

2024

# Impact Report



Candlelighters™  
For Children With Cancer

Dear Friends of Candlelighters For Children With Cancer,

Since I began my role as the Executive Director in September 2024, I have been awed by the resilience of the pediatric cancer community in the Pacific Northwest. In my short time, I have had the privilege of meeting some of our families at our various events like Fall Harvest at Frog Pond and Winter Wonderland at Grace Church. I was also fortunate to meet many of our families that participated in our Candy Cane Lane gift drive during the holiday season. The joy and gratitude expressed during these events has imbued me with hope and inspiration.


A diagnosis of pediatric cancer turns a family upside down, many times from one day to the next. However, amidst the pain and heartache, through the years, Candlelighters has been a valued partner, offering a range of programming that supports every family member. For these reasons, I knew that I wanted to be a part of this incredibly special community, to help bring light during a time of uncertainty and darkness.

In times of crisis, communities need to band together and that is exactly what Candlelighters strives to do - be there for our families during their time of greatest need. Our incredible circle of generous and benevolent donors provides the financial support needed to sustain and grow our programs so that we can continue to offer a range of programming from in-hospital snacks and food, to family support services, to emergency financial assistance and more. For, as we all know, when a child gets cancer, the impact is far and wide-reaching.

Our dedicated board members, staff, legion of volunteers and partners, work tirelessly to ensure that Candlelighters will continue to thrive now and into the future. From Ride for a Child to Thursday Night Motocross, countless people come together in support of our families. Their selfless dedication is truly inspiring and our families are eternally grateful.

2024 marks 47 years of Candlelighters's indelible impact on the lives of our community members. Our goal is to continue our partnership with our families for many years to come. We are working to bring new programs and services in the coming months and years, and look forward to working together.

In partnership,



Daniela Meltzer, Executive Director



## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

### OFFICERS:

**Melissa Rose**  
*Board President*

**Jacqueline Costello**  
*Treasurer*

**Elizabeth Kraus**  
*Secretary*

**Mollie Worcester**  
*Past President*

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Jeanne Beacham

Steve Drew

Jason Frankel

Amanda Garcia

JD Godfrey

Mary Holt

Alan Hungate

Kelsie Storm

Jeffrey Yandle



# Candlelighters Lights the Way: *Connor's Family Finds a New Normal*

**C**onnor was just eight years old when he experienced an unexplained brain bleed. At 12, he had his second brain bleed, and this time he lost his short term memory, the ability to walk, and the ability to feed himself. When tests revealed a brain tumor, Connor and his family's lives were turned upside down. Four months later, he suffered his third brain bleed, followed by a 14 hour surgery to remove approximately 40% of his tumor.

Throughout the challenges of Connor's medical journey, his parents were determined to provide a sense of normalcy and stability for both Connor and his older sister. Knowing that Connor's unique medical situation would set him apart from his friends at school, they looked for solutions. At Candlelighters, they found a lifeline not just for Connor, but for the whole family.

Connor's tumor requires ongoing treatment, and will for the foreseeable future. In spite of the uncertainty ahead, Connor - now a freshman in high school - remains positive. He is known at Candlelighters events for his warm smile, quick laugh and big hugs. He has a large group of friends, plays percussion in a band, plays the piano, and enjoys doing anything artistic. His memory is improving, and he is walking without any help. He recently released an official Nike shoe design through the Nike/Doernbecher's Freestyle program that went on to win a record-setting bid. Congratulations, Connor!

There is no doubt that for Connor and his family, life is different than they expected before his tumor diagnosis. But the Candlelighters community has helped them define a new normal, a place to belong and even to thrive.

Your generosity in 2024 has allowed us to continue providing life-changing programs and services for Candlelighters families, including family activities, support groups, in-hospital meals, college scholarships for survivors, bereavement support and emergency financial assistance.

**Take it from Connor's family, your support makes a difference:**  
"Your support does more than you can likely imagine. Beyond the smiles and laughter that exist at Candlelighters events, there are hearts and minds that are being cared for. Thank you from the kids and the families!"



"Candlelighters has provided Connor with connections, friends, and events with an amazing group of kids, families, and program coordinators that truly understand him."



**DONATE NOW**



[LEARN MORE](#)

## EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

NO. OF FAMILIES SERVED

**122**

NO. OF COUNTIES SERVED

**21**

TOTAL NO. OF PEOPLE SERVED

**497**



[LEARN MORE](#)

## FAMILY EVENTS

NO. OF EVENTS IN PORTLAND

**39**

NO. OF EVENTS IN MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY

**14**

NO. OF EVENTS IN SOUTHERN OREGON

**6**

TOTAL NO. OF EVENTS

**59**



[LEARN MORE](#)

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

NO. OF SCHOLARSHIPS

**4**

TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED

**\$5000**



[LEARN MORE](#)

## PARENT SUPPORT

NO. OF PARENT SUPPORT MEETINGS

**12**

NO. OF PARENT MENTORS

**12**

NO. OF PARENT MENTEES

**10**



## CANDY CANE LANE TOY DRIVE

NO. OF FAMILIES SERVED

**48**

NO. OF NEW FAMILIES SERVED

**71**



## LUMINARIES

NO. OF TEENS INVOLVED

**15**

[LEARN MORE](#)

## BEDSIDE BUDDIES

NO. OF STUFFIES GIVEN TO NEWLY ADMITTED PATIENTS

**225**

[LEARN MORE](#)

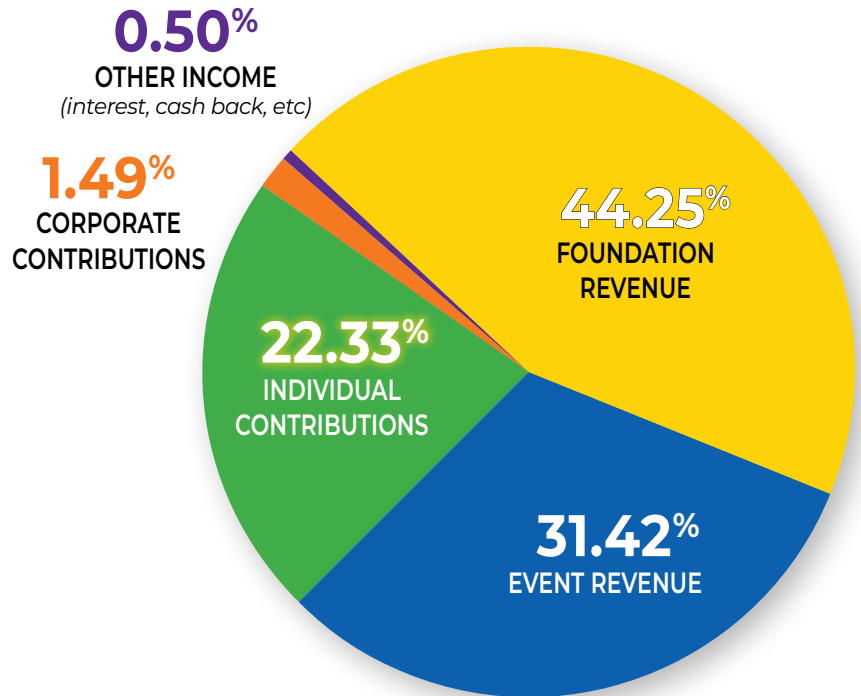


“Our family’s favorite Candlelighters event in 2024 was the spring event at Al’s Garden. Juno was able to plant her own blueberry bush and strawberries. Juno loves being outside and getting her hands dirty!”

*Muoa family, served child Juno, 3 years old*

## Income:

<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$724,830</b>
Foundation Revenue	<b>\$321,375</b>
Event Revenue	<b>\$226,744</b>
Individual Contributions	<b>\$162,204</b>
Corporate Contributions	<b>\$10,858</b>
Other Income <i>(interest, cash back, etc.)</i>	<b>\$3,650</b>

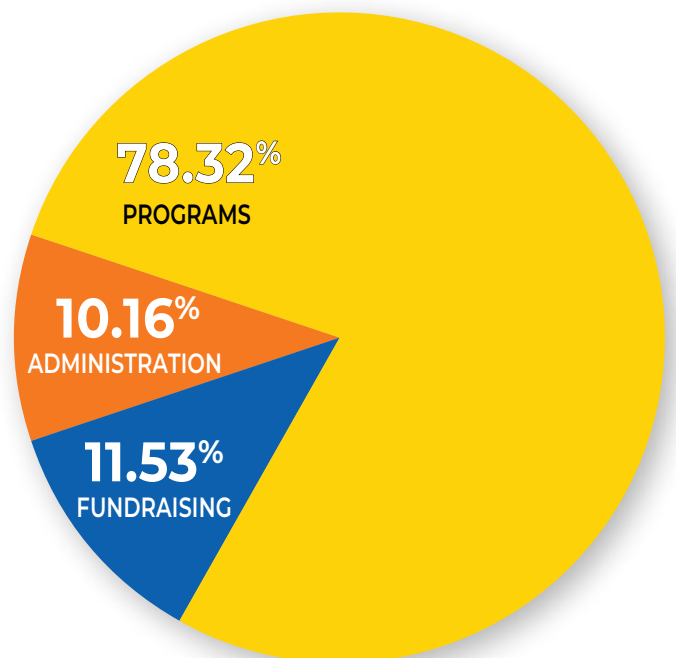


## Thank You to the Following Foundations for their Generous Support

American Endowment Foundation	Hampton Family Foundation	National Christian Foundation
Anonymous	John L Scott Foundation	OCF Joseph E Weston Public Foundation
Boyd Family Foundation	June & Julian Foss Foundation	Sheppard Family Foundation
Fallow Family Foundation	Leslie Family Foundation	The Ford Family Foundation
H. & Marion B. Thompson Foundation	Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation	The Sundt Foundation

## Expenses:

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$552,380</b>
Programs Expenses	<b>\$433,039</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bereavement \$547</li> <li>■ Candy Cane Lane &amp; Winter Wonderland \$3,862</li> <li>■ Emergency Funds \$129,558</li> <li>■ Family Activities \$268,533</li> <li>■ Family Day \$7,188</li> <li>■ Hospital Relations \$5,732</li> <li>■ Latine \$723</li> <li>■ Luminaries \$1,394</li> <li>■ Parent Support &amp; Mentorship \$1147</li> <li>■ Scholarships \$14,372</li> </ul>	
Fundraising Expenses	<b>\$63,570</b>
Administration Expenses	<b>\$55,772</b>



# Pedaling with Purpose: Cyclists Raise \$175,000 to Light Up Children's Lives

For 23 years, a group of dedicated cyclists have joined together to support Candlelighters For Children With Cancer through Ride For A Child (RFAC). Ride for a Child began in 2002 with founder Dick Hartung's pledge to honor his daughter Jill's life.

In 1997, at the age of nine, after a 3 1/2 -year battle with an aggressive form of bone cancer, Jill passed away. Ride for a Child began in honor of Jill and has continued to grow through the years becoming the organization's largest annual fundraiser. In 2024, 30 riders collectively raised over \$175,000. We are eternally grateful to our dedicated riders and their supporters for taking the initiative to ride and fundraise. By participating in Ride for Child, the riders have a direct positive impact on the lives of families experiencing pediatric cancer in Oregon and SW Washington. The vital funds raised by our Ride for a Child riders provide the needed revenue to help the organization thrive and prosper now and into the future. □

**To get involved with Ride for a Child in 2025 as a sponsor or a rider, please visit our website, <https://charity.pledgeit.org/Rideforachild>.**



“The vital funds raised by our Ride for a Child riders provide the needed revenue to help the organization thrive and prosper now and into the future.”

**GET INVOLVED**

**WATCH VIDEO**





10700 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy  
Suite 360  
Beaverton, OR 97005  
503-719-4244



[candlelightersoregon.org](https://candlelightersoregon.org)

## Individual, Foundation and Corporate Giving

Candlelighters upholds families facing childhood cancer every step of the way. From diagnosis through treatment and beyond, we provide a variety of programs that offer comfort and support for families during a difficult journey. Through it all, we never charge families a dime. Individual, foundation, and corporate giving is what allows us to do that.

**We need your support.** Through individual, foundation and corporate giving, you become a part of this vital network of care for families in Oregon and SW Washington.



DONATE NOW