



Hello volunteers!

May I be the first to wish you a happy May? With the changing of the seasons means one of my favorite parts of the job, sharing a new spotlight volunteer. Our Spring Spotlight 2022 volunteer is Hillary Cruz! Hillary is a rising star who quickly became a reliable, fun, and giving volunteer. She has created and donated goodie bags 4 times, volunteered at multiple events, and participated with her family in our 12 Days of Cheer Program. Once we realized how great she is with kids, Hilary had even more chances to shine this spring as she volunteered with Creative Expressions, donut delivery, the Bunny Hop, and plans to volunteer at Every Day Extraordinary as well.

When asked why she chose to volunteer for Candlelighters, Hillary responded, "I did not choose to volunteer with Candlelighters, Candlelighters chose me." Dating all the way back to her childhood, Candlelighters was a part of Hillary's as a child during her sister's battle with brain cancer. She says, "Candlelighters surrounded my family with love and support every step of the way." [Read more about her story here.](#)



Our spotlight event this month is Everyday Extraordinary Breakfast

We are in urgent need of a few more hands on deck to help out with Everyday Extraordinary Breakfast on May 3rd at Circus Circus. We specifically need people posted around the casino to help direct guests to the correct location. We're also looking for a few volunteers who can help with some simple craft and game

stations. If interested, please sign up on the portal. If you are reading this after Saturday due to time sensitivity please also [email Jackie](#). This is an early morning project-- from approximately 6:00-7:30am --but why not start your day off with some service and inspiration!

Recap: Volunteer Appreciation

Thank you to all the volunteers who made it to our first Volunteer Appreciation Celebration.

I want to especially thank and celebrate all the volunteers receiving recognition.

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year (voted on by the staff): Nick Tan

Bright Light Award (nominated by peers): Goldi Riyahi

25+ hours of service volunteers: Ellen Bordinhao, Robin Feldman, Zara Maissain, Rhona Myers, Chris Parker, Derrick Reese, Goldi Riyahi, & Ethan York

50+ hours of service volunteers: Allison Lambert, Kenny Ramirez, & Nick Tan

100+ hours of service volunteers: Jeff Helvin

If you volunteered one or more hours between last April and this one, you should have also received a sticker in the mail as a thank you from Candlelighters and a way to show off your volunteerism! Each sticker featured artwork by one of our kiddos. The stickers will be available at events so you can collect the whole set!



No More Chemo Party Bears Needed

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the ability to celebrate No More Chemo Parties with our kiddos in person again as they finish treatment. Part of the celebration includes gifting them a Build a Bear Brand stuffed animal. We're low on supply, and are putting out the call to volunteers. Even donating a single stuffed animal or accessory would make a difference for a child approaching a significant milestone. Bears can

be dropped off at the Candlelighters office Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

Last call for Camp Firefly Applications

Our counselor slots are closed for the year, but we're still looking for some volunteers who are able to pitch in part time, to help make Camp Firefly 22 a success. Our camp is being held from June 15-18 at Circus Circus with the theme Under the Big Top.

These volunteers may help with tasks such as precare from 7-9am, post care from 4-6pm, assist during counselor lunch breaks, or provide extra support for our big excursions such as the Adventure Dome or the Midway. [Apply to be a specialist here](#). Applications are due May 6.



Welcome to Clown Town!

Here's a fun behind the scenes way to get involved in camp. We're going to be creating a clown city out of cardboard boxes and need more buildings! To participate simply purchase a cardboard box-- a big one, but sizes don't have to be uniform. Decorate the box like a house, store, or skyscraper, but give it a clown theme such as a clown in the window, or using a rainbow color scheme. You can be creative! Then drop off the box at the Candlelighters office. We're not clowning around, it's as easy as that!

Other Upcoming Opportunities

Hospital Goodie Bags: We still have two themes left in these rounds of goodie bags. These bags are purchased and assembled by volunteers, and our Family Services staff delivers them on our hospital rounds every two weeks. If interested, please contact me . Here are the upcoming available themes:

- June 2: Under the Big Top
- June 23: Beach Vacation

Birthday Card Club: Two volunteers are needed to write birthday cards for our kiddos and siblings with birthdays in May.



This will be my last volunteer newsletter before I move on to new adventures. I want to thank you all for your incredible service over the past few years. Candlelighters truly could not accomplish what they need to without the support of volunteers. I thank you for inspiring me and wish you all the best.

Stay tuned in June when the Shoutout will continue :)

Happy trails,

-Laurie

[Access the Volunteer Portal](#)

[Apply to Become A Volunteer](#)

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