



# A FESTIVE WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN

KICKING OFF 2025 WITH OUR CAMP CLIFF FAMILY CAMP 'VIVA LA FIESTA' WEEKEND!

## FEATURING

*Pages 1 & 4-5*

Camp CLIFF 2025: Viva La Fiesta!

*Page 6*

2024 Adopt-A-Family Program

*Page 7*

Rodeo Cook-Off Family Event

*Pages 8-9*

Thank You, Astros & Texans!

*Pages 10-11*

Survivor to Scientist:  
Bella Lawlar's Cancer Journey

*Pages 14-17*

Lights of Courage

*Pages 18-19*

Ways to Get Involved

*Page 24*

Hospital Updates

*Page 27*

Resources for Cancer Families

## *"Children Loved In Families Forever"*

Camp "CLIFF" - A Longstanding Candlelighters Tradition

Last year's Camp CLIFF was one of the coldest we've ever had, with chilly temperatures keeping everyone bundled up! This year, we were determined to bring the warmth, brightness, and energy for our camp families. With colorful decorations, festive music, and lively activities, we transformed Camp CLIFF 2025 into a fiesta experience like no other!

Camp CLIFF 2025 was the perfect weekend for a fiesta-filled getaway! With bright colors, festive decorations, and a lively energy, we headed to Camp For All in Burton, Texas for another unforgettable retreat with Candlelighters families. This year, we prepared for more people attending camp than EVER before! We served 60 childhood cancer families and planned for over 330 campers, counselors, volunteers, and staff attending throughout the weekend to create a vibrant and spirited community, perfect for forging new friendships and rekindling old ones!

Once again, the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Squadron 17 brought an impressive contingent of students to volunteer as counselors and day volunteers! 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 2025 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 fiesta kickoff celebration! The night featured a mariachi band performance that set the perfect tone for a weekend full of joy. We were amazed by their talent and had an absolute blast dancing in a conga line around the dining hall together! The excitement continued with a mesmerizing performance by an incredible folklorico dancer. After her breathtaking display, parents joined in on dance lessons, learning new moves and twirling the night away.

Cont. on Page 4

# INFORMATION CENTER

## CANDLELIGHTERS

CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

### 2025 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, Eddy Blanton, Michael  
Conway, Stacy Crumley, Sam Governale, Cindy Hamann,  
Norma Johnson, Dave Mally, Harvey Zinn, Jr.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 17TH ANNUAL MARGARITA TASTE OFF

Saturday, April 12th

### 5TH ANNUAL BREAK A CLAY FOR CANDLELIGHTERS

Friday, May 9th

### SUMMER SURPRISES PARTY

Thursday, July 10th

### FUN WALK

Saturday, September 6th

### LIGHTS OF COURAGE

Thursday, October 23rd

### Parent Support Group Meetings

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

\*IN-PERSON\* ON TUESDAYS @ 11:00 AM IN THE PEDI DOME

\*VIRTUAL\* FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY QUARTER VIA 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

\*IN-PERSON\* ON TUESDAYS @ 1:00 PM

IN THE WEST TOWER 7TH FLOOR FAMILY ROOM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL

LINDA PENA: [LPENA@CANDLE.ORG](mailto:LPENA@CANDLE.ORG)

### New! SPECIAL TOPIC CALLS

\*VIRTUAL\* @ 12:00 PM VIA VIDEO CALL

OPEN TO FAMILIES AT ALL HOSPITALS - TCH, MDACC, CMHH

June 25th: RELAPSE | September 17th: LONG TERM SURVIVORS

December 17th: BEREAVED FAMILIES

## CANDLELIGHTERS STAFF

Lynn Wheeler | Executive Director | [lwheeler@candle.org](mailto:lwheeler@candle.org)

Kelsey Tarpinian | Associate Director | [kelseytc@candle.org](mailto:kelseytc@candle.org)

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

Paige Glover | Development Director | [pglover@candle.org](mailto:pglover@candle.org)

Elizabeth Haines | Senior Director of Grants | [ehaines@candle.org](mailto:ehaines@candle.org)

Hannah Belk | Special Events Manager | [hbelk@candle.org](mailto:hbelk@candle.org)

Sydney Osterhaus | Office Manager | [swilliams@candle.org](mailto:swilliams@candle.org)

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

## 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](mailto:ysifuentes@candle.org)

### TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER

Linda Pena

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Opal Goodman

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Maria Pena

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## 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**

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*¡Se habla Español!*



**OPAL GOODMAN**

ogoodman@candle.org



**MARIA PEÑA**

mpena@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!*

[continued from Cover] Campers headed to the outdoor pavilion for carnival games and prizes. They also indulged in popcorn, cotton candy, and yummy treats from the Churro Bar before gathering for the bonfire, energizers, and s'mores. Laughter and excitement filled the air as campers bonded with new cabinmates. Meanwhile, parent campers enjoyed a lively bingo session, winning prizes, and enjoying ice cream sundaes. With rodeo season approaching, we surprised the parents with two drawings for Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo tickets to see El Grupo Frontera and Carin León!

Saturday was all about adventure as campers participated in a packed schedule of fishing, canoeing, indoor archery, barnyard animal meet-and-greets, horseback riding, rock climbing in Star Place, ziplining, and creating art with their 'sister' and 'brother' cabins. Fishing was a huge hit this year, with campers catching well over 100 fish, each moment filled with excitement and cheers. Over at the Art Barn, a special guest made an appearance – a life-sized horse sculpture named Cliff! Campers placed colorful handprints all over Cliff to symbolize their unique childhood cancer journeys, each representing resilience, strength, and hope for the future. Thanks to talented artists Tara Royer and Danna Fox-Lynde, Cliff is now being transformed into a breathtaking masterpiece that will be auctioned at the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show, where proceeds will benefit Candlelighters, supporting our programs and services.

Just across the campgrounds, parents were treated to a peaceful and rejuvenating spa experience. They enjoyed chair massages, haircuts, hairstyling, and generously packed "pampering pouches" donated by NCL Memorial Chapter, providing some much-needed self-care. This offered a rare chance to relax and connect with fellow cancer parents who truly understand their journey. Delaney Maberry, a Certified Mindset Mentor and Retreat Leader, returned to lead yoga and a calming sound bath experience, helping parents and the oldest girl campers find inner peace and renewal. A floral arrangement class led by Brenda Maldonado of BM Floral Botanica allowed parents to tap into their creativity. Each participant walked away with a gorgeous, cheerful floral arrangement—along with the joy of learning a new skill.

Saturday night concluded with one of the most meaningful traditions at Camp CLIFF: the "Wish Boat Ceremony." Each cabin gathered around the campfire, sharing their heartfelt wishes for the coming year before lighting a candle as a symbol of their shared hopes and dreams. The warm glow of the candles reflected on the water, creating a deeply emotional and inspiring moment that left many in tears. Just when everyone thought the night was over, campers were surprised with a spectacular, up-close fireworks display. The night sky lit up in dazzling colors, adding yet another magical memory to an already unforgettable day. The celebration continued in the dining hall with a high-energy fiesta and dance party, where campers laughed, danced, and made lasting memories. A special highlight of the night was the Airbrush Brothers' custom hat bar, where campers designed and personalized their own vibrant, airbrushed hats—a unique keepsake from this special weekend!

Campers woke up Sunday morning to gather one last time for the Reflections Ceremony. Families, counselors, volunteers, and staff shared their weekend experiences, talking about the impact of Camp CLIFF and how it created a space of love, support, and joy for everyone. As families said their goodbyes, there was a shared sense of renewal, connection, and appreciation for the moments spent together. Everyone left with full hearts, already counting down the days until next year's Camp CLIFF weekend!



*Save The Date for Friday, February 20 - Sunday, February 22, 2026!*

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 CAMP CLIFF SPONSORS



2-0 **CAMP CLIFF** 2-5

..... CANDLELIGHTERS .....

## THANK YOU SPONSORS

*The Cockrell Family Fund*

  
CONSOLIDATED ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC.









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IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

LOVE,  
*Tito's*

*The Pin Oak*  
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**Primm's**  
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Camp CLIFF  
Counselors

Texas A&M University  
Corps of Cadets  
Squadron 17

Terri  
Schwartz

HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER

# GIFTING HOLIDAY JOY THROUGH ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Wrapping Families in Support and Love During the Holidays

This past holiday season, Candlelighters was once again filled with joy and gratitude as we wrapped up one of our most cherished traditions – the Adopt-A-Family gift-giving program. Each year, this heartwarming initiative brings comfort and cheer to Candlelighters families facing the overwhelming challenges of childhood cancer, and this season was no different.

At Candlelighters, we understand that when a child is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family feels the impact. That's why our Adopt-A-Family program continued to support not just the child in treatment but also their siblings and parents – because every member of the family deserves to feel cared for, especially during the holidays.

Once again, our incredible Adopt-A-Family sponsors made all the difference. They provided more than just gifts – they delivered hope, compassion, and a meaningful connection. Sponsors were matched with families, received personalized Wish Lists, and thoughtfully selected and wrapped presents for each family member. Many took the time to meet the families in person, sharing warm words and heartfelt encouragement that created lasting bonds and beautiful memories. Parents expressed profound gratitude, often sharing that without this program, their children might not have received any holiday gifts. For families grappling with overwhelming stress and mounting medical bills, this program was a true beacon of hope. It provided not only tangible support but a sense of relief and kindness that meant the world. By caring for the entire family, our sponsors made a meaningful and inspiring impact during a season when it was needed most.

## 2024 Adopt-A-Family Impact

NUMBER OF CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES ADOPTED: 298

NUMBER OF HOSPITAL INPATIENT GIFTS PROVIDED: 175

NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED & WISH LISTS FULFILLED: 1,543

This program is a bright spot among tough journeys for our families, and it would not be possible without each one of our Adopt-A-Family sponsors and donors. For those who sponsored families and donated towards these efforts, we give you our sincerest thanks. Seeing the joyful gift deliveries was a powerful reminder that giving is so much more special than receiving.



## FAMILY FUN & TEXAS-SIZED MEMORIES

### Rodeo Recap: Where Carnival Rides Meet Smokin' Barbecue

Candlelighters families kicked off rodeo season on March 1<sup>st</sup> with a fun-filled day at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Bar-B-Que Cook-Off, hosted by the incredible Planet Texas Cook-Off Team! Dressed in their best western gear and cowboy boots, over 250 Candlelighters family members arrived in style, thanks to the Rodeo Express Committee. Families enjoyed a private bus ride with VIP admission, where they were greeted by cheering volunteers and friendly neighboring tents, setting the tone for a fun and unforgettable day!

The festivities were in full swing with live music from The Trips, face painting, and balloon twisting for the kids, courtesy of Cheerful Clown Alley. Guests also enjoyed two-stepping and a mouthwatering barbecue lunch, expertly prepared by Planet Texas' Jim Petree and his talented grill masters. The feast included smoky brisket, savory sides, sweet tea, and cupcakes—making it a true Texas-style celebration!



Candlelighters Board Member Jay Beasley and Event Lead Joanne Crouch teamed up with Planet Texas leaders Marty Wells and Jim Petree to bring this event to life. Their dedication, along with the support of over 70 Planet Texas team members and volunteers, made the day truly special.

One of the biggest highlights came after the group photo in front of the iconic Alamo backdrop. Thanks to the generosity of this group, over 135 Candlelighters kiddos received Carnival Packs, giving them access to rides, games, and plenty of tasty fried treats. This donation alone was valued at \$26,460, providing hours of fun and memories for our families!

In addition to creating an unforgettable day, the Planet Texas Cook-Off Team also raised funds in memory of their beloved team member, Jeff Primm. Their incredible efforts helped raise over \$2,700 for Candlelighters programs and family events, including our weekend family camp, Candlelighters Camp CLIFF.

We are so grateful to Planet Texas, the Rodeo Express Committee, and all the volunteers, supporters, and fundraisers who made this special day possible. Your generosity and dedication continue to bring joy and lasting memories to Candlelighters families. Thank you for making this event another one for the books!

# ASTROS KNOCK IT OUT OF THE PARK

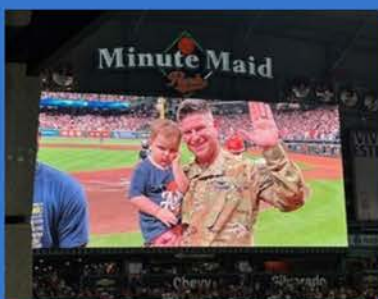
## Houston Astros Shows Their Support of Childhood Cancer Families

The Houston Astros once again welcomed Candlelighters to participate in their annual Childhood Cancer Awareness Charity Night on Friday, September 6th, and what an unforgettable evening it was! We were incredibly honored to be selected as a partner for this meaningful event and to share the story of our mission with tens of thousands of fans at Minute Maid Park.

We had the joy of inviting hundreds of Candlelighters families, who showed their team spirit in matching Astros + Candlelighters shirts while cheering on the home team. It was a night filled with memorable moments, both on and off the field. Candlelighters patient Andrew Mathis was interviewed live by beloved Astros anchor and reporter Julia Morales, while Gabriel Goode had the honor of throwing out the first pitch! The Ibarra Family proudly represented Candlelighters and helped drop the symbolic Gold Ribbon for Childhood Cancer Awareness before the game began. We were also proud to see Candlelighters dad, Nate Cloutier, recognized for his service in the military during the evening's festivities.

It was a special night for all involved and one that our families won't soon forget. Adding to the celebration, the Astros Foundation made an extraordinary impact by awarding Candlelighters a generous \$100,000 gift in support of our programs and services for childhood cancer families. The Houston Astros have been long-time supporters of our mission to walk alongside childhood cancer families, and their commitment continues to shine both on and off the field. The awareness they help bring to our organization and the childhood cancer community is nothing short of phenomenal.

To the entire Houston Astros organization and foundation – thank you for your generosity, your partnership, and your recognition of the families we serve. We are so grateful and already looking forward to joining you again in 2025! Go 'Stros!



# KICKING CANCER'S CHALLENGES

A Heartfelt Thank You To Houston Texans Placekicker Ka'imi Fairbairn



Throughout the 2024-2025 season, Houston Texans Placekicker #15, Ka'imi Fairbairn, made a powerful impact on the lives of Candlelighters families. Through his incredible generosity and the Houston Texans Community Huddle Ticketing Program, Ka'imi gifted over 60 Candlelighters families the opportunity to attend Texans home games – complete with game tickets, parking passes, and food vouchers, all at no cost to the families! These outings gave families a much-needed break from the stress of treatment and hospital visits, offering moments of joy, connection, and excitement. Some even had the unforgettable chance to meet Ka'imi on the field during warmups – a dream come true for our young fans and their loved ones.

We are grateful for Ka'imi's continued kindness and support of our mission. His generosity gave our families more than just a day at the game – it gave them cherished memories, a renewed sense of hope, and quality time together during an incredibly difficult journey.

Ka'imi's compassion extended even further during the holiday season, when he took time out of his busy schedule to visit patients and families at Texas Children's Hospital. He was joined by Texans Long Snapper Jon Weeks and Special Teams Coach Frank Ross, spreading smiles and holiday cheer throughout the halls – and reminding everyone that they are not alone.

To show our appreciation, families at our annual Family Fall Festival helped create a one-of-a-kind thank you gift: a custom Texans + Candlelighters football, filled with signatures from childhood cancer patients, siblings, and loved ones – Ka'imi's biggest fans! He proudly shared with us that it now holds a place of honor in his home, front and center, as a reminder of the impact he's made on so many lives.

Ka'imi, thank you for being a true champion for Candlelighters families. Your heart, generosity, and dedication have left a lasting impression, and we are so grateful to have you in our corner. We can't wait to cheer you on in the upcoming season – and we look forward to seeing you connect with even more of our incredible families soon! Go Texans!

# SURVIVOR TO SCIENTIST: A JOURNEY OF HOPE & DISCOVERY

5-Year Cancer Survivor's Path To Advancements in Pediatric Oncology by Bella Lawlar



Cancer to anyone is a big and scary word, but it is especially scary when you haven't even had the chance to graduate high school yet. In December of 2018, I ended up in the E.R. with some intense nose bleeds. In fact, they were so bad that I had to miss weeks' worth of school to manage them. I met with an Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist who thought the problem could be polyps in my sinuses, but one CT scan later showed there was a lesion and a much more serious issue.

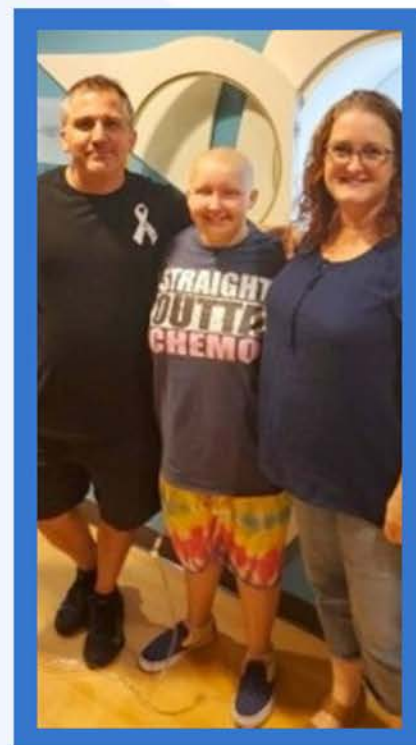
In February 2019, an MRI and two biopsies determined that the mass in my head and sinuses was in fact cancerous, as well as dangerously close to my brain. Surgery was scheduled immediately to remove the mass, but it was canceled as I was in the pre-op room preparing for the surgery. The doctors sent the biopsy sample to a different laboratory in Florida for a second opinion while my tumor continued to grow. After several weeks of waiting for this second opinion, we decided to take matters into our own hands and take my diagnosis to MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. Before they could even provide me an official diagnosis, they could see how just how bad the cancer had gotten while I was waiting for answers.

I vividly remember the events that took place during those first two weeks of my inpatient stay at MD Anderson. It was during Spring Break in 2019, and the doctors ordered every possible test that they could: MRIs, CT scans, PET scans, copious amounts of bloodwork, cardiovascular assessments, and even hearing tests. I also remember meeting with a social worker to submit my Make-a-Wish request, as my 18th birthday was just days away.

Once the doctors had their hands on my biopsied tissue, I was officially diagnosed with sarcoma - a type of cancer that arises from the cells of connective tissue. Once we had a diagnosis, things began to move much faster. On March 18th, I had my port placed. The very next day, I started chemotherapy. I did my first treatment as an in-patient so they could monitor me as I was receiving the medications for the first time. I remember coming home after treatment and feeling very scared and worried for what was to come - what if something bad happened while I wasn't at the hospital with doctors and nurses ready to help me?

Despite this life-altering event, I was still a high school student, a senior, nonetheless. My chemotherapy regimen contained two very aggressive treatment plans, so I enrolled in homeschooled for the remainder of the year.

Schoolwork got harder and harder to complete as my cancer treatment went on. While not an ideal situation for an 18-year-old, I still managed to have fun. When my hair started to fall out, I made it worthwhile and hosted a party. So many of my friends and family attended to help with shaving my head. My friends also organized my very own prom "masquerade" party, which was such a blast and a core memory for me. Even though I spent the remainder of the semester in the hospital, I still got to attend my high school graduation in between treatments - a memory I will cherish.



Before my high school graduation, my care team performed more scans, and thankfully those showed I was responding well to treatment and the tumor was shrinking! But even with such good news, I still had many more rounds of chemotherapy and planned proton radiation therapy to ensure the cancer was completely gone.

I was disappointed that treatment was taking so long, as it had always been my dream and personal goal to go away to attend college. I had several acceptance offers, but my dreams were put on hold. Due to the harsh nature of the chemotherapy, my treatment took longer to finish than expected due to many of the awful side effects. By the time I was finished, the fall semester had already started, and I had to wait until the next semester to start my college journey. Despite my disappointment, I remained focused on completing treatment and feeling better for the following school semester. I finished treatment on September 13th, 2019, and have had "no evidence of disease" ever since! After monthly, then yearly, check-ups, scans and bloodwork, I reached my Long-Term Survivorship status (five years cancer-free) last year in 2024!

In 2023, I earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Sam Houston State University in 2023. During my last semester, I worked in a research lab and completed applications to several other universities offering PhD genetics programs. I am proud to say that I'm now a first-year Genetics PhD student at Texas A&M University! While taking classes this semester, i'm also serving as a Teaching Assistant for the undergraduate genetics lab and working on research. I am so excited to be living my dream and accomplishing the goals I set for myself. After completing my PhD, I hope to work at a hospital like MD Anderson Cancer Center and contribute to much-needed pediatric cancer research, helping lead advancements in pediatric oncology.



*Congratulations, Bella, on all of your amazing accomplishments! Your story of determination and dedication will bring hope to so many others going through a childhood cancer journey!*

# 2025 FUN WALK | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

Taking 5,495 Steps To Honor & Support Childhood Cancer Families



Come have some fun with us in the fall and WALK WITH US at TERRY HERSHEY PARK on Saturday, September 6th! 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://2025funwalk.funraise.org/>
- Take the pledge to **Walk 5,495 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 will go toward daily support, free programs, and practical services for local childhood cancer families. **CANCER DOESN'T STOP** and neither will we! 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

### *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

### *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

### *Rest Stop Sponsor: \$3,500*

- Exclusive sponsor of one of three REST STOPS
- Recognition on materials and dedicated Signage at Fun Walk
- Invitation to provide water or cool treat and volunteers

### *Signature Sponsor: \$7,500*

- Recognition on all materials
- 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

### *Gold Sponsor: \$2,000*

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

### *Silver Sponsor: \$1,000*

- Recognition on materials

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [HTTPS://2025FUNWALK.FUNRAISE.ORG/](https://2025funwalk.funraise.org/)

# WALK WITH & FOR CANCER FAMILIES AT 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 Walk, you not only contribute to critical funding for support services, but you also help to spread awareness about the challenges these families face on a daily basis. 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://2025funwalk.funraise.org/>  
Start a Team, Join a Team, or Walk as an Individual. **Pro Tip:** the more people who join your Walk Team and share their personal fundraising pages, the more funds and awareness you will raise for childhood cancer!
2. Once registered, utilize your Fundraising Page to:
  - a. **Personalize Your Page** - share your personal mission so your friends and family know WHY you're walking and exactly WHAT their donation will help fund.
  - b. **Connect To Facebook** - at the top of your Fundraising Page, click "Settings" and then "Connections" - 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 6, 2025

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! No pets, please!)
- FREE
  - Registration
  - Parking
  - Kids Activities
  - Live 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) for your personal display!

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

More exciting incentives coming soon!

WALK ALONGSIDE CANCER FAMILIES: [HTTPS://2025FUNWALK.FUNRAISE.ORG/](https://2025funwalk.funraise.org/)

# 2024 LIGHTS OF COURAGE HONOREES

Honoring The Brave & Celebrating The Light in The Darkness

Zachary and Liam, fraternal twins born just one minute apart, had their lives changed in June 2018 when Zach began showing symptoms of illness. Initially, swollen lymph nodes were followed by fatigue, bruising, nosebleeds, and petechiae, prompting medical visits. After tests, Zach was diagnosed with cancer just two weeks before his second birthday.

Zach spent 16 days in the hospital for treatment. When he returned home, Liam, though excited to see his brother, showed signs of emotional hesitation, as he was unsure about becoming attached again. Their second birthday was spent in the hospital for treatment, where Zach was also diagnosed with C-Diff and SIADH. Afterward, Zach's steroid treatment caused significant weight gain, making it difficult for him to walk.

During this time, Liam became Zach's primary source of emotional support, bringing toys and acting as his "nurse." He encouraged Zach to play and move, handfeeding him and comforting him during painful procedures. Their time away from daycare, due to Zach's weakened immune system, allowed them to form an even closer bond. As Liam grew, he sometimes expressed a desire to be sick himself for attention and one-on-one time with his mom, highlighting the emotional toll of Zach's illness.

As they matured, both boys adapted. Zach is now healthy but faces lingering learning and executive functioning challenges. Liam, showing remarkable maturity, has supported Zach emotionally and academically. He understands his brother's needs and is always there to guide and encourage him.

While raising twins is hard, having one go through cancer treatment added extra strain. Through it all, Liam's love and support proved to be a constant source of strength, making him exactly what Zach needed during those difficult times.



*Sibling Honorees*  
**Badillo Twins**



*Childhood Cancer  
Survivor Honoree*  
**Megan Spies**

In April 2003, after experiencing severe daily headaches, I visited my eye doctor, who suspected my glasses needed adjusting but soon realized it was something major. I was referred to Texas Children's Hospital, where I was diagnosed with an astrocytoma (brain tumor) after an MRI and surgery. I spent nine days in the hospital, dealing with a drainage tube and a mess of curly hair, which a friend's mom, a hairdresser, kindly fixed afterward. After a brief return to school, I began six weeks of radiation to shrink the remaining tumor. My grandparents took me to the Methodist Hospital annex near NRG Stadium for treatment, and we often stopped by the Candlelighters office for support, where I received small toys, including a teddy bear that became my favorite.

I later attended Baylor University, where I joined the Baylor Relay for Life Committee and reconnected with LeighAnna Hutchinson, a fellow childhood cancer survivor. She invited me to volunteer at a camp for families affected by childhood cancer, which turned out to be the same organization that had helped my family years earlier. Since then, I have volunteered at Camp annually, except in 2017 when it was canceled due to Hurricane Harvey. I've also helped virtually during 2021's online camp and participated in a day camp in 2022.

I love seeing kids and families bond over shared experiences, and I'm proud to share my story - offering hope and encouragement to those still on their cancer journey. It's been amazing to watch my campers grow, start families, and continue thriving. Even 21 years after my diagnosis, Candlelighters continues to positively impact my life and the lives of many others.



*On-Treatment Honoree*  
**Mya Guerra**

Mya was born with a birth defect that required two surgeries by the age of 1, but she grew into a determined and energetic child. She loved helping her younger brothers and enjoyed school. However, in December 2022, her health began to decline with persistent fevers, paleness, leg pain, and fatigue. Initially, doctors suspected an infection, but her symptoms worsened. On December 12, 2022, her mother took her to the emergency room, where lab results revealed a dangerously low blood level of 3.1 (normal is 10-11). Mya was life-flighted to Temple, TX, and later transferred to downtown Houston, where further tests, including a bone marrow biopsy and lumbar puncture, confirmed her diagnosis of B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), with leukemia cells also found in her cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

Treatment began immediately with chemotherapy, lumbar punctures, antibiotics, and steroids. Mya had to stay inpatient at the hospital, and her family adjusted to the new routine, with her dad staying at the hospital while her mother worked. Mya spent Christmas, New Year's, and her birthday in the hospital, which was tough for her. Despite the challenges, Mya has had a strong support system from family, friends, her school, and the community.

Now 19 months into treatment, Mya has endured multiple rounds of chemotherapy, lumbar punctures, and port access procedures, resulting in complete hair loss. However, she is resilient, growing new hair, and continuing to stay positive by dancing through her cancer journey. The family remains hopeful and continues to take things one day at a time, believing that Mya will proudly ring the bell to mark the end of treatment in April 2025!



**SCAN HERE TO WATCH  
THE HONOREE VIDEO!**

Jackie Robins is the mother of Vincent Michael Robins, who passed away on August 10, 2021, after a brave battle with a rare colon cancer. Vinny, born on Christmas Eve in 2003, was the youngest of 10 children, and his twin brother, Eli, was his closest companion. Vinny was a healthy, energetic child who enjoyed activities like running track, skateboarding, and fishing with his brothers.

In January 2019, Vinny experienced severe abdominal pain, which was initially thought to be severe constipation. However, by February 2019, the pain and worse symptoms continued, leading to a diagnosis of high-risk stage 3 colon cancer. Vinny's cancer, Signet Ring Cell Adenocarcinoma, was rare and aggressive, affecting only 1% of all colorectal cancer cases. After six months of aggressive chemotherapy, Vinny went into remission, but tragically, 11 months later, his cancer returned and had spread to his peritoneum and pelvis, becoming stage 4 metastatic colon cancer.

During this difficult time, the Robins family found support through Candlelighters Parent Consultants and our various avenues of care for cancer families. Candlelighters helped them through Vinny's illness with meaningful events, tickets to sports games, and participating in fundraising and awareness activities like the annual Candlelighters Fun Walk.

Vinny's health declined rapidly, and the family lost him in 2021. Despite their immense grief, they continue to honor his memory with ongoing support from Candlelighters, attending events that bring them joy and comfort. Jackie expresses her eternal gratitude to Candlelighters for their unwavering support, ensuring that Vinny's legacy lives on in their hearts.



*In Loving Memory*  
*Honoree*  
**Vinny Robins**

# LIGHTS OF COURAGE

## A Night to Remember: Lights of Courage 2024 Raises Nearly \$450,000 for Childhood Cancer Families

We are beyond humbled and thrilled to share the incredible success of the 2024 Lights of Courage event, held on Thursday, October 24th. Thanks to the unwavering generosity of our community – including Sponsors, Table Hosts, Shining Opportunity Donors, Live Auction Donors and Bidders, Raffle Ticket Purchasers, and Vendors – Candlelighters raised nearly \$450,000 to support children battling cancer and their families!

The evening, held at a new venue, The Goodman, was brought to life under the dedicated leadership of Event Chairs Beth and Stephen Guinn, Jenna Jackson and Brendan Gilbert, Kris and Jimmy Vallee, and Alison and Randall Wilhite. Their tireless efforts – along with support from the Host Committee, Raffle & Auction Auxiliary Committee, and our outstanding Board of Directors – helped create an unforgettable experience filled with love, hope, and inspiration.

Guests were welcomed into a vibrant outdoor lounge, where the night kicked off with lively activities like a jewelry pull, liquor toss, and live music from local guitarist Guillermo Serpas. Signature cocktails from Tito's Handmade Vodka, Maker's Mark Bourbon, and Don Cosme Tequila added to the celebratory atmosphere. Attendees mingled, posed for photos, previewed the bustling raffle and exciting live auction packages, and enjoyed a delicious three-course dinner from Masraff's before the evening's program began.

The live auction was once again a showstopper, raising more than \$100,000 with standout items, packages, and experiences, including a week stay in a luxurious private home in San Miguel de Allende, a custom-designed bench created by Candlelighters artists, and – for the first time – a precious Bernedoodle puppy! These extraordinary donations, made possible by our generous community, helped ensure meaningful, continued support for our families.

While fundraising was an important focus of the evening, the heartbeat of the event was the celebration of our 2024 Lights of Courage Honorees – courageous individuals whose stories of strength, resilience, and hope left an indelible impact on everyone in the room. Special thanks to Dr. Doug Harrison of MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer of Texas Children's Cancer Center for awarding our honorees. We are also grateful to P+R Productions for once again filming and producing the heartwarming honoree videos. You can read their stories on pages 14-15 and scan a QR code to watch their moving video documenting their journeys with childhood cancer.

One of the most touching moments of the night came from Candlelighters father, Chip Probe, who shared about his family's battle against childhood cancer. Chip's daughter, Dylan – now a high school senior with plans to attend Texas A&M and become a nurse – was a shining example of Candlelighters' impact on local families. His powerful testimony, along with the honoree videos and other moving speeches, inspired over \$100,000 in direct support through Shining Opportunity donations – a true testament to the compassion of our Candlelighters community.

We are incredibly thankful to Melissa Wilson, Fox26 News Anchor and Candlelighters Mom, for graciously serving as our emcee for the night. Melissa, whose son Caleb is a childhood cancer survivor, guided us through the evening with warmth and grace, sharing her connection to Candlelighters and reminding us all why we gather each year.

Last year's Lights of Courage event was more than just a fundraiser – it was a celebration of hope, healing, and the enduring strength of our families. We are grateful for each of you who made this evening possible. Your support lights the way for children with cancer and their families, and we are already looking forward to this year's evening together!





# Lights of Courage

Saddle up for an evening of western glam and grandeur at The Goodman!

9835 Katy Freeway, Suite 3190, Houston, TX 77024

Thursday, October 23, 2025

EVENT CHAIRS

Patty Bowen . Lauren Cox . Angela Daniels . Anna Van Delden

Benefiting  
**CANDLELIGHTERS**  
Childhood Cancer Family Alliance

## JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF HOPE AND HONOR AT LIGHTS OF COURAGE 2025

We invite you to be part of a powerful evening at Lights of Courage, where we come together to celebrate and support children with cancer and their families. At the heart of this unforgettable night are four courageous Candlelighters families, whose strength, hope, and resilience serve as a beacon for the entire childhood cancer community.

Each year, Lights of Courage honors young cancer fighters and survivors who have inspired others with their journeys. Their stories are the heartbeat of our mission and a reminder of the thousands of children in the Greater Houston area walking a similar path. The experiences they share leave a lasting impact on everyone in the room – igniting compassion, action, and unity.

On Thursday, October 23, 2025, join us at the beautiful Goodman venue, in partnership with Masraff's, for an evening hosted by Event Chairs Patty Bowen, Lauren Cox, Angela Daniels, and Anna Van Delden. The night begins with fun and festivities – including a liquor toss, jewelry pull, raffle, silent auction, and more – followed by a meaningful program featuring a live auction and the opportunity to make a direct impact through paddle-raise donations.

But most importantly, we'll shine the spotlight on our four honorees, sharing their deeply moving stories that represent the courage of so many. Come be inspired, moved, and part of something truly special. We can't wait to share this night of light and love with you!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF FAMILIES FACING CHILDHOOD  
CANCER BY BECOMING A LIGHTS OF COURAGE SPONSOR TODAY!

*Reserve Your Table Today!*

[HTTPS://US.GIVERGY.COM/LIGHTSOFCOURAGE2025](https://us.givergy.com/lightsofcourage2025)

# FUND PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR CANCER FAMILIES



**GOAL: \$15,000**

*Family Programs & Parties*

Our calendar is filled with meaningful programs that provide direct, practical, and emotional support to families when they need it most – from our Summer Surprises Party to our Bell Ringing In A Box kits (packed with party supplies to celebrate the completion of treatment!) and our upcoming Back-To-School Backpacks initiative to support inpatient students – your donation will go directly to supporting families! These programs are only possible because of people like you who choose to make a difference.

## *Family Fall Festival*

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!

**GOAL: \$5,000**



## *Thanksgiving Blessings*

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



**GOAL: \$16,000**

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!



## *Adopt-A-Family*

**GOAL: \$16,000**

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!

# FUELING COMPASSION WITH FOOD & GRATITUDE

Candlelighters Cares: Supporting Our Hospital Partners Who Support Cancer Families

*Thank You to our 2025 Candlelighters Cares Sponsors!*



Candlelighters Cares is our monthly hospital outreach program that provides treats for the nurses, doctors, and staff who take such great care of our cancer families! We partner with local restaurants and businesses to spread joy to these healthcare heroes. For more information, contact Program Director, Carly Bradshaw, at [cbradshaw@candle.org](mailto:cbradshaw@candle.org).



## GRATITUDE ON THE GREEN

Houston Relocation Professionals Annual Golf Tournament Raises \$30,000 for Candlelighters!



We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible success of the Houston Relocation Professionals (HRP) Annual Golf Tournament, held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at the scenic Wildcat Golf Course. With perfectly crisp fall weather and a completely sold-out event, it was a fantastic day of fun, fellowship, and fundraising – raising an amazing \$30,000 in support of children with cancer and their families!

Golfers were treated to a memorable day that began with hearty breakfast tacos, followed by a mouthwatering barbecue lunch prepared by the Planet Texas Bar-B-Que Cook-Off Team, refreshing specialty drinks and snacks on the course, and a crowd-favorite Bloody Mary Bar, courtesy of Tito's Handmade Vodka.

We were honored to have Candlelighters Teen Ambassador, Callie Moore, kick off the tournament with a special symbolic tee-off – the perfect way to start a day filled with purpose and community spirit.

Candlelighters has been proud to be the beneficiary of this incredible tournament for 17 consecutive years, a true testament to HRP's unwavering commitment to supporting childhood cancer families. A very special thank-you goes to HRP Golf Chair, Samantha Hoffer, for her outstanding leadership in making this event such a success.

But HRP's impact doesn't stop there. Year after year, they go above and beyond to support our mission – from hosting an annual holiday toy drive that fills our Adopt-A-Family and Summer Surprises programs with joy, to organizing an Astros fundraising event in honor of Candlelighters.

We are truly grateful to HRP for embracing our families with open arms and open hearts. Your continued support brings hope, happiness, and relief to so many during the most difficult times. Here's to another incredible tournament in Fall 2025 – we can't wait to hit the green again with our friends at HRP!

## BRIGHT SMILES, BRIGHTER FUTURES

LOCAL DENTAL OFFICE RAISES \$22,000 FOR CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES!

From March 1st to June 30th last year, 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!

In 2024, Montz & Maher Dental Group raised an impressive \$22,000 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!

We are delighted to announce that Candlelighters has once again been 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 are warmly welcomed to participate in this meaningful initiative. Make your appointment today!



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

VISIT THEIR LOCATIONS IN PEARLAND & FRIENDSWOOD!

## A SHINING PARTNER IN KENDRA SCOTT

We are deeply grateful for the continued generosity of Kendra Scott, whose heartfelt partnership helps us brighten the lives of Candlelighters families year after year. From hosting impactful give-back shopping events that directly fuel our mission, to donating their signature, stunning jewelry for childhood cancer moms on Mother's Day, teens attending Summer Surprises, and to bolster our fundraising auctions, Kendra Scott's support makes a difference.

We invite you to shop with purpose, benefiting Candlelighters, on April 29, 2025, at the Kendra Scott PEARLAND and CITY CENTRE locations! Enjoy an evening of shopping, light bites, bubbly, and coming together as a community – all while giving back to local families navigating the childhood cancer journey.

We are so thankful for Kendra Scott's unwavering commitment to giving back and for standing beside us in support of the children and families we serve. Together, we're creating moments of joy, hope, and meaningful connection.



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## GIVING BACK IN STYLE: EDIT BY ELAINE TURNER

We are thrilled to partner with Edit by Elaine Turner for a special give-back night in support of local childhood cancer families. We invite you to join us on April 23, 2025, at Edit by Elaine Turner (7800 Washington Ave, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77007) for an uplifting evening of light bites, wine, and shopping with heart.

Elaine Turner and the Edit team continue to show what it means to support their community. Their generosity reaches far beyond a single event, as Elaine remains a steadfast supporter of Candlelighters throughout the year, helping Candlelighters bring moments of comfort, hope, and connection to families facing one of life's most difficult challenges. We are grateful for their inspiring commitment to using style and fashion as a force for good. Join us and help make an impact, one meaningful purchase at a time!



# COSTUMES, CARNIVAL GAMES, & COMMUNITY SPIRIT

A Special Day Of Smiles And Support Thanks To This St. John's School Tradition

Our Annual Family Fall Festival continues to be one of the most beloved events for our Candlelighters families – and this year's celebration was no exception! Hosted each fall and brought to life by the enthusiastic and dedicated 8th-grade students of St. John's School, the festival offered a magical day filled with Halloween-themed fun, exciting and creative carnival games, and making lasting memories with family and friends!



Families arrived decked out in cute and creative costumes, ready to dive into a day of laughter, music, and connection with other childhood cancer families. The event grounds were buzzing with energy as kids enjoyed interactive carnival-style booths, won heaps of prizes, bounced their hearts out in the giant inflatable obstacle course and bounce house, and danced along to catchy tunes curated by our event DJ.

Sweet treats and classic carnival snacks were in no short supply – with freshly popped popcorn, cotton candy, and festive goodies keeping everyone fueled for fun. One of the most exciting moments of the day? The spirited costume contest, where imaginative costumes earned lots of cheers and fun prizes! Guests also had the chance to win big with fabulous door prizes like bicycles, Houston Texans tickets, and toy-packed giveaways that delighted kids of all ages.

For over two decades, the 8th-grade students of St. John's School have been the creative masterminds behind the festival's most beloved attractions. Their thoughtful planning, spirited leadership, and incredible teamwork led to booth favorites like a water balloon toss, pie-in-the-face, mini golf course, custom "slime bar", and pumpkin painting – all thoughtfully crafted and run by the students themselves!

We are endlessly grateful to the students, parents, and faculty of St. John's School for pouring their hearts into this tradition year after year. Your generosity, creativity, and lively energy brought smiles, laughter, and a much-needed joy to childhood cancer families. Thank you for making the 2024 fall festival one to remember!

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

GREATER HOUSTON SPORTS CLUB

6700 McHard Rd | Houston, TX 77053



\*\*\* Taking aim to help children with cancer and their families. \*\*\*

**Join us for the 5th Annual Break a Clay for Candlelighters!**

*Experienced and novice shooters are encouraged to attend.*

### Tournament Schedule

- 10:00 am Check In
- 10:45 am Welcome & Safety Briefing
- 11:00 am Tournament Begins
- 1:30 pm Lunch is Served
- 2:30 pm Awards & Auction
- 3:30 pm Tournament Ends

Mulligans can be purchased at check in.

### Awards, Food, and Fun!



Awards will be given to the first, second, and third place teams as well as individual and flurry winners!



Special Thanks to Ditta Meat Food Service Company and Planet Texas BBQ Team for providing tournament lunch! And to Tito's Handmade Vodka, Maker's Mark, and Pepsi for providing post-tournament drinks!



We will have Silent Auction Items, Door Prizes, Speakers from Candlelighters, and more!

PRESENTED BY **WellBoss**

\*\*\* Register Today! \*\*\*

[www.givergy.us/2025Clayshoot](http://www.givergy.us/2025Clayshoot)  
Check out the event!

713-270-4700  
Give us a ring!

[pglover@candle.org](mailto:pglover@candle.org)  
Email us your information!

Benefitting



**Candlelighters**  
CHILDHOOD CANCER FAMILY ALLIANCE

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance provides emotional, educational, and practical support to families of children with cancer.

# EXCITING NEWS FROM OUR HOSPITAL PARTNERS

Texas Children's Hospital & UT MD Anderson Announce Joint Venture To End Childhood Cancer

HOUSTON, TEXAS | February 19, 2025

IN A RECENT PRESS RELEASE, BOTH HOSPITALS ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING:

Texas Children's Hospital and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center have announced a transformational collaboration dedicated solely to pediatric cancer care. Approved by the Texas Children's Board of Trustees and the UT System Board of Regents, this new, first-of-its-kind joint venture will unite the nation's largest comprehensive pediatric system and a top pediatric cancer program with the nation's leading comprehensive cancer center. The collaboration has a single mission: to end childhood cancer.

"The scope and scale of our combined effort will build the world's preeminent pediatric cancer center, addressing the growing need for excellent patient care and greatly benefiting children with cancer through increased access to care and to clinical trials," said Peter WT Pisters, M.D., President of MD Anderson. "MD Anderson and Texas Children's offer unique strengths that when brought together will accelerate improved outcomes for patients in Texas and around the world."

Collaborative operations and patient care will launch in early 2026. A focus on new facilities is required to offer patients and their families a best-in-class healing environment with the latest medical technology designed specifically with them in mind. Specifics are not yet established but will be forthcoming. The combination of Texas Children's and MD Anderson patient populations will increase pediatric cancer clinical trials, ultimately expediting discoveries and enhancing the availability of innovative cancer treatments. Texas has one of the youngest and fastest growing populations in the country and has the second most total pediatric cancer cases in the United States, creating a significant opportunity for scientific advancement through this joint venture.

"This groundbreaking collaboration between two proven leaders in pediatric and cancer care marks the beginning of a new era in the fight against childhood cancer," says Debra F. Sukin, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Texas Children's. "The combined force of our two iconic programs will be led with the nation's top talent—from clinicians and researchers to nurses and administrative professionals—each committed to realizing the shared mission of eradicating pediatric cancer."

While the two organizations have collaborated for years, this new effort will expand access while offering the nation's largest complement of pediatric subspecialty care and services to children diagnosed with all types of cancer within a single entity. More than 200 Texas Children's pediatric oncology specialists, who are full time faculty with Baylor College of Medicine, and over 100 MD Anderson pediatric clinicians and researchers will together advance this transformational care team. The collaboration will also feature pediatric oncology education programs aimed at training and expanding the next-generation pediatric oncology care team who will be key in our bold goal of eliminating childhood cancer.

*Candlelighters is excited and honored to be a part of this groundbreaking partnership!*

# CANDLELIGHTERS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Welcoming Paige Glover, Director of Development

Paige is excited to join the Candlelighters team as the new Director of Development. With nearly 20 years of experience in both nonprofit and for-profit development, Paige has worked with well-established organizations such as the Greater Houston Restaurant Association, American Heart Association, Office Depot B2B, American Liver Foundation, National Psoriasis Foundation, and most recently, the American Diabetes Association. This diverse background has equipped her with a strong set of skills to support fundraising efforts and cultivate meaningful relationships with donors, volunteers, and corporate partners.

Accepting this role was especially meaningful to Paige. Eighteen years ago, her nephew Lance passed away from a DIPG brain tumor, and through that experience, she understands the profound emotional, physical, and financial challenges that families face when battling cancer. This personal connection fuels her passion for advancing the mission of Candlelighters and providing critical support to families affected by childhood cancer.

Outside of work, Paige is a dedicated wife, mother of two sons, Caleb and Cole, and dog-mom to her golden retriever, Blue. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University (Class of 2002), is active in her local church, and keeps busy with her sons' basketball and soccer games! Help us give a warm welcome to Paige when you see her at our upcoming events!



## HOW YOU CAN VOLUNTEER WITH CANDLELIGHTERS!



SCAN HERE TO FILL OUT OUR  
VOLUNTEER FORM!

1. **YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP:** Support the Candlelighters mission through fundraising and volunteer activities while participating in social and professional networking opportunities through the Candlelighters YPG!
2. **CAMP CLIFF ('Children Loved in Families Forever'):** Become a counselor or help with games & activities to provide families with a fun weekend away from cancer.
3. **SUMMER SURPRISES:** Hand out toys & treats or oversee a craft with childhood cancer patients and their siblings to bring them some summer fun.
4. **FUN WALK:** Raise funds with a walk team, help run activities, or man the food or raffle booths during our fun event that kicks off Childhood Cancer Awareness Month!
5. **FALL FESTIVAL:** Oversee an arts and crafts station or interactive game booths for childhood cancer families to enjoy during this family-favorite fall event.
6. **ADOPT-A-FAMILY:** Sponsor families by providing new, wrapped gifts from their Wish Lists or host a toy drive or gift card drive for families during the holidays.
7. **OFFICE PROJECTS:** Help our staff organize supplies, enter data, prepare mailings, and so much more at the Candlelighters office... we're pretty fun & love visitors!

## SAVE THE DATES

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### **CANDLELIGHTERS NIGHT WITH THE SUGAR LAND SPACE COWBOYS**

FREE FAMILY EVENT | FAMILIES MUST RSVP!

**FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025**

### **5TH ANNUAL BREAK A CLAY FOR CANDLELIGHTERS**

FUNDRAISING EVENT @ GREATER HOUSTON SPORTS CLUB

[HTTPS://US.GIVERGY.COM/2025CLAYSHOOT](https://us.givergy.com/2025clayshoot)

**FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025**

### **SUMMER SURPRISES PARTY**

FREE FAMILY EVENT | FAMILIES MUST RSVP!

**THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025**

### **2025 FUN WALK**

TERRY HERSHEY PARK | FREE REGISTRATION!

[HTTPS://2025FUNWALK.FUNRAISE.ORG/](https://2025funwalk.funraise.org/)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025**

### **HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM**

SPONSORS & COMMUNITY GROUPS BUY & WRAP GIFTS

FOR CANDLELIGHTERS FAMILIES

**ACCEPTING FAMILY & SPONSOR APPLICATIONS IN SEPTEMBER**

### **LIGHTS OF COURAGE**

EVENING FUNDRAISING EVENT @ THE GOODMAN

[HTTPS://US.GIVERGY.COM/LIGHTSOFCOURAGE2025/](https://us.givergy.com/lightsofcourage2025/)

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025**

### **FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL**

FREE FAMILY EVENT | FAMILIES MUST RSVP!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025**

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

[www.facebook.com/candlelighters](https://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
- Toiletry Bags
- Thanksgiving Blessings

## 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
- Houston Rodeo BBQ Cookoff hosted by the Planet Texas Cookoff Team
- 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 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
- Ari's Bears
- Bags of Love
- Benjy Grinberg Scholarship
- Cancer for College
- Chalik & Chalik Injury Lawyers Cancer Survivors Scholarship
- Children's Cancer Cause College Scholars Program
- Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation
- Faith Hope and Love Jesus, Inc.
- Houston Relocation Professionals
- Izzy Foundation
- John Foy & Associates "Strong Arm" Leukemia Scholarship
- Lagman Foundation Second Chances Scholarship
- Lep Foundation CURE-Cancer Support Scholarship
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for Blood Cancer Survivors
- Mesothelioma.com Scholarship
- Michael A. Hunter Memorial Scholarship
- My Hometown Heroes Scholarship
- National Children's Cancer Society
- National Collegiate Cancer Foundation
- National Grace Foundation
- Northwestern Mutual – Survivor & Sibling Scholarship Programs
- Patient Advocate Foundation
- Paul Bernot Memorial Foundation
- Project Joy and Hope
- Ruth Cheatham Foundation
- Silken Twine Sophie Malaviya Memorial Scholarship
- Snowdrop Foundation
- Special Love for Children with Cancer Kay/Moore Fund
- The Simon Cancer Foundation
- The Sunshine Kids Foundation
- The Valerie Fund Scholarship
- 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

- Addi's Faith Foundation
- Heroes for Children Rent and Mortgage
- Houston Children's Charity
- Project Joy and Hope
- The Brent Event
- The SAMFund for Young Adult Survivors of Cancer - Expect Miracles Foundation
- The Still Strong Foundation



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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.