

Candlelight  
Ranch 

**2022**  
*Impact  
Report*





# *A Letter from Our Executive Director*

*Dear Candlelight Ranch Supporter,*

*Welcome to our first ever annual report! We are so excited to share our 2022 impact with each of you as we continue to serve our mission of providing nature-based and educational programs to children and families of all abilities and needs to learn, explore, and heal. 2022 was a return to normal at Candlelight Ranch. We were thrilled to welcome so many program partners, groups, and families this year. We delivered over 16,000 hours of direct programming to over 1,791 children and their families, providing a day of fun, healing, learning, and respite in nature.*

*We are proud to report on our programmatic successes, strengthening engagement, and learning while helping children and families achieve inclusion in outdoor based programming otherwise inaccessible to them due to financial, emotional, or physical disadvantages. 100% of surveyed caregivers expressed that their experience with Candlelight Ranch positively affected them and their family, and that they were “very likely” to increase their families time spent in nature. Families reported that the greatest benefit they received from their experience was family bonding - “a day spent together”, followed by stepping outside their comfort zone - “trying something new” and “fun in nature”. Throughout 2022 Candlelight Ranch strengthened existing relationships with Central Texas schools and community organizations with 100% of partner organizations reporting that they were “extremely satisfied” with their visit and that they were able to meet their unique needs and goals.*

*We are deeply grateful for your support and know that together, we are healing hearts and creating joy for thousands of Central Texans each year. I would be delighted to talk more about our impact and answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my team to learn more. We could not continue to do our important work without each of you. As always, we would welcome a visit to witness firsthand, the joy, learning and fun that occur at the ranch.*

*With Gratitude,*



**Jenn Hartner, Executive Director**  
[jenn@candlelightranch.org](mailto:jenn@candlelightranch.org)





## *Our Mission*

*Candlelight Ranch provides educational and nature-based experiences for families and children of all abilities and needs to learn, explore, and heal.*





## *Candlelight Ranch benefits children and families by offering:*

- *Opportunities to be active, challenge abilities, & have fun*
- *Increased access to nature for underserved populations*
- *Outstanding therapeutic, educational, & recreational opportunities*
- *A positive & inclusive environment*





# Who We Serve

*Candlelight Ranch serves children and their caregivers who may benefit from time spent in nature including:*

- *Individuals with special needs*
- *Those who have experienced trauma*
- *Underserved youth*
- *Foster and adoptive families*
- *Active Duty and Veteran Military families*

## Counties

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*Bastrop, Bell, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson*

## Ethnicities

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*35.6% African American*

*33.9% Hispanic/Latino*

*22% Caucasian*

*8.5% Other*



# Our Programs

## Children in Nature

*Customized, accessible nature programming for children with disabilities or who are at-risk.*

## Families in Nature

*Events for special needs, adoptive and foster families to grow together in nature.*

## Military Family Days

*Assisting families in teamwork, stress reduction, communication & fun.*

## Outdoor Explorers

*Community-based program for adolescents and adults with special needs that builds social and recreational skills.*

## Camp Dreamcatcher

*Three-day camp for children in or adopted from foster care.*



# Program Impact

1,791

Total Served

Over 16,000

Program Hours

100%

of surveyed campers  
reported that they would  
like to return to CLR.

100%

of surveyed participants  
reported that their experience  
at the Ranch had a positive  
impact on themselves.







“

*This experience  
opened my eyes to  
viewing the outdoors  
differently.*

”

“

*Candlelight Ranch has helped me  
understand that I can still  
control my goals no matter  
what's going on in my life, no  
matter all the chaos in my life -  
they believe in me and help me  
believe in myself.*

”

“

*I've been really stressed and  
dealing with major challenges,  
being out here in nature is  
really healing.*

”





## Family Impact

100%

*of surveyed families reported that they were "very likely" to increase their family's time spent together in nature.*

*Families reported that their visit to CLR benefited them in either one or more areas:*

- *Increased communication*
- *Fun in nature*
- *A day spent together*
- *Trying something new*
- *Stress reduction*







“

*This allowed us to take a day to relax and reconnect with people and ourselves. We were able to genuinely have a conversation without the chaos.*

”

“

*This family day gave us a chance to really be together as a family and forget the stressors of daily life. Our kids loved it, we loved it!*

”



# Outdoor Explorers Impact

*Parents reported our Explorers benefit from the following:*

- *Increased physical activity*
- *Increased interest in nature*
- *Learning new skills*
- *Improved self confidence*
- *Made new friends*

*Teachers reported that OE supported their classroom curriculum.*

*Teachers reported an increase in their students' time spent outdoors and overall comfort in nature.*

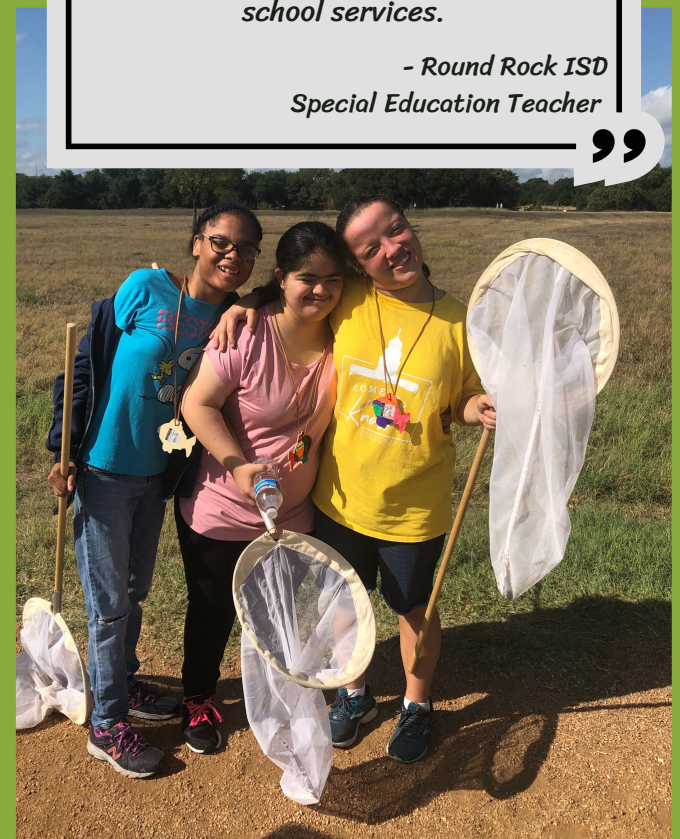


“

*The Outdoor Explorers Program provided opportunities for students to participate in activities that they could also participate in once they exit public school services.*

*- Round Rock ISD  
Special Education Teacher*

”



# Program Partners

*Candlelight Ranch works alongside local nonprofits and schools to customize science and nature-based activities to meet their specific needs and goals.*

**100%**

*of surveyed partners reported that they were "**extremely likely**" to continue their partnership and that they were "**extremely satisfied**" with their experience at CLR.*

## **2022 Non-Profit & Community Partners:**

- *ARC of the Capital Area*
- *Austin Angels*
- *Austin Community College Student Life*
- *Austin Housing Authority*
- *Austin Smiles*
- *Boy Scouts of America*
- *CC4C*
- *Change 1*
- *Creative Action*
- *CTTA*
- *Dell Children's Hospital*
- *Deloitte*
- *Ex-Fil*
- *Hello Just*
- *IACT*
- *Imagine A Way*
- *Integral Care*
- *McNeil Special Education*
- *Ortega Elementary ACE*
- *Parades Middle School*
- *River City Youth Round Rock Adaptive*
- *Round Rock HS 18+ SPED*
- *SAFE*
- *South-West Upward Bound*
- *St. Louise House*
- *Texas Military Department*
- *TSBVI*
- *Todos Juntos*
- *UT Texas at Austin - Student Life*
- *Uvalde Families*
- *XYZone*



# Our Volunteers

*We cannot fulfil our mission without the support and talents of our volunteers! It takes a village, and our volunteer family play vital roles within daily ranch operations. Cooking meals, facilitating ziplines, teaching curriculum, leading hikes, sitting on boards and committees, completing ranch maintenance and so much more!*

*We want to thank our volunteers for the INCREDIBLE impact they make on the children and families we serve!*

230

Volunteers

3,700+

Hours Served





# 2022 Financials

## ASSETS

### Current Assets:

Checking/Savings: \$222,670.09

Other Current Assets: \$1,051,389.30

Total Current Assets: \$1,274,059.39

### Fixed Assets:

Buildings, Land Improvement & Equipment: \$874,413.54

Accumulated Depreciation: (\$457,562.26)

Total Fixed Assets: \$416,851.28

**TOTAL ASSETS: \$1,690,910.67**

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

### Liabilities:

Credit Cards: \$11,267.59

Other Current Liabilities: \$2,907.14

Total Current Liabilities: \$14,174.73

### Equity:

Total Equity: \$1,676,735.94

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY: \$1,690.910.67**

## INCOME & EXPENSE

### Income:

Individual Giving: \$113,242.68

Grant Revenue: \$263,143.37

Corporate Giving: \$51,597.32

Endowment Donations: \$6,500.00

Events & Fundraising Revenue: \$383,657.25

Facility Use Revenue: \$12,830.71

Net Investment Earnings: 24,703.71

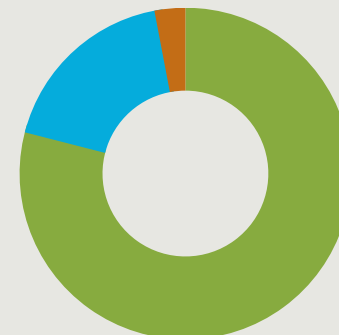
Other Revenue: 2,458.39

Total Income: \$858,133.43

### Expense:

Total Expenses: \$654,151.76

### Expense Breakdown:



Programs: 79%

Development: 18%

Administration: 3%



# Staff

*Jenn Hartner, Executive Director*

*Tara Gray, Development Director*

*Lynette Holtz, Ranch Program Director*

*Angelia Tomlin, Ranch Manager*

*Madison Peterson, Program & Communications Coordinator*

*Adrian Dearmond, Program Coordinator*

*Michael Weahkee, Operations & Logistics Specialist*

## Board of Directors

*Ronnie Taylor, Board President*

*Paul Masschelin, Board Vice President*

*Dauphen Jackson, Board Treasurer*

*Monika Orr, Secretary*

*Adam Flagg*

*Arun Jacob*

*Brian Hamner*

*Dr. Mary Van Haneghan*

*Dr. William Fisher*

*Jennifer Sellers*

*Kelly Bremer*

*Maureen Fitzgerald*

*Melissa Weston*

*Russ Miller*

*Don Barr, Co-founder, Board Emeritus*

*Randy Barr, Co-founder, Board Emeritus*

## Advisory Council

*Aaron Persons*

*Ali Knight*

*Becca Schafer*

*Dorie Pickle*

*Gina Budd*

*Kellie Mater*

*LuAnn Gilmore*

*Randal Dahl*

*Tom Sultenfuss*





*Thank you to all who made our mission possible in 2022!*

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