



CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HONORING CHILDHOOD CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

FEATURING

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Save The Dates

Smiles at Summer Surprises!

A Day Of Fun, Laughter, And Connection For Cancer Families

After Hurricane Beryl dampened our original plans for early July, we were not going to end the summer without our hallmark Summer Surprises Party! Rescheduled for a few weeks later, we brought the sunshine back with a shindig in the [Branches building of St. Luke's United Methodist Church](#) in late July. The energy was contagious as Parent Consultants and Candlelighters staff eagerly welcomed families, setting the stage for a day filled with laughter, bonding, and pure enjoyment!



As families strolled through the festive, balloon-filled entrance, they were greeted by a lively [Sugar Land Space Cowboys](#) booth with tons of great giveaways, ushering everyone straight into an energetic celebration! DJ [Cara](#) with [Dreamland Entertainment](#) kept the vibe alive with all the season's hottest tracks while hosting exciting minute-to-win-it and karaoke games. Kids lined up for transformative face painting by [Bramble Bunny Events and Entertainment](#) after mingling with the likes of Spiderman, Moana, and Ariel! Families also had the chance to get creative at various craft tables, making unique, bespoke fabric and beaded bracelets, decorating and bedazzling summer seashells, or trying their hand at origami with [Pearland's Colors of Compassion](#) group!

Another highlight of the day was the opportunity to design and paint a custom tile for a special Candlelighters project, set to be unveiled at our upcoming [Lights of Courage](#) event! Eventgoers will have the unique opportunity to bid on a custom bench featuring this year's tile artwork!

Friends of Candlelighters, [Ascend Performance Materials](#), brought engaging STEM activity boxes, guiding attendees as they built wooden motorized helicopters, fans, and cars! Special thanks to [FotoPop](#), who graciously donated their photobooth services so everyone could capture their joyful memories from the day! [Wally's Balloons N'More](#) brought their creativity to the party with their intricate balloon twisting, adding yet another layer of fun to the day!

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

Lisa O'Leary - Advisory Board Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

Jay Beasley, Brad Chin, Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer,
Beth Guinn, Dr. Douglas Harrison, Chris Joseph,
George Malek, Kenny Matula, Jeff McNamara,
Ben Pisklak, Cynthia Ditta Priebe, Joellen Snow,
Barbara Steen, Aron Will, Tiffany Wong

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Helmreich & Linda Evans

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Berard, Sally Bosse, Michael Conway, Norma
Johnson, Dave Mally, Harvey Zinn, Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FUN WALK

Saturday, September 7th

LIGHTS OF COURAGE

Thursday, October 24th

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

October through December

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 TUESDAYS @ 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

Kelsey Tarpinian | Associate Director | kelseytc@candle.org

Carly Bradshaw | Programs & Communications Director | cbradshaw@candle.org

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

Hannah Belk | Special Events Manager | hbelk@candle.org

Sydney Williams | Office Manager | swilliams@candle.org

12919 SOUTHWEST FWY, SUITE 100, STAFFORD, TEXAS 77477
OFFICE: (713) 270-4700 | FAX: (713) 270-9802

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

Yuvi Sifuentes

ysifuentes@candle.org

Samantha Pena

spena@candle.org

TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER

Linda Pena

lpena@candle.org

Opal Goodman

ogoodman@candle.org

Maria Pena

mpena@candle.org

(Continued from cover) The party was also packed with generous giveaways! Families left with custom Candlelighters blankets (thanks to dedicated volunteers with Southwest Airlines), Candlelighters swag, and each child teamed up with a volunteer from [Adam's Angels Ministries](#) to pick out their favorite toys from a bountiful selection, thanks to the many generous toy drives held citywide in 2023!

The amazing team from [Kendra Scott](#) also brought their [Kendra Cares Mobile Color Bar](#), offering all childhood cancer patients and siblings in attendance the chance to design custom jewelry pieces with their favorite color gemstones! Everyone was ecstatic to show off their custom Kendra Scott bling! As the event wrapped up, families visited our friends with [Oler Relocation](#) to pick up their Chick-fil-A lunches and a cookie kit filled with sprinkles and icing, perfect for a fun activity at home to continue the good times of the day.

We were honored to continue our mission of supporting cancer families with this exciting event. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our incredible sponsors, volunteers, and vendors who made the day so special. A special shout-out to our host, [St. Luke's United Methodist Church](#), and the [Branches](#) team, along with our presenting sponsors [Adam's Angels Ministries](#), [GEODIS](#), and [OlerRelo](#)! We are also grateful to our in-kind sponsors, Ascend Performance Materials, Colors of Compassion, Dreamland Entertainment, Fairest of All Parties, FotoPop Photo Booth and Photography, Houston Hero Headquarters, Kendra Scott, and Wally's Balloons N'More. And a huge thank you to all the volunteers from Adam's Angels, Ascend Performance Materials, Christina Kratky, Christine Geistkemper, Colors of Compassion, Gandy Ink, GEODIS, Holly Holmes, Jodi Vasquez, Kendra Scott, Logan Giannoni, Mary Schuler, National Charity League Brightstar Chapter, National Charity League Memorial Chapter, OlerRelo, St. Luke's United Methodist Senior Outreach Group, The Malek Family, and The Wong Family. Your efforts helped us create a day of joy and escape for our childhood cancer families. Without our sponsors and volunteers, these events would not be possible. We hope this treasured event filled everyone's last bit of summer with excitement and joy!



SUMMER SURPRISES PARTY 2024!



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THANK YOU SPONSORS



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



Be Aware & Know the Facts:

1. Candlelighters supports 5,279 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. \$19 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 & Instagram!
17. Host a Facebook Fundraiser in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
<https://www.facebook.com/fund/candlelighters/>
18. Wear GOLD at your school!
19. Subscribe to our Newsletter
20. Join us at the FUN WALK on Saturday, September 7th at Terry Hershey Park!
21. FUN WALK RAFFLE - Visit link:
go.rallyup.com/24fw-raffle
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 24th
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
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!

CANDLELIGHTERS WELCOMES SAMANTHA PENA

Candlelighters Big Sister Returns as Parent Consultant & Sibling Advocate



We are thrilled to welcome [Samantha Pena](#) as the newest member of the Candlelighters team! Samantha joins us as a [Parent Consultant & Sibling Advocate](#), supporting families at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. Her journey with Candlelighters comes full circle, embodying the essence of our mission.

Samantha first connected with Candlelighters over twenty years ago when her sister, Faith Suarez, was undergoing cancer treatment. During this challenging time, Candlelighters provided Samantha's family with the resources, compassion, and community they needed to navigate their journey. The impact of their Parent Consultant, Carol Benefield, left a profound mark on Samantha, fostering a lifelong bond with our organization.

As Samantha built a career in Human Resources within the Biotechnology sector, focusing on Cancer Research, her dedication to the Candlelighters mission never wavered. She found ways to stay involved, notably volunteering as a Camp CLIFF Counselor and participating in numerous events to support our cause.

Now, we are honored to have Samantha on board as she continues her commitment to helping families facing childhood cancer. With her personal experience and deep understanding of our mission, she is excited to connect with Candlelighters families on an even deeper level, offering the same support that once made such a difference in her own life!

TEAM REJOYCE'S WEEKEND OF HOPE A SUCCESS!

Stevenson Family Hosts Washer Tournament to Raise Funds for Candlelighters

[Team Rejoyce](#) was formed by the Stevenson Family to honor those who have lost their lives to cancer, are battling cancer, and are survivors. After losing their mother, Joyce, to a hard-fought battle with cancer, they decided it was time to "fight back." [Weekend of Hope](#) started as a small fundraiser and has turned in to a 2-day, community-wide annual event in their hometown of Moulton, Texas.

The festivities started on Friday, May 3rd at [Pavlas Tavern](#) with a crowd enjoying live music. The following day, everyone gathered at the Moulton Park Pavilion for the weekend's hallmark 3-Hole Washer Tournament, 50/50 Raffle, Silent Auction, live music, dancing, and a delicious complimentary lunch.

Longtime supporters, friends, and droves of extended family members enjoyed the sunshine, competitive washer games, laughter, music, and children running around and playing. The community in Moulton and those surrounding the Stevenson family continues to blow everyone away with their commitment to supporting Team Rejoyce and Candlelighters again this year!

In total, Team Rejoyce's 2024 Weekend of Hope raised [\\$20,000](#) to support the Candlelighters mission! Joyce's legacy lives on through every Candlelighters family member served through these donations.



STRIKING A BALANCE: A SPECIAL NIGHT OUT!

Rolling Into Fun And Connection: Celebrating Our Amazing Caregivers with a Memorable Bowling Night

At Candlelighters, we understand that when a child is diagnosed with cancer, the journey affects the entire family. The role of caregivers, especially parents, is both vital and can be incredibly demanding. Recognizing this, our dedicated Parent Consultants went above and beyond this year to plan a memorable evening that honored and celebrated these remarkable individuals!

In a heartwarming gesture of appreciation, our Parent Consultant team organized a joint Mother's Day and Father's Day Date Night for Candlelighters parents. This special event provided an opportunity for parents to enjoy a night out bowling, a much-needed break filled with fun, laughter, and connection with other families who understand the unique challenges of caring for a child with cancer.

The evening was a resounding success, offering a blend of relaxation and camaraderie. As parents mingled and enjoyed their time together, they found comfort in the shared experiences and the understanding that they are not alone on this journey.

To add an extra touch of joy, we were thrilled to surprise every mom with a beautiful piece of jewelry, generously donated by [Kendra Scott](#). We didn't forget the dads as each received a gift card to Academy, giving them the chance to splurge on themselves - a rare treat for those focused on the needs of others.

We are immensely grateful to our donors, whose generosity makes these uplifting outings and memory-making opportunities possible. Your support enables us to bring joy and connection to families navigating the challenges of childhood cancer. A special shoutout goes to Opal, Linda, Maria, and Yuvi, our incredible Parent Consultants, who poured their hearts into planning such a wonderful evening. Your dedication and creativity truly made this night one to remember. Thank you for all that you do!



AN EVENING OF RALLYING FOR FAMILIES

Candlelighters Pickleball Classic Raises \$16,000 To Further Our Mission

On Thursday, May 30th, The [Houston Racquet Club](#) hosted the Candlelighters Pickleball Classic and it was truly an evening to remember! The event brought together a lively mix of seasoned pros and enthusiastic newcomers, all united by a common goal: to support childhood cancer families in Houston.

The evening kicked off with teams eager to hit the courts, and from the very first serve, it was clear that this was going to be an evening full of excitement. The atmosphere was buzzing with positivity and community spirit. Spectators cheered from the sidelines, encouraging players as they rallied, served, and smashed their way through each match. But the tournament wasn't just about the game – it was about coming together for a cause close to all our hearts. Everyone was reminded of that when hearing our testimonial speaker, [Ebony London](#), share about their family's journey through childhood cancer with her son, [RJ](#). Their powerful story highlighted the resilience, hope, and strength that Candlelighters strives to foster in every family we support.

Following this, players and spectators were treated to a delicious spread of tacos and margaritas, followed by a thrilling exhibition match showcasing the skills of professional pickleball players, adding an extra layer of excitement to the evening.

We are ecstatic to announce that, thanks to the generosity of our participants and supporters, the Pickleball Classic raised \$16,000! These funds align with Candlelighters mission and will directly impact the lives of children with cancer and their families. Thank you to every player, team, sponsor, and volunteer who made this event a success! Special thanks to the Houston Racquet Club for hosting us at their beautiful facility and to [Beth Guinn](#), [Jenna Jackson](#), and [Kris Vallee](#) for chairing this fun event.



RINGING IN TRIUMPH & HONORING MILESTONES

Party Kits To Help Families Celebrate End-of-Treatment Victories

Childhood cancer is a journey that demands incredible strength, resilience, and the unwavering support of loved ones and the wider community. For families navigating the challenges of pediatric cancer, each step forward is a victory, and few milestones are as momentous as the end of treatment. The sound of a bell ringing symbolizes a powerful moment of triumph, marking the end of a challenging chapter and the start of a hopeful new beginning.

At Candlelighters, we have always been dedicated to standing by these courageous families, guiding them through the complex path of childhood cancer. During the pandemic, we learned that the traditional bell-ringing celebrations, which are so meaningful to families, were often overshadowed by restrictions that made it difficult to share their joy with the community that had supported them so tirelessly. In response, Candlelighters is thrilled to introduce our [Bell Ringing In A Box](#) party kits!

These special kits empower families to celebrate this significant milestone in the comfort of their own homes, surrounded by their closest loved ones. Born out of a heartfelt commitment to ensure that no end-of-treatment moment goes unrecognized, even during challenging times, our Bell Ringing In A Box kits ensure every victory is celebrated in style.

We've included everything families need to create a joyous and memorable celebration:

- Custom Name Yard Sign: A personalized sign proudly displaying your child's name, sharing their incredible achievement with everyone around them!
- Gold Bell: The iconic gold bell, symbolizing the victorious end of treatment, ready to be rung with pride by your brave survivor!
- So much more! A beautifully framed certificate commemorating this important milestone; a \$25 H-E-B Gift Card for celebration treats; gold party decorations and balloons; confetti wands for extra fun; miniature bell party favors as keepsakes for guests; and more surprises thoughtfully chosen to ensure an unforgettable celebration.

With our Bell Ringing In A Box kits, we bring the spirit of celebration home, marking the transition from survivor to thriver with the joy, love, and support every family deserves. We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous donors and Amazon Wish List Buyers, whose contributions have made these boxes possible. Thank you for helping us ensure that these victories are celebrated with all the love and fanfare they deserve!

If you would like to contribute to these kits, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/bellringbox>!



CELEBRATION OF GENEROSITY AND IMPACT

Candlelighters Thanks Top Donors at Steak 48 Reception

In May, Candlelighters hosted a special evening to honor our top supporters and celebrate the incredible impact they've had on the local childhood cancer community. This intimate gathering, held at the elegant [Steak 48](#), was more than just a celebration—it was a heartfelt expression of our deep gratitude for those who have made a significant difference in the lives of our families.

The event was a delightful experience from start to finish. Steak 48 truly outdid themselves, offering a sumptuous selection of appetizers and a variety of fine wines, sparkling champagne, and expertly crafted cocktails, all generously donated by the restaurant. The warm and inviting ambiance of Steak 48's private dining room provided the perfect backdrop for an evening of connection and celebration.

A particularly memorable moment from the evening was when the [Probe Family](#) shared their personal story. [Chip Probe](#) spoke about his daughter [Dylan's](#) courageous battle with cancer and her inspiring journey towards recovery. He highlighted her resilience and the hope that has guided their family through difficult times. Dylan's story is a powerful testament to the impact of our donors' contributions, and her aspiration to pursue a career in nursing touched everyone in attendance. We can't wait to see what she accomplishes!

The reception wasn't just a look back at past achievements; it was also an opportunity to discuss future collaborations. Attendees engaged in meaningful conversations about how we can continue to support and uplift local childhood cancer families in the coming years.

We are immensely grateful to all who joined us, especially Steak 48 for their exceptional hospitality and ongoing support. Your commitment makes a world of difference, and we look forward to the continued impact we can achieve together.



HRP HITS ONE OUT OF THE PARK WITH FAMILIES

A Grand Slam Day Of Fun, Friendship, And Houston Astros Baseball Magic!

What an unforgettable day we had at Minute Maid Park with some of our wonderful Candlelighters families and our incredible friends and supporters from [Houston Relocation Professionals](#) (HRP)! Thanks to the generosity of sponsors with groups like HRP, Candlelighters can create special experiences for families impacted by childhood cancer. Events like these offer a much-needed break from the challenges they face, providing opportunities for joy, connection, and cherished memories.

Our group had an absolute blast rooting for the [Houston Astros](#) as they took on the Colorado Rockies, with the Astros securing a decisive 7 to 1 victory. The excitement was palpable, from the crack of the bat to the roar of the crowd. The day was made even more special with a delicious catered lunch, an Astros Gift Shop shopping spree, and premium seating that gave everyone a fantastic view of the game. For some, it was their first outing with Candlelighters, while for others, it felt like a mini Camp CLIFF reunion, bringing back the camaraderie and fun shared during that cherished weekend! Campers reunited with other campers, and they were excited to see some of their favorite counselors there, too.

One family was even treated to an extraordinary experience via donated Diamond Club seats, just rows behind home plate, complete with face time on the big screen and a special meet-and-greet with Orbit, courtesy of the [Astros Foundation](#) and a very generous anonymous donor.

These moments of pure joy and excitement are what Candlelighters strives to create for our families, and they wouldn't be possible without the support of our amazing community partners like HRP. Thank you for helping us bring so much happiness to these incredible families and for making memories that will last a lifetime!



2024 FUN WALK | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Taking 5,202 Steps For Childhood Cancer Families



WALK with us at TERRY HERSHEY PARK (or wherever you are) on [Saturday, September 7!](#) Participating in this year's Fun Walk means you are raising vital awareness and funds for childhood cancer families!

Register to participate in the Fun Walk for FREE: <https://2024funwalk.funraise.org/>

Take the pledge to Walk [5,202 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 and emails to friends and family!

Purchase tickets to win prizes from our online raffle: <http://go.rallyup.com/24fw-affle>

Join us for this FREE Family Friendly event featuring a DJ, food tent, face-painting, giant bubbles, character actors and mascots, and much, much more! The 3-mile walk route is paved and stroller, wagon, and wheelchair friendly. We can't wait to kick off Childhood Cancer Awareness Month with YOU!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS



2024 FUN WALK FUNDRAISING TIPS & IDEAS



ONLINE FUNDRAISING TIPS

1. Register online at <https://2024funwalk.funraise.org>
2. Once registered, utilize your Fundraiser Page to:
 - a. Personalize your Page with photos, WHY you're walking and WHAT donations will go towards
 - b. Email and text friends and family your unique URL using the "SHARE" button
 - c. Connect to a Facebook Fundraiser (Settings - Connections) - this enables the Fun Walk site and Facebook to link, making it easier to receive donations from Facebook friends!
3. Make specific asks: 19th day of the month ask for \$19 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 - we all need reminders!

UNIQUE FUNDRAISING IDEAS & ACTIVITIES

1. **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. **Donation Squares:** Head over to our Facebook page to find our Donation Squares Board for you to use to "sell" donations! The number claimed = donation amount!
3. **Fundraising Challenges:** have a friendly competition between the members of your walk team or a fellow walk team!
4. **Sell Something:** T-Shirts, Hats, Bracelets, Cookies, Tamales, Lemonade - you name it, we've seen it all! Whatever you can get your hands on, sell it to make some extra funds for your Walk Team!

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

Largest Team

Best Team T-Shirts

- Corporate
- Family
- Community

Awards are given out on walk day and are based on LIVE fundraising totals from the Fun Walk website as of Saturday, September 7th at 10:00 AM.

Fun Walk Questions? please contact Kelsey Tarpinian at kelseyt@candle.org.

BRINGING SOME SPARKLE TO INPATIENT ROOMS

Group Of Local 2nd Graders Package July 4th Goody Bags For Hospitalized Kids

This past July 4th was a holiday to remember, thanks to the incredible generosity of our [Amazon Wish List Donors](#) and a group of enthusiastic [rising 2nd graders from Dickinson Elementary in Sugar Land](#). When Candlelighters put out a call to action for our July 4th Amazon Wish List, the response was overwhelming! Every item was quickly purchased and fulfilled, allowing us to create festive and fun goody bags for inpatient families at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital.

Recognizing that cancer doesn't take a holiday, and with the knowledge that some of our brave Candlelighters patients would be watching fireworks from their hospital windows, we wanted to bring the celebration to their rooms. Thanks to your support, our goody bags - filled to the brim with red, white, and blue sunglasses, USA headbands, sparkling glow sticks, stickers, temporary tattoos, beaded and blinky necklaces, and more - brought bright smiles and excitement to the children spending the holiday inside the hospital walls receiving treatment. The Dolphin Families from Dickinson Elementary packaged each bag with care and love, ensuring that every detail was perfect for the patients.

We are incredibly grateful to our Amazon Wish List donors and the Dolphin Families for coming together to make this celebration possible. Your kindness and support helped us bring joy and a sense of normalcy to these brave children and their families during a time that can be so challenging. Together, we are lighting up lives and making a real difference, one celebration at a time.

Amazon Wish Lists: Make a Difference!

Bring The Fun
To Camp CILFF

tinyurl.com/fiestacampcliff

Bell Ringing In A Box
Party Kit Supplies

tinyurl.com/bellringbox

Hospital Stay Essentials
For Inpatients

tinyurl.com/hospessentials

WISH LIST ITEMS GO DIRECTLY TO HELPING CANCER FAMILIES!



REFLECTIVE WRITING AS A TOOL FOR HEALING

by Michelle Oakley, RN, BSN, NC-BC | Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital



A cancer diagnosis changes a family's life forever. Finding tools and support to navigate these difficult roads are crucial. One practice that is becoming more mainstream and popular is considering the use of reflective writing as a way to process all of the emotions surrounding the cancer experience and journey.

Reflective writing provides a therapeutic outlet for patients, families, and caregivers to process their emotions and experiences. It provides a space for individuals to articulate their fears, hopes, and triumphs, which can help in managing stress and fostering emotional resilience.

Through reflective writing, families can gain insights into their personal coping strategies, track their child's progress, and find meaning in their experiences. This practice not only supports mental and emotional well-being, but also helps create a narrative that can enhance communication with healthcare providers and strengthen family bonds during challenging times.

To get started, find a journal and begin to write freely without worrying about spelling or grammar. **Here is a prompt to get you inspired: Reflect on the ways your family has grown or changed since the start of this journey. What strengths have emerged, and how has your perspective shifted?** Once you finish, you can choose to keep it to yourself or share with someone you trust.

HATS OFF TO CROSBY, TEXAS!

A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Supporters Across Town

Earlier this year, we headed to Crosby for their annual "Bras for a Cause" fundraising event! Candlelighters has been incredibly fortunate to serve as a beneficiary of this effort since 2017, and each year, we are amazed by the passion and dedication of this wonderful, spirited community. This event, which brings together local celebrities, families, and businesses, is a lively and heartfelt effort to support Candlelighters and other non-profits committed to helping families dealing with cancer. Special thanks go to Candlelighters Board Member Jay Beasley for serving as the event's emcee and to our dedicated volunteer Andrew Tarpinian for bravely modeling on behalf of Candlelighters this year!

We were ecstatic and humbled to receive a generous \$40,000 donation from this effort! This incredible gift will go a long way in supporting local childhood cancer families, ensuring they have the resources and care they need during their challenging journeys. We are deeply grateful to everyone involved in Bras for a Cause for their unwavering support and commitment to making a difference in the lives of these families. Thank you for lighting the way with us!



FUND DIRECT 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 staff members who have personally been through a cancer journey, 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 and how you can help!

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



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 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!

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. We are so excited to get back to treating families to a FULL camp weekend at Camp For All in Burton, Texas! We will be hosting our next Camp CLIFF during the weekend of **February 14-16, 2025**. 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 eligibility and how your family can apply!

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



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 or 713.270.4700 with any questions regarding Camp CLIFF. Sponsorships and donations are 100% tax deductible.

SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Join Us in the Fight Against Childhood Cancer!

Are you ready to spark change and make a real difference in the fight against childhood cancer? Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance is thrilled to share our School Initiative Program, and we're inviting YOU to be a part of this exciting journey!

What is the School Initiative Program?

The school initiative program is an engaging way for schools and their students to come together in support of families battling childhood cancer. By participating, you'll not only help raise vital funds but also create awareness and cultivate a sense of empathy and unity within your community.

Why Participate?

- Educational Value: Empower students with knowledge about childhood cancer and the significance of helping others
- Community Engagement: Strengthen connections and create lasting memories by working together towards a common goal
- Skill Development: Provide opportunities for students to lead and organize events, enhancing their leadership and organizational skills

How Can You Get Involved?

1. Organize Sales Events: From bake sales to school carnivals, there are many creative ways to raise funds and have fun!
2. Plan Spirit Days: Host themed days such as "Caps for Candlelighters" or "Crazy Hair Day" to encourage participation and donations
3. Run Friendly Competitions: Engage your students with Penny Wars or staff vs. student games, turning friendly competition into impactful fundraising
4. Create Your Own Campaign: Design unique fundraising activities that resonate with your group and maximize your impact!

Ready to Make a Difference?

Getting started is simple! Contact Hannah Belk, our Special Events Manager, at hbelk@candle.org or call (713) 270-4700 for more information!



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

Thank You to This Year's Sponsors!

CANDLELIGHTERS CARES 2024

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 A.M. EATERY

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



CELEBRATING OUR HOSPITAL PARTNERS

Honoring Our Childhood Cancer Caretaker Village

The phrase "It takes a village" rings especially true in the world of childhood cancer, where a network of dedicated professionals work tirelessly to support patients and their families. This past spring, Candlelighters proudly took the time to recognize and appreciate the incredible teams within our partner hospitals who are the backbone of care for our childhood cancer community. These unsung heroes include empathetic social workers, beloved child life specialists, committed doctors, and nurturing nurses who invest their hearts and souls into the well-being of the families we serve.

Throughout March, April, and May, Candlelighters expressed our gratitude through heartfelt gestures of appreciation. Hospital staff received Candlelighters t-shirts—a small but meaningful token symbolizing our warm embrace and unwavering support for those who care so deeply for our young patients. We also provided a delicious breakfast for the remarkable doctors who dedicate countless hours to their work, helping to replenish their spirits and energy. We also extended our thanks to the hospital's social workers and child life specialists, recognizing their vital role in the healing process. The collective efforts of these professionals are at the heart of the Candlelighters community, making a profound impact on the lives they touch. To all of these dedicated individuals, we extend our deepest gratitude and are honored to stand beside you in this journey.



Save The Dates!

2024 FUN WALK

TERRY HERSHEY PARK

2024FUNWALK.FUNRAISE.ORG

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

LIGHTS OF COURAGE

EVENING FUNDRAISER @ THE GOODMAN

US.GIVERGY.COM/LIGHTSOFCOURAGE2024

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

HOUSTONRELOPROS.ORG/GOLF

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

SPONSORS & COMMUNITY GROUPS BUY GIFTS FOR CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES

ACCEPTING FAMILY & SPONSOR APPLICATIONS IN LATE SEPTEMBER

CAMP CLIFF FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND

FREE FAMILY EVENT | REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES IN SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025 - 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
- 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; 3 at Texas Children's Cancer Center)
- Support Group Meetings (both in person and virtual options available)
- 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
- 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 People with Disabilities


- 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



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, Texas Children's Hospital, and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital

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

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



Candlelighters Houston



www.candle.org



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

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

Candlelighters began in 1989 with two parent support groups from the Texas Medical Center: one at Texas Children's Cancer Center and one at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. The parent group at Texas Children's Cancer Center sought formal incorporation, and in 1993 Candlelighters was legally formed. In the fall of 1993, they invited the parent group from the MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital to join them and the two organizations merged into one. 30 years later, we've added Children's Memorial Hermann to our partner hospital list, along with local Texas Children's Hospital satellite locations. 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.