

FULL CIRCLE MOMENTS

SOMETIMES
LIFE BRINGS US
FULL CIRCLE...

IN OUR FAMILY, EXTENDED

ORIGINATED AS AN ORGANIZATION OF FAMILIES FOR FAMILIES

1978

Two families with children who had cancer decided to create a supportive organization to help other families experiencing the unfamiliar journey with childhood cancer.

With little to no resources to help them navigate the world of childhood cancer, they came together to create a network of support for families affected by the disease.

They believed families could find strength, knowledge, and comfort by banding together during their most difficult times.

Since that time, thousands of children in Nevada have been diagnosed with cancer.

2022

Candlelighters serves approximately 400 families and more than 1,800 children (siblings and diagnosed children) throughout the year.

CANDLELIGHTERS CELEBRATES ITS 44TH BIRTHDAY ON 11/13!

OVER THE LAST 44 YEARS, WE HAVE MET MANY INCREDIBLY GIVING HUMANS. FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE, THEY CAN HELP OTHERS AND BRING THAT WISDOM FULL CIRCLE.

THIS MONTH WE ARE CELEBRATING THOSE

FULL CIRCLE MOMENTS



CASSIDY

Through all the struggles of two cancer diagnoses and treatment, Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of Nevada gave me and my family hope that everything would be ok. No one wants to hear the awful words, "you have cancer," especially hearing it twice before the age of 18.

At just one month old, I was diagnosed with Hepatoblastoma, a form of liver cancer. At nine months old, I received a lifesaving liver transplant. My family knew I only had about a 50% chance of surviving, but I beat the odds and led a healthy childhood.

At 17, I was diagnosed with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma, a completely different type of cancer in the salivary gland.

I had countless doctor's appointments, a major surgery, and radiation treatment five days a week for over two months at UCLA Medical Center while away from home and my family and friends.

I am so grateful for my friends and family that supported me through my cancer journey, especially the extended family I discovered through Candlelighters. I know how critical Candlelighters were to my family.



I wanted to return the gift that was given to me. So I made a choice to help children diagnosed with cancer and their families in the hopes of providing them with the same level of reassurance and encouragement I received. That's why I pursued a bachelor's degree in Social Work at the University of Nevada, Reno. Candlelighters helped make this possible through its scholarship program that assists cancer survivors like me.

This summer, I served as an intern at Candlelighters before I began my graduate studies in Social Work. One of the first projects I worked on was organizing the scholarship awards ceremony for this year's recipients.

It was a full circle moment for me.

To think, a year ago, I was one of the students receiving a scholarship, and now, I got to help hand out these awards and help make these students' dreams a reality!

The opportunity to work at Candlelighters has given me a full circle experience of seeing the amazing work they do for families throughout their cancer journey.

Candlelighters became like a second family to me after my diagnoses, and I'm grateful to help others in the same way they helped me. - Much love, Cassidy

MORE FULL CIRCLE MOMENTS



MICHELLE "MOCHA"

ANGEL PARENT - VOLUNTEER - EMPLOYEE

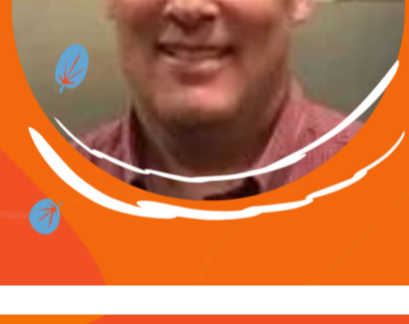
Michelle's daughter Mairyn received her angel wings in 2016 from Leukemia. They were shocked as they didn't know she had cancer. So they started researching childhood cancer reasons, causes, and foundations. In 2017, her family participated in the Superhero 5K and volunteered and came to Halloween Bash, Camp Firefly, and Creative Expressions. Since she has taken on a larger role at Candlelighters and uses her experience to help serve other families in their journey as our Family Service Assistant.



LIZETH PEREZ

SURVIVOR - CAMP VOLUNTEER - SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Lizeth first met Candlelighters as a diagnosed child. As a survivor, she now continues to participate and volunteer at special events like Camp Firefly! Lizeth is also a 2022 Candlelighters' Scholarship Recipient for her studies at the College of Southern Nevada.



CRAIG FJELSTED

PARENT OF CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVOR & SIBLING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - NOW SERVES ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Craig's first interaction with Candlelighters was in 2014 when our team delivered a hospital bag to his family when his son was diagnosed with Leukemia. In 2022, looking for a way to give back to other families, Craig now serves on Candlelighters' Board of Directors.



TEAM KENZIE/JEFF HELVIN

CREATED A FAMILY TEAM FOR DIAGNOSED CHILD NOW IN THE GOLD CAPE CLUB

Jeff and his family first got involved with Candlelighters when his niece MaKenzie was diagnosed with cancer in 2010. Unfortunately, MaKenzie lost her battle in 2011.

Since then, Jeff and his family have formed Team Kenzie and participated in the Superhero 5K and raised over \$79,000. Jeff started selling fireworks as a fundraiser and, in 2022, was inducted into the Superhero 5K Gold Cape Club.



REESE OSWALT

PARENT OF CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVOR/ NOW A BOARD MEMBER

In 2015, his daughter was diagnosed with Leukemia, and in 2018, she received a bone marrow transplant and a clean bill of health. Since 2015, his family has been a part of Candlelighters and Superhero 5K. Wanting to give back and be a part of something that supports families like his, Reese joined the Candlelighters Board of Directors.



ALEXA WALKER

CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVOR NOW A CHILDHOOD CANCER COUNSELOR

Alexa was diagnosed at 12 years old and underwent a treatment journey consisting of 3 surgeries, 14 rounds of chemo, and 20 rounds of radiation. Alexa was so grateful that Candlelighters introduced her to other kids like her and included her at Camp Firefly. Now, Alexa is a Counselor who helps children and families facing childhood cancer.



GIVE BACK TO GIVE THANKS

DONATE A GIFT TO FAMILIES IMPACTED BY CHILDHOOD CANCER

HOW TO SUPPORT:

BECOME A SHINEGOLD MEMBER!

This November, we are looking to add **60 new members**, one new shineGOLD member for every new 2022 diagnosis in S. Nevada.

Join the shineGOLD Club for a recurring monthly donation that makes an ongoing impact. You specify your own monthly donation amount.



AMAZON WISH LIST

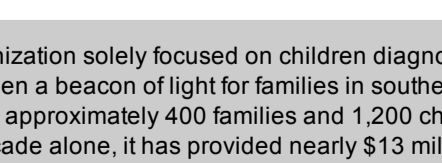
Purchase gift cards, toys, or items from our custom Amazon wish lists. These are for hospital bags, special events, holidays, and birthday celebrations.



NOVEMBER IS GIVING MONTH AND THE MONTH OF CANDLELIGHTERS' BIRTHDAY!

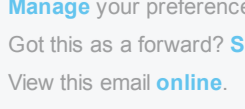
YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP US COMPLETE THE CIRCLE AND REACH OUR GOALS!

60 NEW shineGOLD MEMBERS NEEDED



As the first and oldest local organization solely focused on children diagnosed with childhood cancer and their families, Candlelighters has been a beacon of light for families in southern Nevada for more than 40 years. Candlelighters is proud to serve approximately 400 families and 1,200 children, both siblings and diagnosed children, each year. In the last decade alone, it has provided nearly \$13 million in financial assistance, emotional support and quality of life programs and services to families in our community in order to help with the significant costs of childhood cancer including medical expenses, rent and mortgage, and travel for treatment. For more information, please contact us at: candlelightersnv.org | (702) 737-1919

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