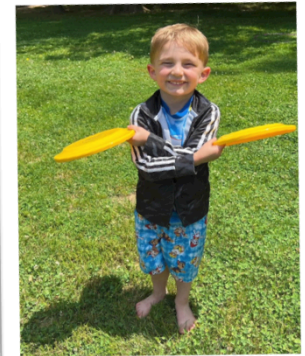




[dccandlelighters@gmail.com](mailto:dccandlelighters@gmail.com)  
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[Instagram.com/dccandlelighters/](https://www.instagram.com/dccandlelighters/)



## Family Fun Day!

DC Candlelighters enthusiastically hosted its annual Family Fun Day at Bull Run Regional Park on June 4, 2023. Families were treated to a pizza lunch, courtesy of One Neighborhood Foundation, an incredible non-profit in Vienna! We played lots of games and Bingo with prizes galore, ran relay races and got wet in a giant water blaster war. Bingo callers included childhood cancer survivors Ashton Schaffer (pictured above, in red shirt), and Tommy Watson, sons of Board members, Sheri Schaffer and Asia Watson. Board Members and volunteers from Wildcats vs. Cancer from Centerville High School welcomed everyone, including several new families, connecting them with others who are currently in or had completed treatment. "Toonie and Friends," Mike Bevcarr entertained with giant bubbles and his amazing balloon-making!

Kids and parents alike tried all the ball toss games, threw frisbees, and made chalk drawings. One boy, who had told his mom he wanted a new bike, won the raffle for a spiffy bike and helmet! After Bingo, the kids competed in relay races, including rolling hula-hoops. One mom commented joyfully that she hadn't seen her child run in months. Moms and dads then competed in a hula-hoop contest, which was a hoot. The Moms won!! We finished the event with water-blasters, giving the kids a head start against their parents. Lots of laughs with everyone getting wet. A good time was had by all!



## Celebrating our Scholars

*We are proud to offer Survivor Scholarships to college/university/vocational/technical school students, aged 17 to 30, who were diagnosed prior to the age of 21. Please visit our website for more information.*

### Taylor Love



Taylor was only eighteen months young when she was diagnosed with metastatic, high-risk neuroblastoma. She underwent years of treatment, which included, but was not limited to, surgery, high-dose chemotherapy, and autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Taylor soldiered on, but her aggressive treatment resulted in myelodysplastic syndrome, evolving to acute myeloid leukemia. Young Taylor endured more treatments, including unrelated donor bone marrow transplant and various procedures/surgeries to address her complicated medical needs. Through her harrowing ordeal, Taylor remained strong and determined to lead a fulfilling, happy life. Now, at age eighteen, Taylor is excited to begin her secondary education at East Carolina University, concentrating her major field of study in Communications. She is ready to independently embark on this new adventure, far from her home in Ashburn, Virginia. Taylor's health continues to be closely monitored, but by all accounts, this young survivor is beginning adulthood with much grace, resiliency, and enthusiasm. She is a true inspiration to all of us!

### Rosalind Penniger



Rosalind, of Stafford, Virginia, is a first-year student at the University of South Carolina at Columbia. She is eager to begin her studies of biomedical engineering/ biophysics and expects to complete her degree in 2027. Rosalind's interest in this exciting field stems from her personal experiences facing her health challenges. In the seventh grade, when Rosalind was just thirteen, she was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and spent years receiving treatment. This did not stop Rosalind's drive to keep up with school life and her friendships. Rosalind is motivated to learn how to develop cost-effective treatments while maintaining, or improving, the standard of treatment. This compassionate college freshman hopes that in the future, treatment will take less time and be less invasive, while being more available to people with limited resources. Without a doubt, the world is a better place because of Rosalind! We salute you!

## 2023 Summer FUNdraising Highlights

We had a busy, exciting season of fundraising and are extremely grateful to all who helped our cause! We are especially appreciative to Vienna, Virginia's very own Caffe Amouri! They graciously hosted a **Mad Hatter Tea Party** in June and even had Alice and the Mad Hatter in attendance. Thanks to owner, Michael Amouri, we were invited to be the recipient of donations during their adorable event. During this lovely afternoon, we were also able to raise awareness of our organization, meet other community leaders, and most importantly, help provide families and the Vienna community with a memorable experience. Special thanks also goes out to Lydia Russo, and to Lisa Waters, owner of I Can Buy Myself Flowers, who designed and donated several flower arrangements that were auctioned off for DCC.



In August we teamed up with **Pampered Chef** to offer friends and family an opportunity to shop for kitchen items while supporting our organization. In addition, we hosted our first **Light the Way Walk**, where supporters formed teams, walked and pledged their donations. Our spirited friends walked at local parks, beaches, neighborhoods, and even the National Zoo! Many other people bought raffle tickets to help fund our programs. It is because of your thoughtful charitable gifts that DC Candlelighters can provide academic scholarships, financial assistance, holiday parties and other events to brighten the lives of our dear families.



## Meet our Light of the Month Super Kid... SAWYER

Fabulous Sawyer was selected as our July LOTM because he is a real firecracker and brings energy everywhere he goes! Sawyer turned eight in the spring, and this fall, will begin third grade at Tyler Elementary in DC. He loves baseball and soccer, playing Pokemon and video games, and he also plays guitar. Everyone who knows Sawyer loves Sawyer; he is helpful at home and in school, and is a kind friend to many. Sawyer also really loves to spend time with his fantastic little brother, Hudson. Both boys are frequent participants in DC Candlelighters Family Bingo Zoom Night. We joyfully celebrate Sawyer, a young boy who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in February 2020 and finished treatment in June 2022. Great things await you, Sawyer!



## Become a LOTM!

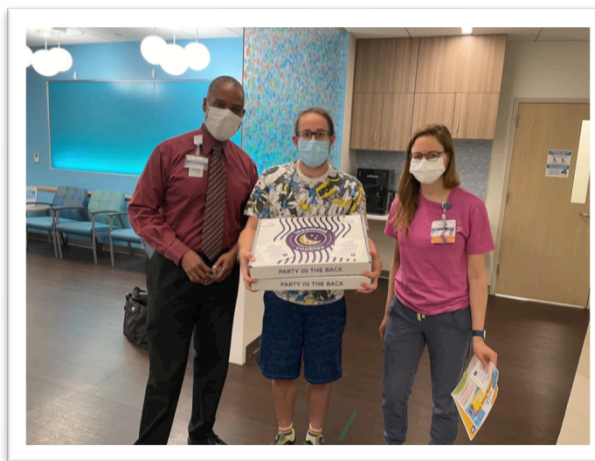
Visit our website to learn how your child can apply to be a Light of the Month Super Kid! Eligibility rules are simple: Children from birth to 21 years old qualify! Whether you are on or off treatment; no matter where you are in your cancer journey, you and your story matter to us! The LOTM child is announced the first Wednesday of each month and is featured on our website and in our quarterly newsletter (and may even receive some fun swag from us!). We would love to hear from you!



## Giving Back

In May, DC Candlelighters' very own Gold Ribbon Board Member, Ian McGowan, made a fun delivery to the staff and families at the Pediatric Oncology Clinic of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute. Ian, a two-time childhood cancer survivor, formed an enthusiastic partnership with Insomnia Cookies. Not only did he deliver scrumptious cookies, Ian brought a lot of joy and happiness during his visit!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to **Insomnia Cookies of Fairfax, VA**, for their generous donation of delicious cookies!



## The 2023 DC Candlelighters Board

- \*Meg Crossett – Co-President
- \*Sheri Schaffer- Co-President, Special Events, Marketing and Advertising Chair
- Jennifer Teise - Vice President and Volunteer Coordinator
- Michelle Slaughter – Treasurer
- Constance Connor – Secretary and Special Events Chair
- Laura Tartaro-McGowan - Development/Fundraising Director
- Andrea Bilaniuk – Webmaster, Newsletter Editor and Scholarship Chair
- Amy Switzer - Hospital and Clinic Liaison
- Asia Watson - Branding Manager
- Rachel Dacanay Smith - Non-Profit Organization and Community Liaison
- Sharon Truzzi - Database Manager

\* denotes Founding Member

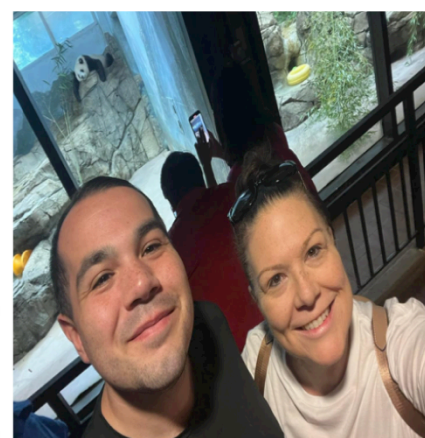
## Angel Tribute

*The DC Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation respectfully remembers the children under our care who are no longer with us. It is our utmost privilege and honor to serve our children and families in all phases of their remarkable journeys.*



If you would like to see your beloved Angel featured in our newsletter, we would be honored to celebrate and remember your child. We sympathize with the difficulty of submitting a memorial spotlight; many of our Board Members are bereaved parents as well. We will ensure that your Angel Tribute is treated with great respect and dignity. We are committed to caring for all our families, including providing bereavement support. Similarly, DC Candlelighters respects the rights of individuals who chose to not have their personal medical stories and photos featured in our newsletter and website. Please reach out to our Board members for any reason, at any time. To submit your Angel Tribute, simply email us [dccandlelighters@gmail.com](mailto:dccandlelighters@gmail.com)

*A few more summer photos before we say goodbye!*



## *We love our supporters and sponsors! Thank You!*

Thank you for considering a monetary donation to DC Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your tax-deductible donations are critical to sustaining our mission and programs. We have no paid staff; therefore, 100% of all donations are allocated to pediatric oncology families. Event sponsorship is also recommended as an effective method to generate positive brand awareness among your customers and our supporters.



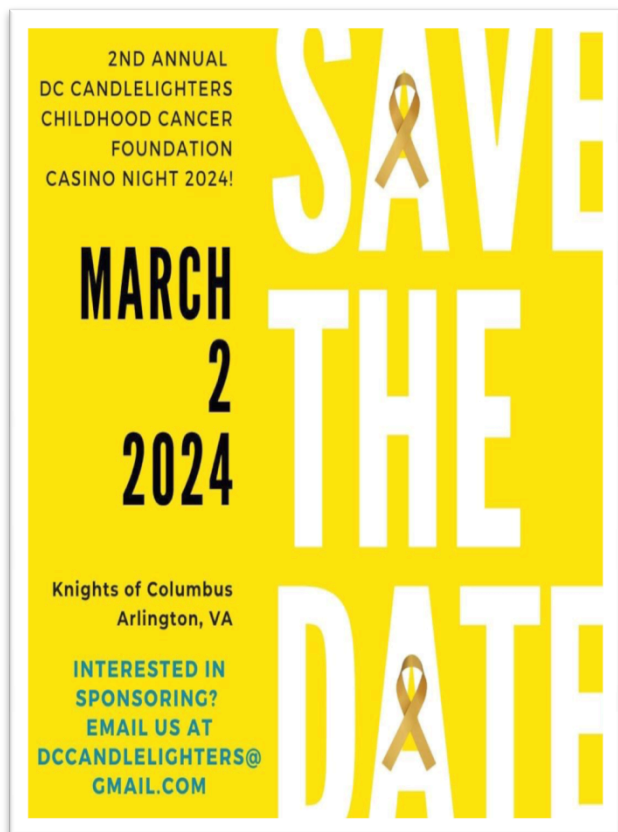
## *Save these Fall 2023 Dates!*

**September 16** – *Fun on the Farm*  
Cox Farms, Centreville, VA

**October 28** – *Halloween Party*  
Schar Cancer Institute, Fairfax, VA

**Sept 28 & Nov 28** – *Family Bingo Night*  
Possibly on Zoom, but we may also hold one (or both!) in person (Life with Cancer House in Fairfax, VA. Stay tuned on our website and Facebook for more info!

**December 10** – *Holiday Drive-thru Party and Bull Run Festival of Lights*  
Centreville, VA



Our next newsletter will be published Winter 2023. In the interim, please visit our website for announcements and upcoming events and follow us on social media.