



Happy November volunteers,

Our autumn is in full swing after last week's Halloween Bash. Thanks to the 65 volunteers who made this event possible for our 480 family members, including 290 diagnosed children. We know they had a bewitchingly good time thanks to your service. And now that spooky season is behind us, that means giving season is right around the corner, so we'll need plenty of volunteers on hand to get us through the holidays!

Fall Volunteer Spotlight

Every quarter I get the opportunity to spotlight one of you amazing volunteers. This month, I am excited to share our Fall spotlight volunteer is Derrick Reese better known by his camp name Scorpio. Scorpio was unanimously selected by our staff for this season's spotlight thanks to his boundless energy and good nature. He not only volunteered for our Superhero 5K (arriving early for his shift and staying late as is typical of him), but led his race team as captain in raising \$840 for Candlelighters! Scorpio's background as a choreographer and gymnastics coach also came in handy helping our family services team design some uplifting and interactive lesson plans that could be used for kiddos in the hospital while being adaptable to different levels of treatment and disability. Scorpio first volunteered at camp over a decade ago, and has been an invaluable asset since he rejoined us this summer and fall.



"The choice to donate my time to Candlelighters has always been easy and rooted in my love for the sharing of the simple gift of happiness," he says while reflecting on some of his memories of volunteering. We are thrilled to have him back and can't wait to see where else his volunteer journey leads. [You can read more of his story here.](#)



Our Spotlight Event is Candlelighters Birthday Party!

Happy Birthday to us!

On Saturday, November 13 Candlelighters will be inviting our families for an open house and birthday celebration at our office. We'll be celebrating our 43rd birthday with food, games, face painting, crafts, and a tour of our new mobile play therapy van which we will be launching in partnership with the Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels in 2022.

We will need about 10 volunteers/party animals to help us kick off this event in roles including setup, registration, game stations, craft station, and food stations. All volunteers must be ages 16 or older. You should plan to wear your gold Candlelighters shirt (if you don't have one, no worries--I'll hook you up!) Most shifts will be from 10:45 am until approximately 1:30pm. Light snacks will be provided.

Sign up is available on the portal or you can [email me](#).

Kids and Connection Committee

We are looking for some long term volunteers who are passionate about our cause and looking to make a serious commitment. The Kids & Connection Committee will be a volunteer led team working closely in collaboration with our family services department to assist and lead some of our youth support programming such as Creative Expressions, Tween Scene, and Young Adults.

The types of volunteers to succeed in this role will be people who thrive working both independently and collaboratively. If interested, please read [this position description](#), and [email me](#) a letter of interest explaining your qualifications no later than November 15.



Winter Goodie Bags

As we head into winter, we're looking for volunteers to take on the next round of volunteer goodie bags. Our Family Services team delivers these bags every two weeks on our hospital rounds when we check in with the families. Each volunteer will create 14 identical bags on the theme that matches their date to create a little cheer for the kiddos. You can read more about what all goes into the bags [here](#). The next round of goodies bags up for grabs will include:

- November 12: Turkey Trouble
- December 17: Sweet Snowflakes
- December 31: Happy New Year

- January 14: A Splash of Color
- January 30: Happy Kiss A Shark Week!
- February 14: Happy Valentine's Day

If you are interested, please [email me](#) with the date/theme you want. It should be dropped off at the Candlelighters office on or before that day.

Other Upcoming Opportunities

Golf tournament: We're looking for one more volunteer to man the "Hole in One" contest at a charity golf tournament with benefits coming to Candlelighters. Sign up on the portal if interested.

Birthday card club: This is one of our popular monthly positions. You can pick up cards from our office, write birthday messages, attach labels and then return them to our office for shipping. Sign up on the portal, but if you do not see an orange help wanted flag, it generally means the position has been filled.

Angel Cards: We also celebrate the lives of our angel children by sending a card to their family during their birthday month. Like the birthday club, these can be picked up from the office, completed at home at returned. Sign up available on the portal.

12 Days of Cheer: One of our holiday favorites, volunteers will pick up 12 packages from the Candlelighters office and then drop off a little gift to their assigned family each day secret Santa style for 12 days leading up to Christmas Eve. Please note that filling out the application does not guarantee a spot, there is often a waitlist for this popular program, and volunteers must commit to all 12 days. The selected volunteers will be background checked prior to being matched with a family. [Apply here!](#)



I know the pun at the end of the newsletter can sometimes get cheesy, but this Thanksgiving, know that I'm grate-ful for you.

-Laurie

[Access the Volunteer Portal](#)

[Apply to Become A Volunteer](#)

Laurie Gillman, Volunteer Manager / lgillman@candlelightersnv.org

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