Since 1977, Candlelighters has supported more than 85,000 family members battling pediatric cancer by fostering a community of support through year-round opportunities. Candlelighters offers families financial support, family support and in-hospital support programming that are inclusive of all family members.

OUR MISSION:

Providing a community of healing, hope and light throughout the life-long journey of childhood cancer.
Candlelighters provides support for the whole family battling pediatric cancer every step of the way from diagnosis through treatment and beyond.

Our services are free and at no time is anyone turned away.

Our goals are to lessen isolation, decrease depression and create community to offer quality of life to every member of the family.

Financial Support programs help ease the financial burden that often comes with a cancer diagnosis by providing financial assistance, college tuition, or by providing gifts during the holidays.

We are proud that 83 cents of every dollar donated supports programs benefitting Candlelighters families.

$91,000 in Emergency Financial Assistance funds distributed to 182 families in 2018.

Because of our support...

- 110 families were able to put food on the table
- 103 families were able to pay their utility bills
- 38 families were able to stay in their home
- 28 families were able to pay a car maintenance bill
- 8 families were able to pay for a funeral
- 146,000 miles supported through hospital gas card programs
- $7,500 awarded to three childhood cancer survivors who each received $2,500 to further their education and more importantly fulfill a dream.
How did we do it?

Through four chapters serving Oregon and SW Washington, Candlelighters Chapters are located in Portland, Eugene, Ashland and Sisters providing year-round opportunities for family members to connect and form peer networks and community to better manage the challenges of pediatric cancer.

Portland launched a new Teen Program serving teens ages 13-19 incorporating positive youth development in leadership and service learning to increase self-sufficiency of teens affected by childhood cancer. Teen directly affected and their siblings have an opportunity to develop social connections and decrease social isolation.

Candlelighters Family Camp is a signature activity that draws families from throughout Oregon and SW Washington. Since 2001, More than 4,000 individuals (an average of 325 individuals annually) come together to bond, to meet other families, to create community and to make memories. This program is critical to helping families build their community to better navigate the challenges and victories of childhood cancer.

Parent Led Programming – In 2018, Candlelighters Portland Chapter re-invigorated parent led programs by introducing the bereavement program. Two families came together and launched the program at Family Camp. They meet quarterly and hold special remembrance activities in the summer and during the holidays. A parent-led Father’s program launched in March 2019.

In-hospital programs are designed to build community and improve quality of life for families affected by pediatric cancer by reducing stress, alleviating the financial burden of paying for extra meals, and providing comfort in a time of crisis.

In 2018, Candlelighters provided more than 2,160 meals and snacks through our Doernbecher Dinner, Randall Lunch and snack cart program, to families in the hospital. Our pantry services are also utilized at Doernbecher helping families who have no access to meals in the middle of the night.

In 2018, Candlelighters continued its tradition and provided nearly 400 bedside buddies to children who were checked into Doernbecher Children’s Hospital. The stuffed animal provides comfort through tough procedures and long hospital stays.

2018 Expenses

Programs 57%
Administrative 12%
Fundraising 6%
Special Events 25%

2018 Revenue

Special Events 49%
Program Contributions & Grants 17%
In-Kind Contributions 17%
Third Party Fundraisers 7%
Contributions 10%

Revenue by Contribution Type

Individual Contributions $ 456,509.00 47%
Corporate Contributions $ 37,095.00 4%
Sponsorships $ 84,510.00 9%
Event Revenue $ 47,540.00 5%
Grants $ 143,250.00 15%
Workplace Giving $ 35,582.00 3%
In-Kind Donations $ 86,258.00 9%
In-Kind Volunteer $ 81,896.00 8%
Total $ 972,640.00 100%

Programs Expenses Detailed

Emergency Financial Assistance $ 102,672.00 24%
Funeral & Bereavement $ 16,027.00 4%
Family Activities $ 84,510.00 21%
Family Camp $ 79,547.00 18%
Hospital Programs $ 37,095.00 7%
Scholarships $ 9,765.00 2%
Education and Advocacy $ 71,230.00 16%
Family Support $ 17,425.00 4%
Teen Program $ 15,223.00 4%
Total $ 432,570.00 100%