

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Candlelight Ranch,

As the Executive Director of Candlelight Ranch since April 1, 2024, it is with deep gratitude and reflection that I share this year's Impact Report. This year has been truly remarkable — not only in the number of lives touched, but in the milestones reached as we celebrated 25 years of connecting children and families to the healing power of nature. Building on the strong foundation laid by our team and my predecessor, Jenn Hartner, who faithfully served for over seven years, we have continued to grow in mission and impact.

In 2024, we proudly welcomed over 1,600 children and family members to the Ranch through partnerships with more than 40 local nonprofits and schools. These visits offered transformative moments of connection — with each other, themselves, and the natural world. Whether hiking shaded trails, planting seeds in the garden, learning conservation practices, or spending quiet moments with our beloved equine therapy animals, participants found space to learn, heal, and thrive.

This year also marked several incredible milestones in our journey. We celebrated our 25th anniversary — a quarter century of service rooted in love, resilience, and community. We officially opened The Hideaway, a beautiful new multi-purpose facility that is already enhancing the way we host, teach, and care for our guests. We received the generous gift of a land donation that will expand our capacity to dream and grow for future generations. And, most importantly, we began meaningful progress on Vision 2030 — our long-range strategic plan focused on expanding access, deepening impact, and ensuring sustainability for the next 25 years and beyond. None of these accomplishments would be possible without our incredible community.

To our Board of Directors, Advisory Council, staff, volunteers, donors, and nonprofit partners — thank you. Your belief in our mission and your continued support empower us to say "yes" to more children, more families, and more possibilities. As we look to the future, we remain committed to creating inclusive, nature-based experiences that spark healing, learning, and growth. I am inspired every day by the joy, courage, and curiosity of the children we serve — and by all of you who help make this work possible.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Stryan

Stacie Bryan

Executive Director, Candlelight Ranch

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 FAMILIES IN NATURE

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



OUTDOOR EXPLORERS

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



Stress Reduction & Emotional Well-Being

- Parents who visited Candlelight Ranch reported a significant decrease in anxiety after attending programs.
- Parents after Family Days events reported that their families benefited from one or many of the following:
 disconnection from screens, stress reduction, positive communication with each other, had fun together,
 stepped out of their comfort zone

Inclusion & Accessibility

- CLR served 1,627 individuals from underserved, at-risk, and special needs communities delivering 11,789 hours of programming in 2024.
- All military families in nature programs were offered at no cost to our participants and we provided 10
 Military Family Days and 4 open enrollment Family Days all of which provided healthy meals and snacks for participants ensuring that every participant may participate without financial burden.

Increased Engagement with Nature & Outdoor Learning

- 93% of campers expressed a desire to spend more time outside after participating in our programs.
- 100% of campers indicated they would like to return to Candlelight Ranch for future experiences.
- 100% of youth participants reported learning at least one educational benefit related to water usage, geology, native plants & animals, composting, recycling, or gardening.

Increased Personal Growth, Resiliency & Connection

- 96% of surveyed campers reported learning something new about themselves or others while at camp.
- 99% of campers reported that they had fun with friends at camp and 97% of surveyed campers reported
 they did something they felt proud of while at camp
- 100% of campers reporting that playing outside made them feel happy and that they had fun at camp.

Community Partnerships & Support

- CLR partnered with **41 local non-profit organizations and schools** in 2024, expanding our direct outreach and service to marginalized populations in our community.
- 100% of surveyed program partners expressed satisfaction and that they would recommend Candlelight Ranch to a colleague.

VOICES OF IMPACT



Everyone is always so welcoming and kind. We always have a great time here. Things at home are very rough, so it's a treat to get away.

Parent at
Family Day

My students had the best time! Many were able to do things that they had not experienced yet. Thank y'all for providing an accessible place and adapting activities for students of all abilities!

Special Education Life Skills Teacher

I learned that I like nature and you need teamwork for a lot of things.

Camper

We had a fun day and created deeper bonds and learned better ways to communicate with each other.

Parent

Your team has gone above and beyond in supporting our organization — not only through these events but also by providing equipment in a time of need and helping us network with other organizations.

Non-profit Program Partner

GIVING CHILDREN A PLACE TO SHINE

PARTNERSHIP WITH CC4C: A PLACE FOR FAMILIES TO BREATHE

For children with rare diseases, life is filled with uncertainty — doctor's appointments, treatments, and the emotional weight of a diagnosis. Parents often carry immense stress, and siblings, while deeply supportive, can feel overlooked in the whirlwind of medical care. In 2021, CC4C (Cheyanna's Champions 4 Children) partnered with Candlelight Ranch to give these families something rare: a chance to step away from hospitals and daily challenges and into a place of adventure, healing, and connection.

For Monica Gelinas, Executive Director of CC4C, her first visit to Candlelight Ranch confirmed what one of CC4C's children had already told her — this was a place where families could find joy together. "When I first drove out there, I felt like it was a getaway to peace and exploration of nature," she shares. "A getaway but easily accessible, which makes a big difference with families of medically complex children."

That accessibility has made a profound difference — not just for the families but for both the child with the rare disease and their siblings, who often long for their own special experiences.

EMPOWERING THE CHILD: A PLACE TO FEEL STRONG AND CAPABLE

Children with rare diseases spend much of their lives being told what they can't do. At Candlelight Ranch, the narrative shifts — they discover what they CAN do. Through adaptive zip-lining, an accessible climbing wall, archery, and hands-on experiences with horses, these children experience courage, accomplishment, and joy.

"It's such a beautiful place to be outside and hear the birds chirping, but most of all, to watch my daughter Briley make memories that I know will stay with her," shared one CC4C parent. "To see her conquer some of her fears and interact with other kids who understand her journey — it means everything."

One mother reflected on the significance of this moment:

"My children are reminded almost daily that they're different — that they need different things. They do shots at home, they miss out on vacations because of hospital visits, and their lives are filled with medical routines. But on this day, my daughter got to feel special for a different reason."

For many children, this experience isn't just about fun — it's about proving to themselves that they are capable of adventure.

CELEBRATING THE SIBLING: A DAY JUST FOR THEM

Siblings of medically complex children live in a unique world — they love their brother or sister deeply, but their own needs can sometimes take a backseat to doctor's appointments and medical care.

"The parents had expressed a need for a program to help the siblings of rare children," Monica explains. "Because of the extensive treatments, appointments, and diagnostic journeys, the sibling is often in the background. When they get a chance to have time with a parent and do something fun, that affects the way they see their rare sibling and strengthens their relationship."

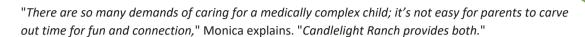
This is why Sibling Adventure Day was created — a day where siblings get to feel seen, celebrated, and have fun on their own terms. One little sister, overwhelmed with joy, said it best: "This is my day."

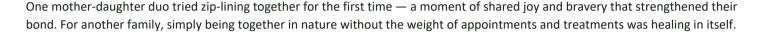
The experience strengthens sibling bonds, providing shared moments of fun and connection rather than moments of stress and worry.

FROM STRESS TO STRENGTH: A FAMILIES JOURNEY

While these experiences empower both the diagnosed child and their sibling, they also provide something essential for the entire family: a break from the weight of everyday stress. Between medical schedules and the emotional toll of constant care, parents of medically complex children carry immense stress. At Candlelight Ranch, they experience something rare true relaxation and reconnection with their children.

At a recent CC4C event, a Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) stress survey showed that parents who arrived with stress levels as high as 12 (out of 14) saw their stress drop to 2 or even 1 by the end of the day.





LASTING IMPACT: MORE THAN A SINGLE DAY

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Candlelight Ranch experience is that it doesn't end when families leave.

Every time they talk about their adventures at Candlelight, it brings back the emotion and refreshment, and this impacts their wellbeing. It has a ripple effect on the entire family," Monica reflects.

These memories become a source of ongoing strength for both the child and their sibling — reminders of what they can do, rather than what they cannot.

For siblings, the experience validates their own role within the family, giving them a day to shine and strengthening their bond with their rare-disease sibling. For parents, the experience provides a moment to breathe, resetting their stress and reminding them of the joy of simply being together.

LOOKING AHEAD: EXPANDING ACCESS TO TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES

Candlelight Ranch's partnership with CC4C is one of many strategic collaborations that bring nature-based healing to families in need. As part of Candlelight Ranch's Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, strengthening relationships with Central Texas youth and familyserving nonprofits remains a top priority.

Through these partnerships, more children — regardless of their physical or medical challenges — will have the opportunity to experience the joy, confidence, and strength that nature provides.

Monica's final message to Candlelight Ranch is one of deep appreciation: "Never doubt your impact. I have seen firsthand how you heal families, bring fun and connection, and introduce nature into our lives. You are a legacy of healing."

As this partnership continues to grow, so does the impact — one child, one sibling, and one moment of strength at a time.





FOR

CHILDREN





























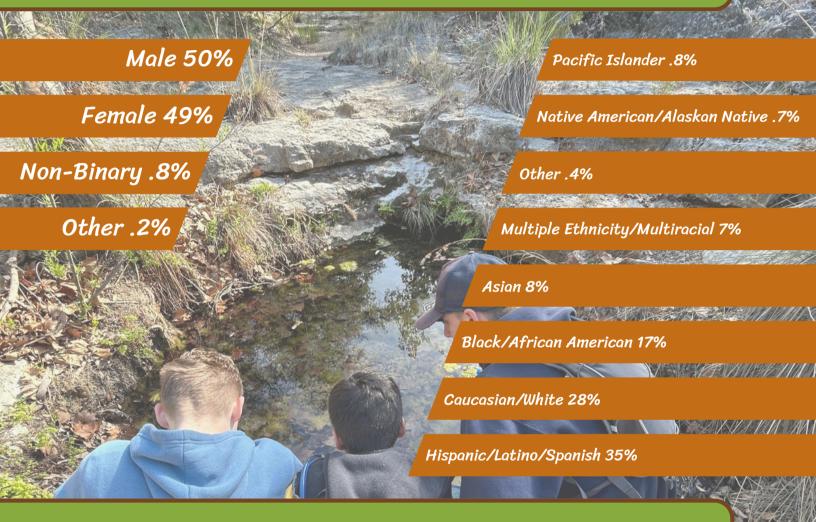






IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



COUNTIES SERVED

Travis 52% Hays 3%	Harris	Dallas
	Blanco	Ravalli
Williamson 18% Bastrop 2%	Comal	Hidalgo
	Bexar	Aransas
Coryell 7% Caldwell 2%	Lampasas	Kerr
Bell 6% Llano 2%	Guadalupe	Colorado
Dell 078 Liulio 278	Tarrant	Collin
Burnet 5% Remaining 3% include the following	Fayette	Howard
	Bosque	

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

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!

Volunteer Hours 3,197

PROGRAM & SUPPORT PARTNERS

Program Partners

Austin Angels · Austin Public Health · Austin Sunshine Camp · Blue Shirt Retreat /
Communities in Schools · Boys and Girls Club (Marble Falls) · Boys and Girls Club
(Kingsland) · Burnet ISD · Camp Amigo Smiles · Casa Marinella · CC4C · Central Texas Tennis
Association · Change 1 · Changing Lives · Del Valle · Down Home Ranch · Ex-Fil · Foster
Village · Girl Forward · Glimmer of Hope (Camp Glimmer) · Helping Hand Home · Highland
Lakes Elementary · Hill Country Connection · Hope Alliance · IACT · Imagine A Way ·
Integral Care · Jeremiah Program · Jewish Middle School · Lago Vista ISD · Life Changers ·
Marble Falls ISD · National Guard Youth · Ortega ACE · River City Youth · Round Rock
Adaptive · Round Rock ISD · Safe Austin · School of the Hills · Smokin' for Jesus · Texas
School of the Blind & Visually Impaired · Todos Juntos · US Army Child & Youth Services

Support Partners

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge (Education) · Balcones Canyonlands Master Naturalist (Education) · Brentwood Christian (Transportation) · Colorado River Land Trust (Conservation) · Highland Lakes Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists (Education) · Landmark Wildlife Management (Conservation) · Nobility in Action (Health & Wellness)

IMPACT · CONSERVATION · CULTIVATION · LEGACY

VISION 2030 — PROPELLING US FORWARD

2024 IMPACT GOALS

Increase Data Capture through surveys & program number collection.



PROGRESS MADE

- Increased distribution of Program Evaluation Methods including assessments & surveys.
- Complete utilization of "Waiver File" to assist in the efficient capture of participant numbers.

Pilot formalized partnerships with Central Texas non-profits and enhance existing relationships with Central Texas schools and community organizations that serve our target populations.



 Formalized partnerships with 3 Central Texas youth or family serving non-profits.

Define and implement standardized measures of impact and integrate such in existing Program goals/objectives.



 Implemented a new customized Therapeutic Recreation assessment for Outdoor Explorers to enhance the tracking of long-term impact.

Increase the number of school-aged participants.



 65.9 % of mission-based participants were of school age (5 to 22).





FINANCIAL INFO & HIGHLIGHTS

INCOME

 Individual Giving
 \$194,785.06

 Corporate Giving
 \$126,838.66

 Grants
 \$284,850.00

 Endowment
 \$20,000.00

 Facility Use
 \$9,052.39

 Events & Fundraising
 \$317,915.10

TOTAL 2024 REVENUE: \$953,441.21

EXPENSES

 Programs
 \$694,120.06

 Development
 \$137,678.02

 Administration
 \$22,631.58

TOTAL 2024 EXPENSES: \$854,429.66

ACCOLADES OF 2024

- Celebration of our 25th Anniversary
- Helping Hand Home Champions for Children Community Honoree
- Land Donation from the Barr Family
- Grand Opening of our Capital Building Project, The Hideaway
- First Year Progression of VISION 2030
- Central Texas Community Foundation's Legacy Luncheon -Impact Award Finalist

A LEGACY OF IMPACT

On March 5th, 2024, the Barr Family finalized the donation of 2 land tracts including the beautiful 40-acre property of Candlelight Ranch!



SCAN QR CODE TO READ THE FULL STORY:

HONORING OUR DONORS

We are thankful for the individuals, businesses and foundations who support Candlelight Ranch and extend special recognition to those who have given \$1,000 or more, whose generosity helps provide transformative outdoor experiences for the children and families we serve.

LIVE OAK

As the mighty Live Oak stands tall and endures for centuries, these generous contributors ensure Candlelight Ranch remains a strong and enduring presence.

Circle Bar Foundation
Glimmer | Austin
Montandon Foundation
P. Terry's Burger Stand
Wayne & JoAnn Moore Foundation

CYPRESS

Like the Bald Cypress that thrives along rivers, these significant donors support the lifeblood of Candlelight Ranch, sustaining our programs in any environment.

Austin Subaru
HEB Tournament of Champions Charitable Trust
CTXCF | Hood Endowment
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
Moody Foundation
Sneckner Family Charitable Foundation

Texas Mutual Ins Co.

REDBUD

Like the Redbud that blossoms with beauty and renewal, these generous supporters bring hope and joy to the children and families we serve, enriching their lives.

Applied Materials Foundation

Dorie & Ben Pickle

James Avery Artisan Jewelry

Matthew Five Eight Foundation, Inc

Nolan Ryan Foundation

Paul & Amy Masschelin

Ron & Ali Knight | Knight Wealth Management LLC

Sewell Land Rover North Austin

The Ninnie L. Baird Foundation

Tim & Tanya Kirby

1 Anonymous Supporter

SAPLING

As a sapling begins to stretch toward the sky, these supporters allow Candlelight Ranch to deepen its roots and extend its branches.

Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation

Bowen Family Foundation

Charles Schwab

Carolyn Bartlett

ContactWorks

(Tom Sultenfuss & Cindy Hewitt)

Cousins & Leonard Insurance

(Ben & Crystal Cousins)

ECG Foundation

Dauphen & Marilyn Jackson

David & Debbie Rosenthal

Ken & Beverley McClure

Labor Finders

Lola Wright Foundation

Love, Tito's

LuAnn & Jack Gilmore and Family

Lucky Rabbit

McClure Charitable Foundation

Michael Murphy

Miller Charitable Lead Trust

Pedernales Electric Coop, Inc.

Randy & Melissa Barr

Rick & Madelyn Naber

1 Anonymous Supporter

SEEDLING

Like a young seedling sprouting from the earth, these donors nurture the early stages of our programs, giving them the support they need to grow strong.

Adam & Brooke Flagg

Arun & Bessie Jacob

Austin Telco Federal Credit Union

Brad Boyett

Brian & Jennifer Sellers

Colorado River Land Trust

David & Robin Breed

Deanna & Carl Miller

Deloitte

Dr. Will Fisher

Due & Melinda West

Dynamic Computing Services

Ed & Angela Bell

Eloy & Trina de la Garza

Eric & Sarah Moench

Garver LLC

Hamner Family

Hochheim Prairie

Honda Leander

In Memory of Travis Hamner

Jean & Shane Wahl

Jim & Dawn Pepper

John Holland

Kiwanis Club of the Highland Lakes

Kim & Writ Baese

Laura & Hunter Arend

Metals4U

Mike Miller

Monika & Kerry Orr

Pediatrix Medical Group

Q2

R Bank

Rhonda & Darren Durrill

Ronnie & Aleida Taylor

Round Rock Women's Club

San Antonio Area Foundation

Security State Bank & Trust

Stephanie & Bill Weber

Texas Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

The William Gano Houstoun Foundation

Todd & Anissa Everett

Tom Foster

Texas Materials

Watkins Insurance Group

10 Anonymous Donors

CLR STAFF

Stacie Bryan, 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 Manager



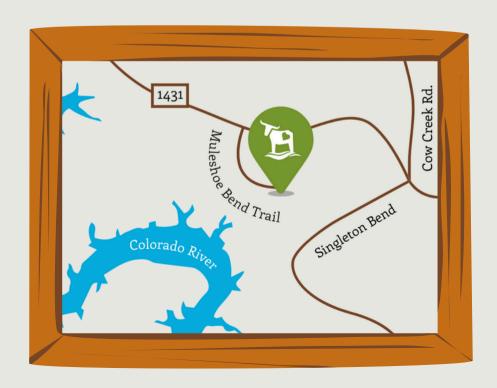
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Masschelin, Board President · Adam Flagg, Board Vice President · Jennifer Sellers, Board Treasurer Monika Orr, Board Secretary · Laura Arend · Ben Cousins · Crystal Cousins · William Fisher Brian Hamner · Arun Jacob · Stephanie Weber · Due West · Melissa Weston · Jean Wahl

Don Barr, Co-founder - Emeritus · Randy Barr, Co-founder - Emeritus

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ashley Cooper · Stephanie Cooper · Randal Dahl · Angie Dixon · LuAnn Gilmore · Dauphen Jackson Allison Knight · Kellie Mater · Russ Miller · Aaron Persons · Dorie Pickle · Becca Shafer Tom Sultenfuss · Ronnie Taylor







Ronch Address

6408 Muleshoe Bend Trail Marble Falls, TX 78654

Mailing Address

PO Box 26367 Austin, TX 78755

(512) 323-5300 info@candlelightranch.org