

2025

# Impact Report



Candlelighters™  
For Children With Cancer

# A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


Dear Friends of Candlelighters For Children With Cancer,

What a year it has been! Together with our staff, board and dedicated volunteers, we have touched over 2,500 individuals with our in-hospital programs, provided financial assistance to 152 families across Oregon and SW Washington, and hosted 46 events through our thriving chapters in Southern Oregon, Mid-Willamette Valley, Central Oregon and Portland/Vancouver, creating a circle of support and community for our families throughout their pediatric cancer journey.

Our family-centric programs offer hope and connection for families during their darkest hours. Our in-hospital programs which include our weekly snack cart, catered meals and food pantries, provide nourishment for the body and soul. Our emergency financial assistance helps families with their basic needs so that they can focus on their sick child and not stress about paying the rent. Lastly, our community events for families and affinity groups open the door for connection with others going through similar struggles so that they can find solace during challenging times.

Since our inception in 1977, Candlelighters has been a trusted partner for families battling pediatric cancer. We are able to fulfill our mission because of our generous donors, foundations and community and corporate partners. Each gift of time, talent and treasure ensures that local families do not face the devastation caused by childhood cancer alone. In speaking with numerous medical professionals, they acknowledge the importance of organizations like Candlelighters that provide extensive financial and emotional support outside of the medical setting. During this time of turmoil and budget cuts, Candlelighters remains steadfast in our commitment to our families because they need us to be here for them now and in the future.

2025 marks 48 years of Candlelighters' indelible impact on the lives of our community members. Our goal is to continue our partnership with our families and circle of supporters for many years to come. We are working to bring new programs and services in the coming months and years, and look forward to collaboration with long-time community members and supporters as well as new friends.



Daniela Meltzer, Executive Director



## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

### OFFICERS:

**Jeffrey K. Yandle**  
*Board President*

**Alan Hungate**  
*Treasurer*

**Liz Kraus**  
*Secretary*

**Melissa Rose**  
*Past President*

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Steve Drew

Amanda Garcia

J.D. Godfrey

Jason Frankel

Mary Holt

Linda Stork

Jim Stumpf

Zabyn Towner



Family Day 2025 Group Photo

# Candlelighters Lights the Way:

## *Connection Throughout a Cancer Diagnosis*

**A**t just three days old, Rowan was diagnosed with infant pre-B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Her journey began even before birth, when a 35-week ultrasound revealed her liver was alarmingly enlarged.

As an infant, Rowan endured oral chemotherapy, blood draws, and liver biopsies. She battled constant vomiting and struggled to keep any food down. At one point, with her liver failing and doctors concerned about kidney and organ failure, tubes were placed in her tiny neck. Her small body faced an unimaginable ordeal at such a tender age.

Living in the hospital created its own unique challenges for Rowan's family. The constant travel, children going extended periods without seeing a parent, and the struggle to juggle work and school on top of ongoing medical issues is, they explained, "an event that challenges every relationship."

During times where things seemed hopeless, Rowan's family cited Candlelighters as a source of comfort, and a reason to leave their house and connect with others navigating similar struggles. With the support of organizations like Candlelighters, families like Rowan's will continue to find the safe, welcoming spaces and critical resources they need to endure whatever challenges the future may hold. □



"Perhaps one of the biggest draws to Candlelighters is that it does not just focus on the person with cancer but the whole family. Our older child is always invited to Candlelighters events, and spending time as a family helped us forget about the cancer for a bit and just enjoy time together."



*"Candlelighters is important because it helps families not just survive childhood cancer but find community, hope and stability during and after treatment."*



## IN-HOSPITAL PROGRAMS

NUMBER OF CATERED DINNERS AND LUNCHESES AT  
OHSU DOERNBECHER AND RANDALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

9

SNACK CART VISITS AT OHSU DOERNBECHER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

39

NUMBER OF STUFFIES GIVEN TO NEWLY ADMITTED PATIENTS

225

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED

2,500



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORS  
*(Total amount awarded: \$6,000)*

6

NUMBER OF FAMILIES THAT RECEIVED EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
*(Served 27 counties across Oregon and SW Washington)*

150



## EVENTS & AFFINITY GROUPS

FAMILY EVENTS  
*(Portland/Vancouver, Mid-Willamette Valley, Central Oregon, Southern Oregon)*

48

NUMBER OF FAMILIES THAT RECEIVED GIFTS THROUGH CANDY CANE LANE  
*(133 total children including siblings)*

48

NUMBER OF NEW FAMILIES

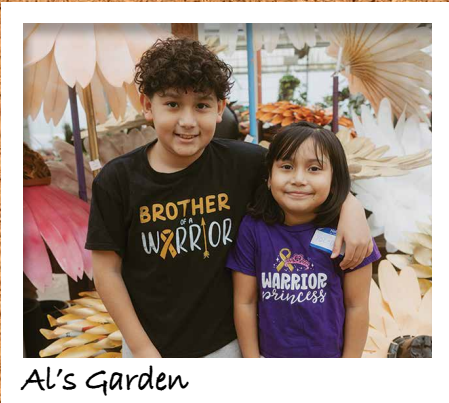
89

TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES WHO ATTENDED EVENTS IN 2025  
*(Across Oregon and SW Washington)*

397



Al's Garden



Al's Garden

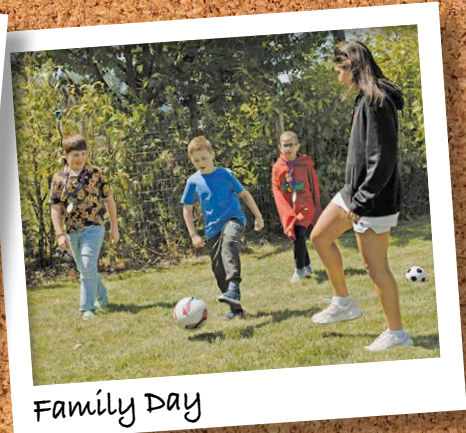
Kids got their hands dirty and planted for the spring!  
We were joined by the Portland Thorns for a fun day outside!



Family Day



Family Day



Family Day



Fall Harvest



Fall Harvest



Fall Harvest

Families spent a cozy autumn night together at Frog Pond farm!  
We held our annual holiday party with a Harry Potter theme!



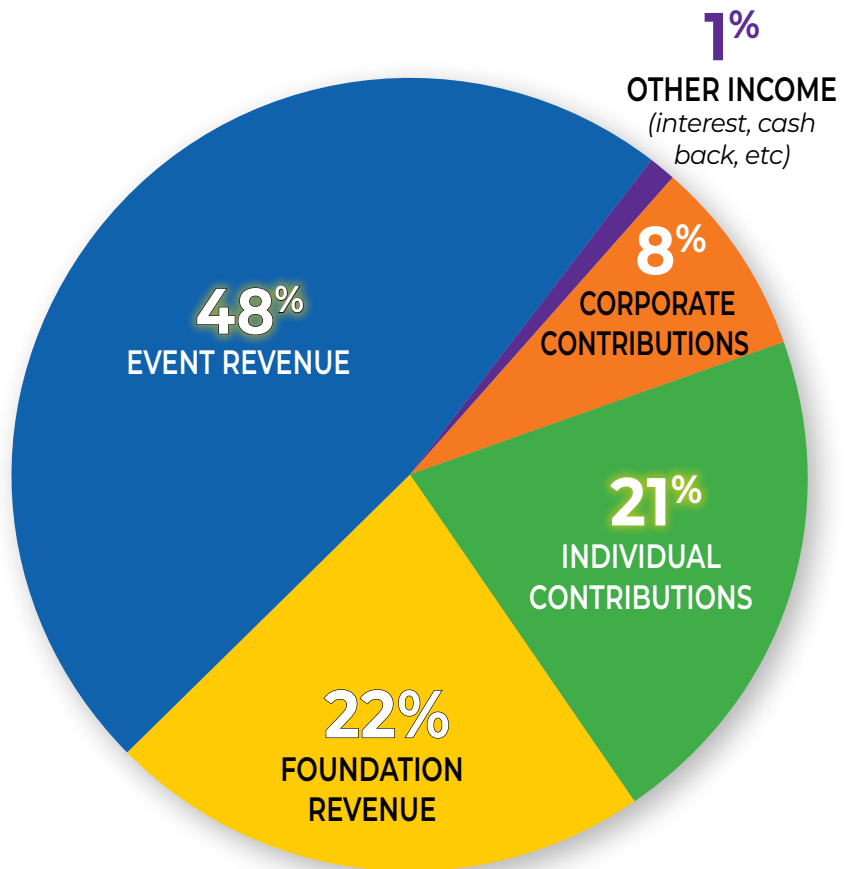
Winter Wonderland



Winter Wonderland

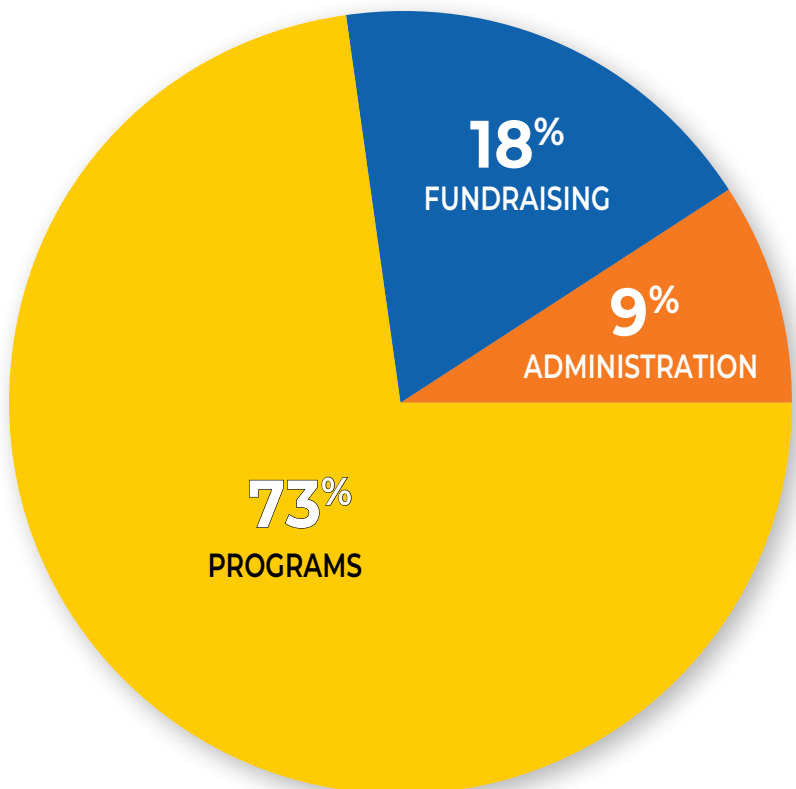
## Income:

<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$731,228</b>
Event Revenue	<b>\$348,543</b>
Foundation Revenue	<b>\$163,575</b>
Individual Contributions	<b>\$156,012</b>
Corporate Contributions	<b>\$58,567</b>
Other Income <i>(interest, cash back, etc.)</i>	<b>\$4,532</b>



## Expenses:\*

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$692,772</b>
Programs Expenses	<b>\$505,459</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bereavement \$3,974</li> <li>■ Family Activities/Support \$235,945</li> <li>■ Hospital Relations Programs \$46,605</li> <li>■ Parent Support and Mentorship \$6,106</li> <li>■ Latino Families \$4,470</li> <li>■ Emergency Funds \$155,484</li> <li>■ Scholarships \$15,000</li> <li>■ Family Day \$18,439</li> <li>■ Candy Cane Lane &amp; Winter Wonderland \$7,322</li> <li>■ Luminaries \$4,262</li> <li>■ Contingencies \$0</li> <li>■ New Programs \$7,851</li> </ul>	
Fundraising Expenses	<b>\$124,204</b>
Administration Expenses	<b>\$63,109</b>



\*Includes staff time allocation

# YEAR IN REVIEW: FUNDRAISERS & SCHOLARSHIPS



Brayden Eacker



Daisy Jin



Kadence Gibson



Coleman Merle



Rodolfo Torres



Zachary Briggs

↪ This year we awarded six amazing students \$1,000 each for higher education — a candlelighters record!

↪ We had a special evening at Ardiri winery with a silent auction and a heartfelt speech from a candlelighters parent.



Glampfire



Glampfire



Thursday Night Motocross



Thursday Night Motocross



Thursday Night Motocross



Sunset Sips



Sunset Sips

↪ Our new Moto for a child fundraiser with Thursday Night Motocross raised over \$8,000 for candlelighters!

↪ Sunset Sips was extra memorable this year with our biggest silent auction yet and our Maui raffle!



“The kids are amazing. But what really gets you is the look on the parents’ faces. Understanding and knowing what they are going through cements that you are part of something much bigger than just a bike ride.”

- RFAC Cyclist

# Ride for a Child 2025: Cyclists raise over \$212,000 for Candlelighters

**R**ide for a Child began with founder Dick Hartung’s pledge to honor his daughter Jill’s life, and has now raised vital funds for Candlelighters For Children With Cancer for 23 years. Ride for a Child is a cycling fundraiser where participants train and fundraise starting in the spring for the main event, Cycle Oregon’s 5-day Rally ride in August/September. Ride for a Child cyclists join one of our Honored Child teams, riding in honor of a child who is diagnosed with cancer and competing to fundraise.

This year, Ride for a Child raised over \$212,000 for Candlelighters For Children With Cancer. We are so grateful to our riders, sponsors, and in-kind donors who devoted so much time and effort to support Candlelighters’ mission. In 2025, Ride for a Child accounted for 30% of Candlelighters’ operating budget. Candlelighters’ programs, events, and family support would truly not be possible without the support of the entire Ride for a Child team. □

**To get involved with Ride for a Child in 2026 as a sponsor or a rider, please visit our website, <https://charity.pledgeit.org/Rideforachild>.**



“RFAC has given me purpose and community among others who are also passionate about supporting families and children who are impacted by cancer.” - RFAC Cyclist



## Impact Off the Pitch: Thorns FC's Sam Hiatt Wins \$50,000 for Candlelighters!

In the spring, Portland Thorns FC player, Sam Hiatt, surprised us at the Candlelighters office with the exciting announcement that Candlelighters had been selected as their partner organization for the 2025 season. As part of the Lauren Holiday Impact Award sponsored by Nationwide, every team in the National Women's Soccer League selected a nonprofit organization to support for a seven month long collaboration. At the end of the season, the player that demonstrated the greatest amount of community engagement and commitment to their respective nonprofit organization would be awarded \$50,000 for the organization.

Collaborating with the Portland Thorns was an incredible experience for the families, staff and board. From seeing the smiles on kids' faces as they played with the Thorns team during our 2025 Family Day, to our group photo on the Jumbotron at Providence Park, the Thorns became valued members of the Candlelighters community.

This partnership came to a perfect close when Sam Hiatt won the Lauren Holiday Impact Award, securing \$50,000 for our organization. These funds will help strengthen our programs and ensure that Candlelighters enters 2026 on strong fiscal footing.

To the Thorns and everyone who supported us during this collaboration, thank you! □

“Sam Hiatt exemplifies the spirit of the Lauren Holiday Impact Award through her heartfelt dedication to families —like hers—that have been affected by pediatric cancer.”

*- Ann Bair, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer at Nationwide*



# Together, We're Here for Families

Candlelighters is proud to serve families all across Oregon and Southwest Washington through our statewide chapters. We are so grateful to have incredible chapter leads in Central Oregon, Mid-Willamette Valley, and Southern Oregon who volunteer their time to bring hope and connection for families in their respective communities. □



## Kimberly Carnegie Bruhn: *A Life of Love, Strength, and Service*

Kimberly Carnegie Bruhn was born in 1962 in Ontario, Canada. She was a loving mother, devoted wife and tireless advocate for Candlelighters. When Kimberly's son, Michael, was diagnosed with leukemia at age 11, she found a supportive community in Southern Oregon Candlelighters to help her and her family get through the tough times. After a long battle with leukemia, Michael succumbed and passed away at age 17 in 2013. Once again, the Candlelighters community was there to help Kimberly and her family process the pain of losing her son. She found so much comfort that she was an active volunteer starting in 2012 and went on to co-chair the Southern Oregon chapter for eight years so that she could be there for other families in the area.



In June 2025, Kimberly became very ill and faced long-term hospitalization. She was a true warrior. Sadly, on November 22, 2025, the day after her 63rd birthday, Kimberly passed from medical complications. She will be remembered as someone who cared deeply about Candlelighters and all of the families facing pediatric cancer. We will keep Kimberly and her family close in our hearts and are forever grateful for her kind and compassionate spirit. ■

# Thank you!

Thank you to the following foundations and in-kind donors for their generous support in 2025:

## Foundations:

American Endowment Foundation  
 Autzen Family Foundation  
 Boyd Family Foundation  
 Confederate Tribes of Siletz  
 Indians Foundation  
 Cow Creek Umpqua Indian  
 Foundation  
 Gordon Elwood Foundation  
 Hampton Family Foundation  
 IQ Credit Union Foundation  
 June & Julien Foss Family  
 Foundation  
 Kinnie Family Foundation  
 Marie Lamfrom  
 OCF Joseph E Weston Foundation  
 PacificSource:  
 Healthy Communities Giving  
 Robert and Frances Chaney  
 Family Foundation  
 Salem Foundation  
 The Shapira Foundation  
 Thompson Foundation

## In-Kind Donors:

Abbey Road Farm  
 Adrift Hospitality  
 Ageless Health  
 Al's Garden Center  
 Amaterra Winery  
 Anchorage Hotel  
 Ani Che Cellars  
 Ashore Hotel  
 Baerlic Brewing  
 Bellagios Pizza  
 Big Al's  
 Black Wagon Kids Boutique  
 Boccelli's Restaurant  
 Brasada Ranch  
 Brian Rohr  
 Broder Nord

Campfire Hotel  
 Common Grounds Coffee House  
 Convenient Cycle  
 Core Power Yoga  
 David Hill Winery  
 De Fuego Grille  
 Diamonds by Passerini  
 Domaine Serene  
 Edward & Joann Frankel  
 Enchanted Forest  
 Everglow Handmade  
 Fat Straw  
 Float On  
 Garnish Apparel  
 Glendoveer Golf Course  
 Grassroots Construction  
 Gresham Fire Department  
 Gresham Golf Course  
 Gresham Police Department  
 Hair M  
 Harlow Juice Bar  
 Heather Unger  
 Henry Higgins Boiled Bagels  
 Hopscotch PDX  
 Jedd Wyatt Smith  
 Jim and Sandy Stumpf  
 Kayak The Gorge  
 Kiehl's PDX  
 King Pin  
 Knot Springs  
 Laurel Ridge Winery  
 Let's Play Again  
 Linda Stork  
 Lisa Kagan  
 Lisha Esthetics  
 Longbottom Coffee and Tea  
 McMenamins  
 Meg's Beachwood Bar & Grill  
 Melody Keating

Michael's Italian Beef & Sausage Co.  
 Mississippi Chiropractic  
 Mittleman Jewish Community Center  
 MK Beauty  
 Mt. Hood Lanes  
 Mulligans Bar and Grill  
 Northwest Children's Theater  
 and School (NWCT)  
 NW Swag  
 Ora et Labora  
 Oregon Museum of Science  
 and Industry  
 Oregon Shakespeare Festival  
 Pacific Office Automation  
 PDXchange  
 Persimmon Country Club  
 Polk Apothecary  
 Portland Little Griddle  
 Portland Pet Supply  
 Portland Rock Gym  
 Presents of Mind  
 Rachel Downey Photography  
 Red Crab Rentals  
 Rip City Remix  
 Robyn Johnson  
 Rose City Golf Club  
 Second Star Party Characters  
 Skamania Lodge  
 Society Pie  
 Sophie Peets  
 Space Room  
 Steeplejack Brewing Co.  
 Stoller Family Estate  
 Tabor Tavern  
 Tavern on Kruse  
 The Aerie at Eagle Landing  
 The Meadow  
 The Portland Montessori School  
 The Portland Thorns  
 Wedge and Cured  
 West Linn Hairport  
 Wild West Smokehouse  
 Wildlife Safari  
 Wings and Waves



# Candlelighters™

For Children With Cancer

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[candlelightersoregon.org](http://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, all of our programs are free for families. 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.



**LEARN MORE  
& DONATE**