

Candlelighters Helps to Preserve Memories



Their family photos take us down a familiar road, pre-cancer days, chemo days, remission and the times beyond. The journey can be quite different as we maneuver past obstacles and face the challenges head on.

If you ask the Candlelighters Mom's if they want a Family or a Mom's Scrapbooking Day ... chances are they'll say lets just do both!!!

There are many things we share in common which bring us back to the places and people who understand us the most... because we've walked in the same shoes too!



What better way to capture your special memories, share stories and catch up with your "Candlelighters family". This group becomes your support system and sounding board when life gets tough along the way.

Upcoming News & Fundraising Events

These popular fundraising events organized by volunteers and family members need your help to make them a success.



The 14th Annual "Step Into Spring" Fashion Show & Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at The Forest Country Club in South Fort Myers.

Need some new cruise wear? See the latest spring fashions presented by Bloomingdale's. Be dazzled by the local celebrity models, childhood cancer survivors, siblings and parents as they take to the runway.

Tickets go on sale in January 2016 and sell out quickly.

Candlelighters 22nd Annual Gold Ribbon Classic Golf Tournament will once again take place in September of 2016.

Help us raise funds for local children with cancer and/or blood disorders and their families too!

Sponsors, Golfers, Auction Gifts and Golf Committee members are needed to help these events to be a success.

Last year's golfing event hosted at Bonita Bay East in Naples helped the Candlelighters raise over \$20,000.



Make a commitment *today* to support the Gold Ribbon Classic Golf Tournament!

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law (IRS #59-3104008)

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We are thankful for the many scrapbooking donations we receive to pass on to the families, the volunteers who assist us and show us we can all be creative.

Scrapbooking Wish List

- * Gift Cards to Craft Stores
- * Tape Runners—Refills
- * Glue Dots
- * Craft Scissors
- * Pens for Journaling
- * Photo Storage
- * Albums with Page Refills
- * Paper Cutters

You Can Help!

Why Not Offer Your Services?

Each of us has a hidden talent to share and we want you to consider volunteering those treasured talents and precious time to help others.

Maybe there is just one project a year you'd be willing to help us with or you have a great idea and believe you can make a difference in the lives of community children.

We believe Candlelighters is worthy of your support ... there is so much we could do if YOU were in the picture!

Call today (239) 432-2223



Candlelighters Happenings

Candlelighters of Southwest Florida Inc — a non-profit 501c3 charity

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Candlelighters Celebrates the Milestones



Each year, Candlelighters hosts the "No More Chemo Celebration" to honor those children who have reached a 1, 5 & 10 year milestone of being off chemotherapy.

Candlelighters feels this is a time to celebrate and reunite families with people they met either at the hospital, during outpatient clinic visits or at one of the many special family activities Candlelighters hosts throughout the year.

It is estimated that 1 in 530 young adults between the age of 20 and 39 is a childhood cancer survivor!

This years recipients were honored at a luncheon held at the Holiday Inn Airport in Fort Myers. Each honoree received a certificate, trophy and a gift bag. For children unable to attend the annual event, we read their name aloud stating the number of years their child is

off therapy. Parents look on with very mixed emotions as they realize what a long journey its been and hold a depth of gratitude to the medical staff and support team that their child is there to take part in such a celebration, a milestone they've reached as a family.

ABOUT CANDLELIGHTERS

Since 1983, Candlelighters has helped Southwest Florida families cope with the life changing effects of having a child diagnosed with cancer or a blood disorder.

You can make a difference by making a donation, no matter how big or small, it does count!

Candlelighters Points of Interest

- ☺ Over 30 years of Service
- ☺ Serving the five county area
- ☺ Programs & Services continue to benefit the whole family
- ☺ Support is only a family away
- ☺ The Gold Ribbon represents Childhood Cancer
- ☺ September is designated as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Candlelighters (239) 432-2223

Inside this issue:

Sports Corner	2
Moving Along	2
Mom's Paint Party	3
Jumpin Good Times	3
Preserving Memories	4
Upcoming Fundraisers	4
How To Help	4

Candlelighters Sports Corner

Always a fun place to gather, the group took a break from the summer heat and headed to [Gator Lanes](#) for a family friendly game of bowling. We had some serious bowlers matched up with some not so serious ones which always helps to even out the scores. But we did wonder how the 3 year old scored a strike? Guess with a little helping hand, anything is possible!

Candlelighters families always ask what activities are next – rest assured, as long as funds are available, more good times will follow!

Candlelighters exchanged bowling balls for hockey pucks and headed to the Germain Arena to cheer on our local hockey team, the [Florida Everblades](#). They look forward to watching the fast action on the ice, power plays and even an occasional brawl between the two rivals on the ice.

Next stop ... Candlelighters headed to the Lee County Spots complex to cheer on the [Fort Myers Miracle](#), our minor league baseball team. The cool night proved to be the perfect outing for families as they enjoyed the game and refreshments with their friends.



What more could top off our sports adventures with Candlelighters than to heading to "Dunk City" for a little bit of college basketball. The [Florida Gulf Coast University "Eagles"](#) continue to attract record crowds making sitting together a little more challenging! We'll plan better next time as we know there is more FUN in numbers!

Give It Up for the Comedian Ball

The 2nd Annual Comedian Ball was held at the Seminole Casino in Immokalee over a 4 week period last fall.

The show hosted by no other than Max Mosquito of Mosquito Bus Productions featured over 20 local comedians who competed for cash prizes and the title of best comedian talent in Southwest Florida.

The opening show featured the very talented Gilbert Gottfried, best known

for his "screeching and squinting". He has made numerous appearances on more popular shows like *The Howard Stern Show*, *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*, *Late Night With David Letterman* and *Hollywood Squares*.

Candlelighters volunteers collected donations during each show and shared information about what services the charity provides. This exciting event helped us to raise awareness of the



many needs of a child battling cancer and/or a blood disorder. As well as the need to support Candlelighters.

A big thank you to the Seminole Casino in Immokalee for your donation of \$2500 from the "2nd Annual Comedians Ball" in support of Candlelighters!

Moving Right Along ... and moving up!



If you're looking for the Candlelighters office you need only walk a few more steps to our new

office at Golisano Children's Hospital at HealthPark. We're still located on the first floor, in the hallway near the glass elevators. Stop by and say hello next time you're here.

In September, Lee Memorial Health System held a Topping Off Celebration for the new tower which will be the home of the Golisano Children's Hospital.

Construction continues both inside the hospital as well as outside with the anticipated grand opening to be in the Spring of 2017.



If you visit South Fort Myers along the Summerlin Road corridor all you have to do is look UP and you can see the big construction crane and the progress of this state-of-the-art facility.

As a community, we are so fortunate to look into the future and realize not only will our children receive superb medical care but families with children will be able to stay closer to home!

Candlelighters Pizza

For patients and their families who have a child hospitalized at Golisano Children's Hospital in the Oncology Unit, there is an air of excitement each Tuesday night as the pizza delivery man gains entry into the unit.

The side effects of chemo often change a child's taste buds, they push away healthy foods and often have cravings for others.

Why not become a Sponsor for Candlelighters Tuesday Night Pizza ... call Candlelighters today at (239) 432-2223 or donate online [CandlelightersSWFL.org](#)



Candlelighters have Jumpin Good Times

Candlelighters families just love to have fun, as a charity we enjoy organizing special activities to bring our families together.

Families often make suggestions for future activities, places to go and we do our best with the funds we have to make it all happen.

Jumpin Jack's Fun Zone in Fort Myers provided several hours of high energy activity. The spacious



facility has climbing walls, obstacle courses, a kids dance club, a large inflatable bounce house, giant slides and even a kiddie area. Even more enticing, it's an inside facility, so no worries about the weather!

Broadway Palm Theatre

Candlelighters enjoys bringing our families together for good times. Sometimes the more popular shows sell out quickly at the Broadway Palm Theatre so we have a wait list for a family that must cancel. The theatre features live theatrical performances using local talents when possible; the lunch/dinner buffet and dessert table is always a favorite with the Candlelighters families and the company makes for a perfect day!

Several shows were enjoyed as part of the Children's Theatre including "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", "Footloose" and "Aladdin".

Candlelighters Mom's Painting Up A Storm

For many Candlelighters Mom's a night out with the girls is often the best medicine a person can offer after an exasperating week of caring for a sick child!

Always exploring what's new in the community and affordable for the charity, we followed a suggestion from a couple of the Mom's to plan a "painting party"!



Most of our Moms had never tried one of the "painting parties" so were really excited to get started and have a good time!

We found our seats and sat down with a blank canvas sitting on a small easel, various sized paint brushes, tubes of colors and the fun got underway! The music cranked up and our instructor, "Magic Mike" took over for the next two hours helping us create a "one of a kind" piece of art. What a blast, a definite repeat activity!