

"because kids can't  
fight cancer alone"



# Candlelighters

a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization of West Texas & Southern New Mexico

October 2017

## October 2017 PROFILE

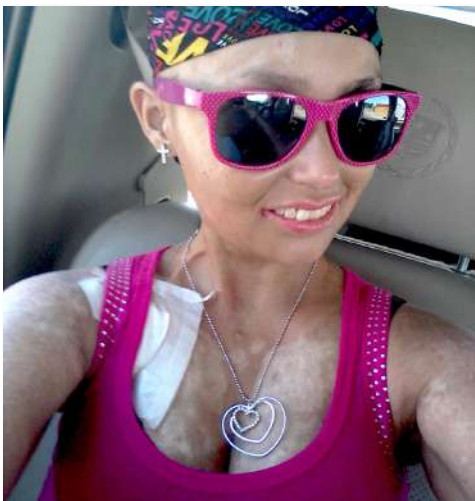
# Georgina Gomez

Hello my name is Georgina Gomez I am 22 years old and I am a cancer survivor. I was diagnosed at the age of 12 with leukemia on August 13, 2006 in North Carolina. I remember the doctor taking my father and sitting him down on the chair and telling him something. Right away my father's facial expression changed and I knew something was wrong. He came back to my mother and said he was going outside for a smoke. He lasted like two hours out there so my mother went out to see what was going on. They came back with my aunt and uncle and mother demanded to know what I had. Finally my father told her that I had cancer and my mother and aunt started crying. I was transported to the cancer hospital in Winston-Salem right away. That night I had one of my life's worst experiences, I had a seizure. During



that seizure, I died 15 minutes and had to be brought back to life with defibrillators. I had gone in with my kidneys not working so I had to get dialysis. During that procedure, I coughed and the veins in my eyes popped, so my eyes were red for a while. That night my parents were told I only had three months to live so my parents decided to come to El Paso to seek help. Here I met my guardian angel, Dr Roberto Canales. He was the one that brought me back. It was a struggle but he did it. I had to go through intense chemotherapy. Some days I would feel fine, the others I felt really sick. Soon my hair started to fall off so my parents decided to cut it off. Finally in December of 2008, I was cancer free. Little did I know that my happiness wouldn't last long. On May 2009 the cancer had come back and this time worse than ever. It had spread to my

spine and head. I would need a bone marrow transplant so we started seeking donors. Thank God I was lucky that my little sister Kaith, who was nine at the time, was 99 percent compatible and she would become my donor. Before I could have the bone marrow I would need intense doses of chemo and radiation. It was then they told me my hair would never grow back. That didn't stop me because I was stronger than ever. So on September 24, 2009, I had my bone marrow transplant. Things got worse after that. I was placed on morphine continuously and from there I don't remember a thing. From what my parents tell me, I started agonizing, throwing up blood, etc. and placed on life support. My parents still had hope I would recover, but on Christmas Eve the doctor asked my parents if they wanted to disconnect me from life support. My mother said yes because she didn't want to see me suffer but my father said no. He said if God wanted to take me He would do it whenever He wanted to! On Christmas morning my parents got the best present ever! I started breathing on my own again! Now I am 22 years old and attending El Paso Community College and studying to be a nurse. I want to be able to give back for all I have received. All I have to say is never give up and have faith. God has a reason for what He does. He gives His toughest battles to His strongest soldiers.



# CANDLELIGHTERS HALLOWEEN PARTY



## FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

Ghost & Goblin's  
Sponsored by: ADP Employees  
1851 N. Resler  
El Paso, TX 79912  
Friday, October 27, 2017  
Times: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Trick or Treating  
Games, Food, Music,  
Costume Contest

## TEEN HALLOWEEN PARTY

Calling all Teens 13 and up  
Dance, Costume Contest, Food  
Guests are welcome.  
Ascarate Park Pavilion  
6900 Delta  
El Paso, TX 79905  
Saturday, October 20, 2017  
Time: 7:30 pm – 11:00 pm

*Tickets are needed for both  
events. Please pick them  
up at Candlelighters' office.*



# WALK OF HOPE



Candlelighters would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who supported us this year. We couldn't have done it without you!



## Adopt A Family for the Holidays



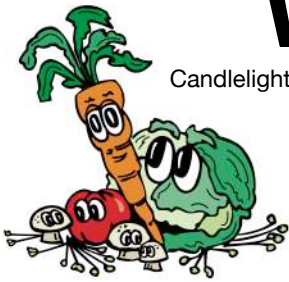
The Holidays are fast approaching and families dealing with childhood cancer, compounded with the stress of day-to-day life, can be intense. The financial burden can be overwhelming on a family struggling to make ends meet. Life can be especially tough when a family has a child with cancer. If it weren't for assistance from Candlelighters support services many families would go without. It is our hope that you will be able to assist us with our annual Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program this year. This program began as a means of ensuring that the holiday season would be less stressful for our families in need.

Families are selected because they are at risk financially of not having a special holiday family event. For others, it may not just be a financial issue, but an issue of time and energy; a family may be too physically, mentally and/or emotionally tired.

No gift is too small. Remember, our agency is a 501©3 nonprofit organization and your donation is tax deductible. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please call Mary at (915) 544-2222 Ext. 206 or email me at [maryv@candlelighterselp.org](mailto:maryv@candlelighterselp.org).

Candlelighters is successful because of caring individuals like you. On behalf of the staff, volunteers, and those who benefit from your support Thank You!!!

## Wish List



Candlelighters needs the following items to support our families throughout the year.

### Kitchen / Housecleaning

Hand Soap, Dish Soap  
Dish Towels  
All-Purpose Cleaner  
Paper Towels, Paper Plates  
Forks, Spoons, Bowls  
Large Trash Bags  
Styro Foam Cups

### Kitchen Pantry

Cup of Noodle (Ramen)  
Milk, Juice  
Individual Cereals  
Popcorn  
Coffee, Creamer  
Snack Puddings  
Cheese Macaroni

### Snack Fruits

Jell-O Snacks, Yogurt  
Snack Crackers  
Cheese-its  
Lunchables  
Pizza Certificates  
Fast Food Certificates

### Food Closet

Canned Goods  
Chicken Noodle Soup  
Sugar, Flour  
Rice, Beans  
Dry Cereals  
Canned Fruits  
Canned Milk

### \$2000/Sponsors

Valentine's Party  
Easter Party  
Christmas Party  
Family Picnic  
National Cancer Survivors Day  
Graduation Day  
Halloween Party- Kids & Teens  
Teen Bowling  
Caregivers' Appreciation

Our hope is that blood donors get to meet Candlelighters families to help make a connection with the importance of donating blood AND recruit donors for upcoming Candlelighters events.



### UNITED BLOOD SERVICES

Eastside Center  
1338 N Zaragoza  
Westside Center  
424 S Mesa Hills  
CALL (915) 834-8189



Horse Therapy will resume soon for teen groups, family and Hippo therapy. Please call Mary at 544-2222 if you are interested.

Compadres Therapy provides Candlelighters kids with Equine Assisted Therapy which is not a separate form of therapy, but is integrated into the overall therapy of the child. Hippotherapy is the art of using horses to promote physical, occupational, and emotional growth and learning in a child or family suffering from depression, trauma and improving relationships in families.

## EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS IN OCTOBER

October 3, 2017 Family Meeting • 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
October 10, 2017 Arts & Crafts • 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
October 11, 2017 Special Mass for Cancer Survivors  
St. Mark Catholic Church  
11700 Pebble Hills Blvd  
Call the church for time (915) 300-2800  
October 19, 2017 Caregivers Workshop • 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
October 20, 2017 Teen Halloween Party  
Ascarate Park Pavilion • 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
October 25, 2017 Parent Support Group • 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
October 27, 2017 Family Halloween Party  
ADP 1851 Resler • 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN