

Learn about the therapeutic, recreational and educational nature-based experiences that enrich the lives of at-risk youth, children with disabilities and their families.

# CANDLELIGHT RANCH



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## Winter 2017

Here's the most recent news and happenings from Candlelight Ranch. We hope you enjoy!

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### 2017 - The Year of Joy



It's been a monumental year of growth, service and JOY at Candlelight Ranch. This year, we have exceeded our goal and served more special needs children, at-risk youth and their families than ever before -- over 2,400! The children and families that visited the Ranch experienced days filled with interactive and imaginative nature activities encircled by our accessible spaces. From the excitement of "flying" via a swift zip line, to bird watching, kayaking on Lake Travis and spying darting lizards on the nature trail, we spread so much joy at Candlelight Ranch.

In 2017, we expanded our services to include monthly military family days. We continued our Camp Dreamcatcher, designed for children who are currently in or have been adopted from Foster Care. We have strengthened our relationships with current partners including Camp Glimmer, the Phoenix Center/Camp Phoenix, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Helping Hand Home for Children, just to name a few.

In addition to creating joy and memories for children and families, we completed our 2017 to 2020 strategic plan with a focus on sustainability, growth and succession planning. We have exceeded fundraising goals on every level this year. We continue to prioritize giving to our endowment, the Candlelight Ranch Legacy fund, to ensure that generations of future Texans will have the opportunity to experience the wonders and magic of the ranch.

Candlelight Ranch is honored by the generous support of our donors, volunteers, board of directors, advisory council and staff. This year our impact has been deep and our reach has been wide. It has been an honor to serve as Candlelight Ranch's Executive Director and work alongside the most committed staff, board members and volunteers in Texas!

To all our supporters, I want to say, thank you! Your commitment to the children and families we serve makes it possible for those who experience disabilities and/or are underserved to enjoy time at our unique Hill County Ranch to learn, play and heal. I look forward to creating more joy in 2018 with you. In the meantime, Happy Holidays and all the best in 2018!

Jenn Hartner  
Executive Director

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**2nd Annual Chili Cook-off & Car Show  
presented by Contact Works**

## Sunday, February 11, 2018 Noon - 4pm at Candlelight Ranch

You are invited to join us for the 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off & Car Show  
with Celebrity Judges & Live Music from  
Haup & Sully - featuring Clinton James and Dan Sullivan of The Detentions

General Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 18  
Additional activities include Zip Lines for children (\$10), Hay Rides, Nature Scavenger Hunt,  
Canyon Trail Hike and Backyard Bass Casting facilitated by the UHLNC

Follow us on social media or keep an eye on our website.

**Tickets go on sale in January!**

[For more details click here!](#)



### Volunteer of the Year, Mr. Gary Caylor!

We are excited to announce our 2017 volunteer of the year, Mr. Gary Caylor. Gary has been a committed and dedicated Candlelight Ranch volunteer for over three years. You can find Mr. Gary catching children on the zip lines, helping in the Martin Food Forest and serving on our ranch committee. He always has a smile on his face and says that volunteering at Candlelight Ranch, "always improves my mood and my feeling of well-being." Thank you, Mr. Gary!

[Read More about Mr. Gary here](#)



### Dance for Candlelight: A Success!



On October 18, Candlelight Ranch held our annual fall fundraiser, Dance for Candlelight at the historic Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. We want to thank our generous sponsors, in-kind donors, and supporters for making this event an overwhelming success! We exceeded our \$50,000 challenge matching grant from the Wayne & Jo Ann Moore Family Foundation. Because of you, children and families will continue to learn, play and heal through the wonders of Candlelight Ranch. Thank you!



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