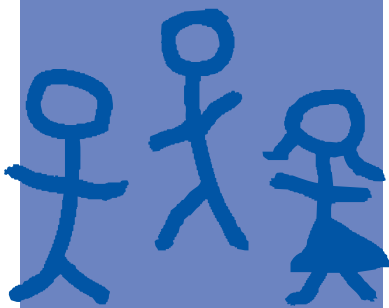


Candlelighters

Vol. 18 No. 3
Fall 2010

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Childhood Cancer Family Alliance Pediatric Cancer Caucus

Each day, 35 children in America are diagnosed with childhood cancer. Three out of every five children will survive childhood cancer, but will experience long-term effects, some of which are life threatening. And while great strides have been made in curing childhood cancer, it still remains the leading cause of death for children by disease.

On September 16th, the bipartisan Congressional Pediatric Cancer Caucus held a Childhood Cancer Summit in Washington, D. C. In observance of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, top doctors and researchers from across the country representing institutions such as Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and Texas Children's Hospital from Houston and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia joined with lawmakers to bring attention to the challenges we face. Our 2010 Fun Walk honoree, Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman, from M. D. Anderson testified before Congress.

Topics of discussion included how to overcome the obstacles to drug development, access to treatments and how to ensure a better quality of life for our long term survivors. The committee heard from not only researchers and professionals in the field of childhood cancer, but from parents and children as well. One of the summit's goals was to raise awareness among not only the general public, but among policymakers in an effort to gain support

and form a legislative agenda. The Caucus' goal is to impress on members of Congress the need to rededicate efforts in the field of pediatric cancer research, recognizing the needs of children who face cancer are often vastly different from the needs of others facing the many other forms of cancer. The Caucus will roll the panels' recommendations into a legislative agenda that includes:

- Incentives for drug development (S. 3697) would give pharmaceutical companies that bring a new pediatric drug to market priority review status for a more profitable drug they are developing.
- Grants for specialized training to primary care physicians to better identify side effects and re-occurrence of symptoms (HR 2109).
- Greater access to clinical trials.
- Greater emphasis on survivorship and impact of childhood cancer on families.
- Full funding of the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act (passed in 2009) to increase pediatric cancer research at the National Cancer Institute and create a pediatric cancer registry at the Centers for Disease Control.

Those who care for a child with cancer often need a listening ear to help guide them through the experience. Candlelighters is here.



Men's Support Group

Exciting News for all you Dads, Grandads, Uncles and family members who have been affected by childhood cancer.

NEW! We are starting a new father's support group. Join us for our first lunch on
Wednesday, October 20th at 12:30pm
St. Johns - 2450 River Oaks Blvd, Houston TX 77019
For more information, call 713-270-4700

Candlelighters Parent Coffee

Open to Children's Cancer Hospital at MD Anderson Families
Every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Family Room, 9th Floor, Alkek Hospital
Refreshments provided





Bulletin Board

Candlelighters CCFA

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 Lisa O’Leary – Advisory Board Co-Chair
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 Sally Bosse, Loretta Bueso, Sylvie Crum, Shelley Gatlin,
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 Kay Kempken, Dr. Patrick Zweidler-McKay,
 Rob Neblett, Scott Newell, Kathy O’Neil,
 Carrie Peters, Cindi Ditta Priebe, Cali A. Sokol,
 Jessica Svetlik

Upcoming Events

Camp CLIFF

October 8 – 10, 2010
 Camp for All, Burton Texas

NEW - Men's Support Group Lunch

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 12 noon
 St. Johns Church

Fall Family Festival

October 24, 2010
 St. John’s School

Adopt a Family Program

October - December 2010

YPG Holiday Party

Saturday, December 18, 2010

Lights of Courage Luncheon 2011

Thursday, April 28, 2011
 River Oaks Country Club

For more information on any of our events or to reserve your tickets, visit our website at www.candle.org

Candlelighters Office

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Elizabeth Haines, Program Director
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Parent Consultants

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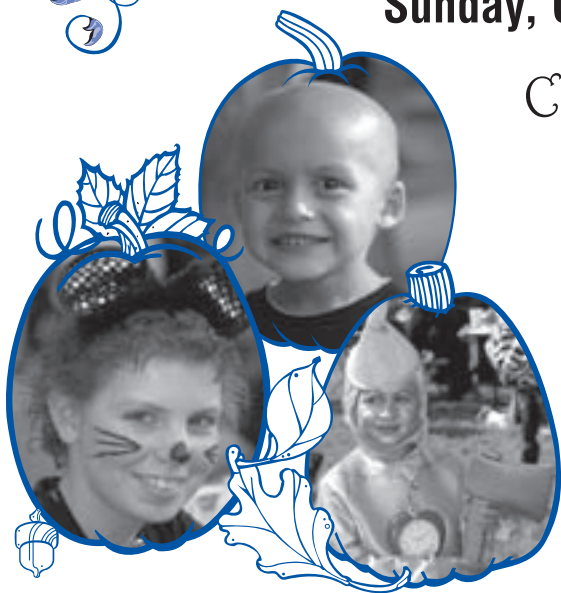
The Children’s Cancer Hospital
 at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
 Office (713) 792-4891
 Roseanna Daly
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 Pager: (713) 606-5358
 Jaynie Hutchinson
jaynieh@candle.org
 Pager: (713) 606-5471




Candlelighters
 Childhood Cancer Family Alliance

Annual Family Fall Festival

Sunday, October 24, 2010, 2-4 pm



Carnival Booths • Games • Snacks
 Arts & Crafts • Moon Walks
 Lots of Prizes & Surprises!

St. John's School

2401 Claremont Lane
Houston, TX 77019

At the corner of Westheimer & Buffalo Spwy

DIRECTIONS:

From HWY 59 exit north on Buffalo Speedway.
Turn East on Westheimer. Enter parking at
third driveway - parking is east of the school
at Lamar High School.



Free Of Charge!

Event will be held rain or shine.



For family reservations call: 713-270-4700

Summer



SURPRISES



Summer Surprises was a huge hit! Candlelighters and volunteers from Cisco collected toys, wrapped and delivered presents to the childhood cancer patients at MD Anderson and Texas Children's Hospital on August 5th and 11th. Cisco sponsored our Summer Surprises party in the Pedi Dome at MD Anderson on August 5th with music, snacks, lunch, crafts and gifts! Volunteers delivered toys to our kids at Texas Children's Hospital, spreading cheer in the clinic and the hospital. We gave away more than 300 toys to our amazing and strong children battling childhood cancer. Thank you Cisco Systems for all of your generous support!





Sign up today for our Adopt a Family for the Holidays Program

Candlelighters Adopt a Family is a heartwarming program offering Sponsors the opportunity to interact with Candlelighters families. This contact is important for both families and sponsors in celebrating the true meaning of the holidays. Discover the joy of spreading holiday cheer to those families who find the season especially difficult while coping with a child diagnosed with cancer or having recently lost a child to cancer. Donors can be matched to a family of their choice. Since our treatment centers are international, this program reflects all diverse cultures. Donors and sponsors have included individual families,

individual grades and classes or entire schools, employee groups, clubs, businesses, church youth groups, and individuals.

Since 1992, Candlelighters has organized this Adopt a Family for the Holidays program in an effort to provide hope, support and practical help to families at this time of the year. Candlelighters depends on the generosity of the Houston community to help us with this unique program, which has provided for over 150 families each year.

If you are interested in adopting a family for the holidays, please contact the Candlelighters office at 713-270-4700 or email Elizabeth Haines at ehaines@ Candle.org

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS By Donna Culliver



Christmas is around the corner! Our organization, Adam's Angels Ministry, begins focusing on the holidays now.

I encourage you to do so as well by participating in the Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays program. **THE BLESSING WILL BE YOURS!**

Now, let's fast forward to Christmas. The smell of Christmas is in the air. Brisk weather, stores decorated with lights, toys stacked to the ceiling, Santa making his appearances, and the excitement of parties



everywhere. Children have made their lists with the anticipation of Christmas day being all they can think about. Well, not quite for all. You have a child that is experiencing the disease called "childhood cancer". Every thought you have is focused on getting your child well. The season rapidly approaches. Childhood cancer families become overwhelmed with thoughts of how they will provide a Christmas for their family. These families are struggling financially with medical bills and everyday living costs. You see, these families do not and will not ever live a "normal" life again.

In January 2003, we lost our four year old son, Adam, to Acute Myelogenous Leukemia only four short days after diagnosis. Twenty something days prior our family had celebrated Christmas. Christmas 2002, will be cherished forever. Christmas 2003 we decided to start a new tradition as a family by participating in the Adopt-A-Family program with Candlelighters. Emotionally, we wrestled with the thought of would we be able to do this. We prayed as a family and God reminded us in Joshua 1:9...



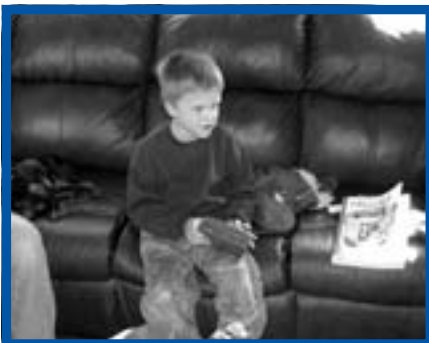
“I command you — be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

What a blessing we received that year. In 2004 we started our ministry, Adam's Angels Ministry, founded in memory of our son. One of our areas of assistance is participating in the Adopt-A-Family program. We started out by adopting about five families that Christmas and as of 2009 the number has grown to twenty. The rewards were certainly ones we received. Seeing the smiles and tears of excitement on the faces of these families when

their gifts are opened is truly a blessing for our family and ministry. Everyday things that you and I take for granted, or just go out and buy without hesitation, are a cherished



gift for many. One request in particular, comes to mind when a young boy had batteries on his list. This seemed like a simple and unusual request that to us appeared to be a mistake; however, we purchased some and kept them just in case. Well, as he began opening his gifts his face beamed, but at the same time appeared as if he was looking for something. All the gifts had been opened and he still looked as if a gift was missing. Finally, we thought, maybe the batteries. We handed the batteries to



his grandmother, unwrapped, in a simple recyclable bag and told her we were not sure if these were on the list by mistake, but we bought some anyway. Well, the child jumped with excitement and grabbed the bag looking inside saying, “my batteries”. We were amazed. His grandmother explained he had all these remote controlled trucks and toys requiring batteries but could not play with them

because they could not afford the batteries. Wow, we could not believe what we heard. We left the house telling them we would be right back. Returning rather



quickly, we had a huge bag full of every size battery we could get just in case he had a special toy that might require a unique size. We learned a unique lesson that year... it is not the price of the gift but the thought and purpose behind it. So simple to us, but to one young boy it was the most important gift he received that year.

Adopting-A-Family for Christmas is an opportunity for the giver to receive more than the receiver. Lots of families will not be able to experience Christmas this year due to childhood cancer but, also in addition to the economy. YOU can make a difference and YOU can receive a “Christmas Blessing”. God bless Candlelighters for allowing us the opportunity to see a child's eyes light up at Christmas once again.

Tim, Donna & Andrew Culliver

Adam's Angels Ministry





Fun Walk 2010

While the weather may have been hot, the 2010 Fun Walk was the coolest walk ever! Over 450 walkers, including families, companies, and volunteers turned out on Saturday, September 11th for a morning full of fun and a special tribute to not only our childhood cancer heroes, but the heroes of 9-11. It was truly one of our biggest and most inspiring walks ever!



over Terry Hershey Park and served as a beautiful start for the walk.

The walkers returned from the three mile walk to face painting, arts and crafts, fishing, balloon hats and games provided by the students from **St. John's School.**



Panera Bread provided delicious pastries, **The Fruit Palette** was a guaranteed hit with their frozen



juice bars, along with refreshments from **Coca-Cola.**

A raffle gave walkers the chance to win some fun and amazing prizes, including tickets for four to Disneyland, roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines, and certificates for great dining and events all around town. All the funds raised at the walk are used to support families at our weekend Family Camp - Camp CLIFF.



Congratulations to our top Family Team - **"Walking for Ben"** - They raised \$1,800 for Candlelighters! Special thanks to Ben Campbell and his family for making this happen!

Also, congratulations to our top Corporate Team - **Team Wortham** for raising over \$8,000 for Candlelighters!!!! They had a great turn out from their walk team and we are most appreciative!



Saturday, September 11th was a special day for all of us. A day in which we recognized everyday people and their remarkable acts of courage and bravery. We took a moment to recognize all of our emergency responders and thanked them for their courage and sacrifice. We also honored all our children who bravely battle cancer with courage, grace and dignity each and every day. At this year's Fun Walk, we honored two heroes to all our Candlelighters families, **Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer and Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman.**





The 2010 Walk Honorees

Dr. Dreyer is a member of the Candlelighters Board of Directors and is the Medical Director of the Long Term Survivors Program at Texas Children's Cancer Center. She has been an ardent supporter of Candlelighters for many years. Her warm and caring nature have endeared her to hundreds of families on their cancer journey. Her smile and caring way have made her a favorite, to not only the children she helps, but to the parents as well.



Dr. Kleinerman is the Division Head, Division of Pediatrics at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Kleinerman has been instrumental in the growth and success of Candlelighters and works closely with our Parent Consultants. She has not only cared for our children with cancer, she has worked tirelessly to find a cure for childhood cancer. Her gentle nature and caring ways make her a favorite to the children and families.



**Thank you everyone for your tremendous support
of the 2010 Fun Walk!**

Special Thanks to our Sponsors

Baytown Chamber of Commerce

BearCom

BP

The Bravenec Family

Coca-Cola

Coldwell Banker United Realtors

Colortech Direct

The Daly Family

Diamond Offshore

Facepainting Designs by Gayle & Diane

The Greensheet

House of Coffee Beans

Katy for Candlelighters

Love Street Light Circus

My Heart Guardian Angel Dolls

Panera Bread

The Sackey Family

The Fruit Palette

Smile for your child

St. John's School

Transocean

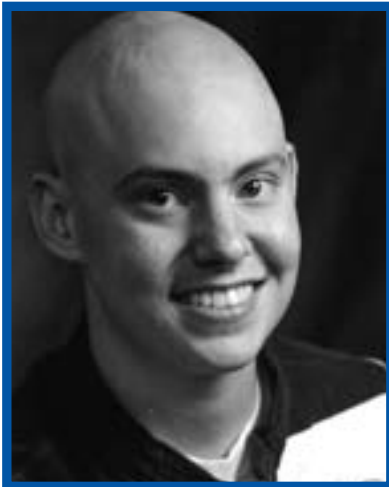
Trinity Petroleum Consultants, Ltd.

Weichert – Wayne Murray Properties

Candlelighters 2010 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to all our 2010 high school graduates!! The dramatic successes in treating childhood cancer today mean that many young cancer patients now have promising futures. Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance wants to encourage and support them in the pursuit of their educational and career goals. Candlelighters has established a fund to receive contributions to be designated for scholarships for young people with a history of childhood cancer to be used for college education and/or vocational training and used specifically for tuition, room and board, books, tutoring and supplies. Each winner submitted an essay discussing their goals and one event in their life that had a significant effect and we have included a quote from each essay. Many times, having childhood cancer can inspire children at an early age and give them a maturity beyond their years. Many of these essays reflect that inspiration and maturity.

The Board of Directors and the Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2010 Long Term Survivor Scholarship Awards.



David Garrett Bass

- Diagnosed with Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma at age 17
- Attending HBU with a major in Mathematics

“My parents have been placed in the difficult position of maintaining financial responsibility for my copayments and prescriptions, not to mention parking and gas every week for transportation to the hospital.”



Samuel Benjamin French

- Diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis at age five
- Attending Oklahoma Baptist University with a major in Pre-Medicine

“My brain tumor is something viewed quite serious by most people in the world, some may even think that it is the ending point of my life. I would have to disagree, because to me, it was the beginning.”



Danielle Alexandria Garzillo

- Diagnosed with Papillary Carcinoma at age 15
- Attending University of Vermont with a major in Nursing

“Ever since I was diagnosed the summer of 2007, I became the grounded, appreciative woman I am today. It made me focused on my goals and to make sure nothing got in the way of achieving them.”

Amy Alyssa Longoria

- Diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma at age 15
- Attending Wharton County Junior College with a major in Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology

“I believe good has come and will come to me out of my cancer experience. My interest in the health care field is proof of that. I can relate to patients and feel I can help make a difference in the lives of others.”



Cole Logan Burke

- Diagnosed with Stage II Nodular Sclerosing Hodgkin's Lymphoma at age 16
- Attending Oklahoma State University with a major in Biological Sciences/Pre-Med.

“What we do with our lives, in order to make a difference for the future, is the most important legacy we can leave behind.”

Justin Bryan Elliott

- Diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia at age 13
- Attending Texas A&M Corpus Christi with a major in Business

“College is like a piece of a puzzle that connects the past challenges and dreams with future goals. Being diagnosed with a life threatening illness and enduring six months of treatment, inspired me to pursue this career.”





Haylee Nicole Fracht

- Diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia at age two
- Attending Texas A&M University with a major in Biomedical Sciences

"I feel driven to give back to others, since so much was given to me when I was sick. The idea of helping people on a daily basis seems as if it would be extremely rewarding."



LeighAnna Hutchinson

- Diagnosed with Granulocytic Sarcoma at age 7
- Attending Baylor University with a major in Nursing

"As I was going through treatment, my mom and dad assured me that something positive would come out of this bump in the road. After my diagnosis, treatment and recovery, I recognized that I needed to go into Pediatric Oncology."



Abigail Katherine Jackson

- Diagnosed with Wilms Tumor at age 6
- Attending Texas A&M with a major in Childhood Education

"For me, strength came at an early age. My life changed when the doctor told my mother that I had cancer. When I came home from the hospital I was a different person, not in a bad way, just different."



Taylor Rhea Lefevere

- Diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at age 5
- Attending Florida State University with a major in Exercise Science

“Most people’s career plans arise solely from either what their parents did, what they are good at, or what makes the most money. My aspirations of becoming a Physical Therapist are attributed to inspiration from my past.”



Emily Michelle Rhodes

- Diagnosed with Acute Biphehotypic Leukemia at age 16
- Attending Oral Roberts University with a major in Nursing

“My bone marrow donor’s generous spirit set an example for my own life. He showed me that I too, as an individual, can make a difference in people’s lives through simple acts of good will.”



Camellia Thistleton

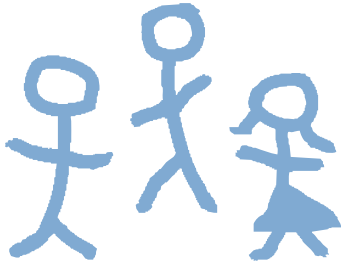
- Diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma at age five
- Attending University of Texas with a major in Neurobiology

“I have led a somewhat different life than my peers. My mother was given an outlook on my condition with a twenty percent chance of living. You could say I took my twenty percent chance and ran with it.”

Candlelighters

Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, Inc.
Candlelighters CCFA
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Houston, Texas 77074

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Candlelighters mission is to provide emotional, educational, and practical support to children with cancer and their families. In addition, Candlelighters desires to promote childhood cancer awareness, and the need for childhood cancer education and research in the Houston community.

We're on the Web!
see us at:

www.candle.org
and on Facebook -
Candlelighters
Houston



About Our Organization...

Candlelighters began in 1980 with two parent support groups from the Medical Center: one at Texas Children's Cancer Center and one at MD Anderson Cancer Center. The Texas Children's Hospital group sought formal incorporation, and in 1992 Candlelighters was legally formed. In the fall of 1992 they invited the MD Anderson Parent Group 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 Consultant to be able to personally hand parents of children with cancer practical assistance such as a meal pass, parking assistance, or gas card. It is our greatest honor and privilege to bring this type of comfort and hope to childhood cancer families.