

Candlelight
Ranch



2023 IMPACT REPORT

A Letter from our Board President

Dear Candlelight Ranch Supporter,

We are excited to share our 2023 Impact Report 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.

2023 was an outstanding year at Candlelight Ranch: from being named Nonprofit of the Year by the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce, to breaking ground on our new multipurpose building, and - most importantly - continuing to effectively serve local children and families in need of safe and accessible outdoor experiences.

We delivered more than 13,000 hours of direct programming to 1,550+ children and their families. Our outdoor-focused programming was delivered to those for whom such activities would otherwise not be accessible due to financial, emotional, or physical challenges. Illustrations of our programmatic successes:

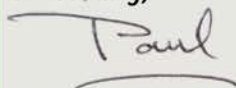
- 100% of the surveyed participants expressed that they would like to return to Candlelight Ranch, and that they learned something new about nature during their visit.
- Families reported as benefits from their day spent together in nature : improved/positive communication, fun outdoor activities enjoyed as a family, learning something new, family bonding, stress reduction & time away from screens.

As we look ahead to 2024, we will transition Executive Directors, launch our Vision 2030, celebrate our 25th Anniversary, and witness the Barr family's generous donation of this property to the Candlelight Ranch Foundation.

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 the team to learn more.

We could not accomplish this important work without each of you. As always, we welcome visits to witness firsthand the joy, learning, and fun that occur at the ranch.

Gratefully,



Paul Masschelin
Board President

info@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.

OUR PROGRAMS



Families in Nature

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

Children in Nature

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



Military Family Days

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

Outdoor Explorers

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



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Candlelight Ranch partners with over 35 nonprofits & schools.

WHO WE SERVE

Candlelight Ranch serves children and their families who can benefit from time in nature, including:

- *Individuals of all abilities*
- *Those who have experienced trauma*
- *Underserved youth, foster and adoptive families*
- *Military personnel, veterans & their families*

DEMOGRAPHICS



39%



60%

Other: 1%

Hispanic / Latino / Spanish Origin: 36%

Caucasian: 35%

African American: 13%

Asian: 6%

Multiracial: 6%

Other: 4%

Travis: 56%

Williamson: 15%

Bell: 16%

Hays: 4%

Burnet: 3%

COUNTIES SERVED

Other Counties Served:

Bastrop, Caldwell, Johnson, Comal, Montgomery, Dallas, Hidalgo, Tarrant, Wilson, Harris, Lampasas

Our programs benefit children through:

- *Therapeutic, educational and recreational opportunities.*
- *An inclusive environment that allows all children to participate in outdoor activities otherwise inaccessible due to financial, mental, accessibility, or physical disadvantages.*
- *An opportunity for youth to get outside, through challenging and engaging activities that support knowledge and awareness, of themselves and nature.*
- *An opportunity for Central Texas schools and community organizations who serve children with special needs or who are at-risk to experience the benefits of time spent in nature.*

PROGRAM IMPACT

1,585 TOTAL SERVED

13,313 TOTAL PROGRAMMING HOURS



100

% of campers reported they had fun at the Ranch AND learned something new about nature.

97

% of campers reported feeling proud & accomplished.



"I LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCONNECTING FROM MY PHONE AND CONNECTING WITH OTHERS AND NATURE. IT'S VERY PEACEFUL!"

100

% of parents/guardians reported they would like to return to the Ranch.

92

% of families reported they would increase their time spent in nature together.

FAMILY IMPACT

"MY KIDS HAD A BLAST TODAY. WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME OUT. OUR KIDS ARE ALWAYS ON THEIR PHONES AND TODAY THEY WERE ABLE TO PLAY OUTSIDE LIKE WE DID AS KIDS."

Families reported benefiting from:

- Positive communication
- Fun in the outdoors
- Family bonding
- Stress reduction
- Learning something new
- New Experiences
- Time away from screens & devices



OUTDOOR EXPLORERS IMPACT

100

% of teachers reported Outdoor Explorers supported their classroom curriculum AND parents reported they would recommend this program to others.

Parents reported their child benefitted from:

- Social Connections
- Increased physical activity
- Increased interest in spending time outdoors
- Learning new skills
- Improved self confidence



"OUR STUDENTS LOVE GOING TO OUTDOOR EXPLORERS. THEY ARE MORE INVOLVED AND LOVE TO COMMUNICATE."



2023 Partner Organizations

We partner with local non-profits and schools to customize science and nature-based activities to meet their specific needs and goals.

"WHAT I ENJOYED THE MOST WAS THE WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES - EVERY SINGLE STUDENT GOT VERY EXCITED ABOUT AT LEAST ONE AND ALL FELT INCLUDED"

Austin Angels

Burnet ISD

Central Texas Tennis Association

Operation Ex-Fil

Foster Village

Lago Vista ISD

Ortega ACE

River City Youth

Round Rock ISD

SAFE Austin

Settlement Home

St. Louise House

*Texas School for the Blind &
Visually Impaired*

Todos Juntos



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the hands and heart of our mission. Thank you for the passion and dedication you show for our children and their families. You make our mission possible!

**3,300
VOLUNTEER
HOURS**



"IT WAS A GREAT DAY, AND WE HAD A BLAST HELPING WITH THE KIDS AND ADULTS ON THE ZIPLINE. FOR US IT IS ALWAYS ENJOYABLE WHEN WE DO ANYTHING AT CLR AND WE LOVE WORKING WITH ALL THE FOLKS. IT IS ALMOST LIKE THERAPY TO ESCAPE OUR LIFE FOR A LITTLE BIT."

2023 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REVENUE

Income Categories

- Individual Giving: **\$72k**
- Grant Revenue: **\$371k**
- Corporate Giving: **\$55k**
- Facility Use Revenue: **\$12k**
- Events & Fundraising Revenue: **\$435k**



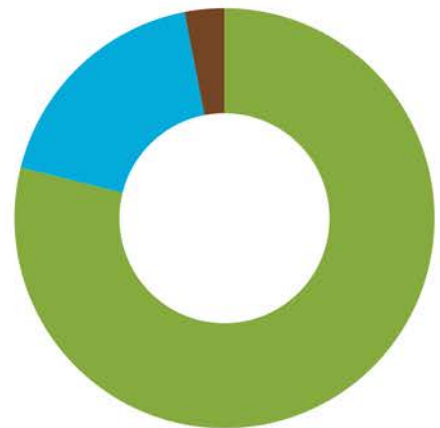
TOTAL INCOME FOR 2023: \$945k

* TOTAL INCOME RESTRICTED TO CAPITAL PROJECT, THE HIDEAWAY: \$205K

EXPENSES

Expense Breakdown

- Programs: **\$568k / 79%**
- Development: **\$130k / 18%**
- Administration: **\$22k / 3%**



TOTAL EXPENSES FOR 2023: \$720k



ACTIVELY PURSUING

OUR VISION 2030...



OUR VISION 2030 PROPELS US FORWARD

IMPACT

- *Specialized, mission-focused nonprofit which profoundly impacts each of its ~1750 annual participants.*
 - *Deep commitment on increasing access for: youth in low income, and/or challenging living situations; youth with special needs; youth recovering from trauma.*
 - *Greater than 75% of participants are aged 6-18*
 - *We endeavor that >30% of all participants will be at CLR more than once.*
- *Close cooperation with ~10 Central Texas nonprofit partner organizations and schools through formal & mutual accountability agreements.*
- *Two two-tier program approach:*
 - *Nature-based education and recreational therapy which leverages our unique ranch location, assets, and dedicated staff.*
 - *~ 20 program days / year with open registration*
 - *~130 program days / year designed in cooperation with partner organizations.*
 - *Multiweek engagement with small groups of special needs' participants*
- *Customized assessment tools to measure CLR's impact on bettering participants' lives*

CONSERVATION

- *Judicious stewardship of our unique 40-acre ranch; balancing the protection of its natural beauty with program delivery*
- *Safe, suitable and appropriately maintained infrastructure for our participants.*
 - *Formal annual assessment and planning of infrastructure maintenance and investments*

CULTIVATION

- *We cultivate and maintain a core of multi-year-committed staff, grantors, funders, volunteers, Board Members & Advisors*
- *Pertinent impact data and asset utilization stewarded by the Board and published in our annual Impact Report*

LEGACY

- *Committed to exemplary governance as well as fiscal discipline and transparency.*
- *Generational support for Central Texans in perpetuity.*

STAFF

Jenn Hartner Executive Director
Tara Gray Development Director
Lynette Holtz Ranch Program Director
Angelia Tomlin Ranch Manager
Michael Weahkee Operations Manager
Madison Peterson Communications, Data & Grants Manager
Adrian Dearmond Program Coordinator
Tori Martinez Program Specialist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Masschelin President
Adam Flagg Vice President
Dauphen Jackson Treasurer
Monika Orr Secretary
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Crystal Cousins
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Arun Jacob
Russ Miller
Jennifer Sellers
Ronnie Taylor
Stephanie Weber
Due West
Melissa Weston

Don Barr Co-Founder, Emeritus
Randy Barr Co-Founder, Emeritus

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Randal Dahl
LuAnn Gilmore
Ali Knight
Kellie Mater
Aaron Persons
Dorie Pickle
Becca Schafer
Tom Sultenfuss

Contact Us

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Thank you to all who made our mission possible in 2023!

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