all the participating restaurants, in-kind donors, sponsors, and enthusiastic attendees who made this year's event unforgettable! A special shoutout goes to the Candlelighters Young Professionals Group for their stellar planning and organization, and to our fantastic volunteers for ensuring everything ran smoothly. With this incredible momentum, we're excitedly gearing up for the 17th Annual Margarita Taste Off next year. Mark your calendars and save the date for Saturday, April 12, 2025!

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

AMBRIZA SOCIAL MEXICAN KITCHEN CAPTURES THE CROWD'S TASTE BUDS ONCE AGAIN!

Event attendees had a blast visiting 17 restaurant booths, sampling a variety of unique margaritas and appetizers, and casting their votes for the favorites of the day. Don Julio generously provided their signature tequila to all participating restaurants, ensuring a smooth and high-quality "equalizer" for each margarita concoction. The competition this year was intense, with lots of delicious and unique recipes and restaurants pulling out all the stops to win the coveted People's Choice Best Margarita title; some restaurants even offered two different options to appeal to the diverse crowd! This year's offerings included margaritas with classic tajin rims, exotic fruit garnishes, vibrant colors, and an array of spicy concoctions.

Congratulations to [Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen](#) for taking home the top prize! A huge thank you to all our participating restaurants – your creativity and effort made this event a spectacular success!

2024 Restaurant Awards

1st Place Winner - [Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen](#)

2nd Place - [Chuy's Tex-Mex](#)

3rd Place - [Juarez Mexican Restaurant](#)

4th Place - [Cilantro's Cocina](#)

5th Place - [The Tuck Room](#)

Top Ten - [The Original Ninfa's](#), [Daily Gather](#), [El Tiempo Cantina](#),
[Eight Row Flint](#), and [Hando](#)

Best Booth Décor - [Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen](#)

Best Overall Theme - [Dish Society](#)

Most Festive Bartenders - [The Original Ninfa's](#)

Friendliest Bartenders - [Pinkerton's Barbecue](#)

Most Spirited Award - [State Fare Kitchen & Bar](#)

Hot Tamale Award - [Dish Society](#)

Best Appetizer Presentation - [Daily Gather](#)

Best Cold Appetizer - [Harold's / Low Tide](#)

Best Hot Appetizer - [Chuy's Tex-Mex](#)

Best Margarita Presentation - [Cilantro's Cocina](#)

Most Unique Margarita Garnish - [Guard and Grace](#)

Most Refreshing Margarita - [Texas Tamale Company](#)

Most Unforgettable Margarita - [Cilantro's Cocina](#)

Most Buzzworthy - [Eight Row Flint](#)

Best Use of Fresh Ingredients - [The Tuck Room](#)

Most Exotic Margarita Flavor - [State Fare Kitchen & Bar](#)

Smoothest Margarita - [Federal American Grill](#)

Most Unique Margarita - [Guard and Grace](#)

Best Traditional Margarita - [Federal American Grill](#)

Best NEW Restaurant Margarita - [The Original Ninfa's](#)

Best NEW Restaurant Appetizer - [Pinkerton's Barbecue](#)

Community Award - [Federal American Grill](#)

Don Julio Choices - [Cilantro's Cocina](#) and [The Original Ninfa's](#)



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





THANK YOU SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



Ryan & Emily
Kelting

Aron & Alex
Will

GOLD SPONSORS



Ken & Sandy
Kantor

The O'Leary
Family



SILVER SPONSORS



PREMIER PROPERTIES

BRACEWELL

Beth
Guinn



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Ngep

Tommy & Nancy
Poynter



BRONZE SPONSORS

Angelina Keck Properties | Kim Benoit | Computrode, LLC | Elysium Recruiting | Seth Gammon
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Mary Rocha | Rocket Mortgage - Vaughan Team | Shiner Beers | The Tarpinian Family
Tibby's Tidbits | Yadira Torres @shewillsay | Richard & Irene Wang | West U Smiles

A STELLAR NIGHT WITH THE SPACE COWBOYS

AN SWEET OUTING IN SUGAR LAND FOR CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES

In a heartwarming collaboration, the Astros' Triple-A Affiliate team and longtime Candlelighters sponsor [Constellation Energy](#) treated childhood cancer families to an unforgettable night at the ballpark! The [Sugar Land Space Cowboys](#) generously donated 375 tickets to their April 19th home game against the Round Rock Express, in addition to providing parking passes, concession and gift shop credits, and access to the shady picnic area in left field for all families in attendance.

The beautiful spring evening saw families enjoying everything Constellation Field has to offer. Early arrivals received a fun JP France Mustache Bobblehead! Candlelighters staff and volunteers from the Ascend Cares Foundation warmly greeted families and handed out new special Candlelighters t-shirts. Families indulged in classic ballpark treats like hotdogs, pretzels, peanuts, and Cracker Jacks, while kids delighted in the space-themed playground and splash pad.

Throughout the game, photos of Candlelighters warriors were displayed on the Texas-shaped big screen. The announcer shared childhood cancer awareness statistics and information about Candlelighters' services. Candlelighters families were honored in the pre-game ceremonies, with patients and siblings running onto the field with players as the National Anthem played. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia survivor [Ethan Perez Gonzalez](#) threw the ceremonial first pitch, and Candlelighters sibling [Brooklyn Caserma](#) declared, "Play Ball!" Both quickly became friends with the Space Cowboys' cosmic canine mascot, Orion.



During the 6th inning, the [Rea Family](#) enjoyed a behind-the-scenes press box tour and announced the Space Cowboys players as they came to bat. Long-term leukemia survivor [Andrew Mathis](#) won a fantastic Goya gift basket, and sibling [Giovanni Nemoto](#) played an exciting Mystery Box game where the whole stadium cheered him on to choose the box! The night concluded with a spectacular up-close-and-personal 'Friday Fireworks' display.

We are immensely grateful to Constellation Energy, the Sugar Land Space Cowboys, and the Houston Astros for their unwavering support. Their generosity enables us to provide these priceless experiences to childhood cancer families at no cost. The memories made at these events are truly precious to every family who attends! This season, game-worn jerseys from three different games will also be auctioned off to benefit Candlelighters! Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/candlelighters for auction dates, themes, and bidding opportunities.

SWEET MEMORIES WITH THE SUGAR LAND SPACE COWBOYS





YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN ENERGY CRAWFISH BOIL BENEFITS CANDLELIGHTERS

This April, Candlelighters had the privilege of partnering with the [Young Professionals in Energy](#) group in Houston for their annual crawfish boil and concert event. Together, the event brought in an impressive \$40,000, a portion of which will be donated to benefit Candlelighters programs and services and showcasing the community's dedication to supporting local childhood cancer families!

On Friday, April 26th, attendees gathered at [Goode Company Armadillo Palace](#) for a memorable evening filled with crawfish, good company, cold beer, and live music by [The Damn Quails](#). Guests joined us to learn about Candlelighters' impact in the community while also enjoying the spring kick-off festivities.

Special thanks to the Young Professionals in Energy group for their dedication and planning, as well as our sponsors and the Goode Company Armadillo Palace staff for their support in making this event a success!



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN ENERGY



PAUL
HASTINGS



Carnelian
Energy Capital

Spitzer
INDUSTRIES

whitleypenn

Delta Compression
& Equipment

Patrick &
Reilly Elder

Matt & Amy
Gelotti

Stephen &
Julianna Morgan

THANK YOU 2024 CANDLELIGHTERS CARES SPONSORS!

MONTHLY TREATS FOR HOSPITAL PARTNERS TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION

JANUARY



Candlelighters

FEBRUARY



Bernstein
Realty

MARCH



Candlelighters

APRIL



HRP

MAY

*Board Members
Jenna Jackson
& Kris Vallee*

JUNE



Origin Bank

JULY



Memorial

AUGUST



WFG

SEPTEMBER



FIRST
HORIZON

OCTOBER



AN AMALIAH

NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

NEED A
SPONSOR!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CANDLELIGHTERS CARES AND BECOMING A SPONSOR,
PLEASE CONTACT PROGRAM DIRECTOR CARLY BRADSHAW AT CBRADSHAW@CANDLE.ORG.



Candlelighters
CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE



2024 FUN WALK | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

TAKING 5,202 STEPS TO HONOR & SUPPORT CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILIES



FUN WALK

walking alongside childhood cancer families
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Saturday, September 7

8 AM CHECK-IN

9 AM WALK START

TERRY HERSHEY PARK

Come have some fun and WALK WITH US at TERRY HERSHEY PARK on Saturday, September 7th this year! Participating in this year's Fun Walk means you are raising vital awareness and funds for childhood cancer families during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month!

- Register here to participate in the Fun Walk for FREE: <https://2024funwalk.funraise.org/>
- Take the pledge to Walk 5,202 Steps on Walk Day (about 2.5 miles) - **one step for each of our registered Candlelighters Families!**
- Help by sharing the Candlelighters mission AND fundraising efforts via social media and emails to friends, family, and colleagues!

Our goal is to raise \$260,000 this year and **we can't do it without YOU!** Funds raised will go toward daily support, programs, and services for childhood cancer families. **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!

PARTNER WITH US: AVAILABLE EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Presenting Sponsor: \$20,000

- Industry Exclusivity
- Recognition on all materials
- Dedicated Sidewalk Sign at Fun Walk
- Invitation to present at Awards Ceremony

Start/Finish Line Sponsor: \$10,000

- Recognition on all materials
- Dedicated Sidewalk Sign at Fun Walk
- Invitation to be a part of the Walk Start Countdown

Signature Sponsor: \$7,500

- Choose to be the exclusive sponsor of one of the following: KIDS AREA, BUBBLE CEREMONY, RAFFLE TENT, FOOD TENT
- Dedicated Sidewalk Sign at Fun Walk

Family Team Sponsor: \$5,000

- Recognition on all materials
- Dedicated Sidewalk Sign at the Awards Pavilion
- Invitation to be a part of the Family Team Awards and provide a prize for the top Family Teams

Rest Stop Sponsor: \$3,500

- Exclusive sponsor of one of three REST STOPS
- Dedicated Signage at Fun Walk
- Invitation to provide water or cool treat for your REST STOP as well as volunteers

Gold Sponsor: \$2,000

- Recognition on materials
- Invitation to have a sponsor table at the Fun Walk

Silver Sponsor: \$1,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [HTTPS://2024FUNWALK.FUNRAISE.ORG/](https://2024funwalk.funraise.org/)

WALK WITH CANCER FAMILIES AT THE FUN WALK!



WHY WALK?

Calling all Candlelighters Families, Corporate Supporters, Student Groups, and Community Members! Candlelighters Fun Walk raises funds and awareness for children with cancer and is a powerful way for community members to come together and make a tangible impact on the lives of these brave young fighters. By joining the fun, you not only contribute to critical funding for support services, but you also help to spread awareness about the challenges these families face daily. Your involvement demonstrates solidarity, showing these children and their families that they are not alone in their battle. Every step you take, and every dollar raised, brings hope and strength to those who need it most. Together, we can create a community of support, compassion, and resilience, making a real difference in the fight against childhood cancer.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Register online for FREE at <https://2024funwalk.funraise.org/>. Start a Team, Join a Team, or Walk as an Individual. **Pro Tip:** the more people who join your Team and share their fundraising pages, the more funds and awareness we'll raise for childhood cancer!
2. Once registered, utilize your Fundraising Page to:
 - a. **Personalize Your Page** - so your friends and family know WHY you're walking and WHAT their donation will go towards
 - b. **Connect To Facebook** - at the top of your Fundraising Page, click "Settings" and then "Connections" and look for the "Create Facebook Fundraiser" button - this enables the Fun Walk site and Facebook to link, making it easier to receive donations from Facebook friends! *Facebook now collects donations through PayPal and is 100% safe to utilize.
 - c. **Share with Friends and Family** - don't use Facebook? No worries! Easily share your Fundraiser Page by email and text.

WALK DAY DETAILS

Saturday, September 7, 2024

Terry Hershey Park

15200 Memorial Drive, Houston TX 77079
Memorial Drive at South Mayde Creek Drive

Check-In & Registration opens at 8 am

Opening Ceremonies at 8:45 am

Walk Starts at 9 am

- 3 mile Walk/Run (wheelchair and stroller friendly)
- FREE
 - Registration
 - Parking
 - Kids Activities
 - DJ
 - Food Tent
 - Giveaways
- Event Day & Online Raffle information coming soon!

Walk Teams that raise at least \$100 by August 1st will receive a FREE "WHY I WALK" sign to be picked up on Walk Day.

Each participant who raises at least \$100 by Walk Day will receive an event T-Shirt to be picked up on Walk Day.

More incentives coming soon!

WALK ALONGSIDE CANCER FAMILIES: [HTTPS://2024FUNWALK.FUNRAISE.ORG/](https://2024funwalk.funraise.org/)

Lights of Courage

JOIN US FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL EVENING HONORING CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILIES

<https://us.givergy.com/LightsofCourage2024>

We invite you to join us at this year's **Lights of Courage** event where we celebrate children with cancer and their families. This exceptional event honors four Candlelighters families who have been a beacon of hope within the childhood cancer community in Houston. This year's honorees are:

On-Treatment Honoree: Mya Guerra
Childhood Cancer Survivor Honoree: Megan Spies
Sibling Honorees: The Badillo Twins
In Loving Memory Honoree: Vinny Robbins

Along with **Event Chairs: Beth & Stephen Guinn, Jenna Jackson & Brendan Gilbert, Kris & James Vallee, and Alison & Randall Wilhite**, we are looking forward to hosting our guests, sponsors, and honorees at our NEW venue, **The Goodman** in October! In partnership with **Masraff's**, this gorgeous venue provides a beautiful space to come together and 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, Maker's Mark Whiskey, and Don Cosme Tequila**, a raffle, Live Auction, games, and more!

The shining feature of the night will be honoring our 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 for you to hear, and see, their inspiring stories!

Reserve Your Table Today!

Lights of Courage

BENEFITING
CANDLELIGHTERS
Childhood Cancer Family Alliance

OCTOBER 24, 2024 | THE GOODMAN

EVENT CHAIRS:
Beth & Stephen Guinn
Jenna Jackson & Brendan Gilbert
Kris & James Vallee
Alison & Randall Wilhite

MEET OUR PARENT CONSULTANTS!

We know appointment days are chaotic, and many families are still connecting with our Parent Consultants via email and phone, so here are the faces to be on the lookout for when you're visiting the hospital! 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 HAVE WALKED THIS SAME ROAD

They stood by their children as they fought childhood cancer, and now they are here to stand with you.

They provide daily emotional, educational, & 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 Support Group Meetings
- Hospital Meal Passes and Meal Delivery Assistance for Caregivers
- 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

lpena@candle.org

¡Se habla Español!



OPAL GOODMAN

ogoodman@candle.org



MARIA PEÑA

mpeña@candle.org

¡Se habla Español!

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



YUVI SIFUENTES

ysifuentes@candle.org

¡Se habla Español!

SAVE THE DATES!

SUMMER SURPRISES PARTY

FREE FAMILY EVENT | FAMILIES MUST RSVP!

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024

2024 FUN WALK

TERRY HERSHEY PARK | FREE REGISTRATION!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

SPONSORS & COMMUNITY GROUPS BUY GIFTS FOR CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES

ACCEPTING FAMILY & SPONSOR APPLICATIONS IN AUGUST

LIGHTS OF COURAGE

EVENING FUNDRAISING EVENT @ THE GOODMAN | NEW LOCATION!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

HRP GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITING CANDLELIGHTERS

WILDCAT GOLF CLUB | REGISTRATION THROUGH HRP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

CAMP CLIFF WEEKEND

FREE FAMILY EVENT | REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES IN AUGUST

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

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

www.facebook.com/candlelighters

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 (1 staff member at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Children's Memorial Hermann and 3 at Texas Children's Hospital)
- Parent Support Group Meetings (Virtual & In-Person options - 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
- Family Fall 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



Walk with Us!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

EVENT OPENS AT 8 AM

TERRY HERSHEY PARK

15200 Memorial Drive, Houston TX 77079

Join us as we walk a family-friendly 3-mile route raising funds and awareness for childhood cancer families.

<https://2024funwalk.funraise.org/>



Candlelighters Houston



www.candle.org



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

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

Candlelighters began in 1989 with two parent support groups from the Texas Medical Center: one at Texas Children's Cancer Center and one at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. The parent group at Texas Children's Cancer Center sought formal incorporation, and in 1993 Candlelighters was legally formed. In the fall of 1993, they invited the parent group from the MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital to join them and the two organizations merged into one. The Parent Consultant Program was developed to directly meet the needs of families at the treatment centers and to inform them of potential resources. Our programs and services extend beyond the hospital walls with our Family Camp, Adopt-A-Family, Fall Festival, Candlelighters Newsletter, and other special events. Over the years, we have learned how critically valuable it is for our Parent Consultants to be able to directly impact families through emotional support, parking assistance, meal passes, gas cards, and more. It is our greatest honor and privilege to bring this type of comfort and hope to childhood cancer families.