



BCCS Newsletter

Mission Statement

To provide
compassionate in-
home skilled nursing
care and supportive
resources for those
affected by cancer or
related illnesses in
Southwest Michigan.

Location

Marie Yeager Cancer
Center - 2nd floor
3900 Hollywood Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269-429-3281

www.bccancerservice.org
staff@bccancerservice.org

Follow us on social media today!



Why Do I Love Thee?

by Sasakichi Hartmann

Why I love thee?

**Ask why the seawind wanders,
Why the shore is aflush with the tide,
Why the moon through heaven meanders;
Like seafaring ships that ride**

**On a sullen, motionless deep;
Why the seabirds are fluttering the strand
Where the waves sing themselves to sleep
And starshine lives in the curves of the sand!**

World Cancer Day - February 4, 2024 Theme for 2022-2024 "Close the Care Gap"

World Cancer Day is on a 3-year campaign to "Close the Care Gap". It started in 2022 with realizing that there was a problem with barriers of cancer care including inequity, income, education, location, and many other factors. The 2023 campaign focused on united voices and taking actions - mobilizing friends, family, coworkers, and communities to come together in support. This year, 2024, the campaign is "all about bringing attention to a higher level--literally. We will raise our voices to engage our leaders.... We will call on leaders to eliminate health inequities by addressing their root causes, ensuring that everyone has access to quality health services when, where and how they need them."

The Berrien County Cancer Service has long recognized the care gap that exists in our healthcare system. The hoops that have to be jumped through in order to receive in-home skilled nursing care make it prohibitive to most patients receiving cancer treatment. One of those hoops is to have a diagnosis code of being "homebound". BCCS fills in that gap for many people who need extra support to make it through their treatment. It may be a nurse coming into the home, nutritional support, needed medical equipment or maybe someone to listen. We are here to help "close the care gap". We recognize that significant disparities in cancer incidence and mortality rates still exist across diverse populations and are committed to deliver a compassionate patient experience in a manner that respects the diversity of each member of our community.

Our commitment :

- Respect the dignity of all members of our community and aspire to ensure that all feel valued and supported.
- Deliver healthcare in a manner that respects diversity with the full intent of ensuring an optimal patient experience and achieving better health outcomes for all.
- Increase awareness of services and remove barriers to care for all people we serve.
- Provide quality skilled nursing services, basic essential supplies through our resource locker, and patient education to strive for optimal health outcomes.

Winter is a season of recovery and preparation. Paul Theroux

BCCS Bulletin Board



2023 Your Gifts in Review



We Celebrated our **75th**
Anniversary at Andrews
University



\$100,273.32
Raised 2023 Fund Raising



\$35,799.43
Raised 2023
Pennies for Patients



522
Individuals Served in 2023
131 Nursing Patients
1,215 Nursing Visits



**Berrien
County
Cancer
Service**

www.bccancerservice.org

2023 Fundraising Success



YOU are the reason we were able to reach our fundraising goals for 2023. Celebrating our 75th year in 2023 was a remarkable achievement. We are thankful to all of you who

helped to make 2023 a success by donating, volunteering, attending or even praying for the success of BCCS. We appreciate YOU!!



Berrien County Cancer Service

STRIKE It Up

For BCCS Cancer Patients

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024
\$25 PER PERSON
\$100 PER TEAM

PRIZES
TOP SCORING TEAM
BEST DRESSED TEAM
WACKY BOWLING
BOWLING BINGO

AT JOEY ARMADILLOS IN NILES
2732 S. 11th St., Niles, MI 49120
www.bccancerservice.org
NOON - 2:00PM

1st Event of 2024

Saturday, March 16, 2024
12pm to 2pm

BLUE PARTY for Colorectal Cancer Awareness
Get your team or teams together for a fun day of bowling. Choose your team name and best matching outfits. Be ready for some fun, there will be a prize for the top scoring team but the rest of the prizes are for fun and games. We will have Pizzas from Milano's Pizza and many fun prizes. Come out for an afternoon of family fun and support Berrien County Cancer Service.

From the Desk of Nancy Church, RN

What a way to end 2023! Your gifts were amazing! Thank you for your generous, caring hearts to help those with cancer and related illnesses. Many gave as a tribute to someone special, often remembering those who had passed before. As a nurse who spent 18 years "on the road" for BCCS (and I still visit patients on occasion), I can personally tell you as to how our nurses and office staff "close the gap" and how it is appreciated by patients, families, caregivers, and the healthcare team. I wish you could see the gratitude by those stopping by the office to pick up supplies or nutrition. **YOU made a difference for the 529 people we saw in 2023 and those in 2024!**

A VERY SPECIAL "THANK YOU" to the Frederick S. Upton Foundation for awarding BCCS a grant to support our Resource Locker and Nutritional Support for 2024! This grant enables us to "close the care gap" for patient needs for our Resource Locker and provide nutritional drinks to those going through cancer treatment. What a blessing!

P.S. Stay tuned next month for my report on the joys, rigors, and adventures of my trip to Peru! (See January newsletter.)

Mail your gift to: BCCS
3900 Hollywood Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Donate by QR code
or online at:
www.bccancerservice.org



Thank you!



Save the Date

**FIGHT
CANCER
in all
COLORS
GALA**

August 9, 2024

at Tabor Hill Private Event Tent
Baroda

In Memory

In Honor of Barbara Arndt

Sarah Azcona

In Honor of Marge Yetzke

Nancy & Rick Knapp

In Memory of Dr. John Bannow

Barbara Bannow

In Memory of Paul Barry

Cheryl Barry

In Memory of Gertrude Berndt

Loren Berndt

In Memory of Patrick Carey

Scarlet Bachmann

In Memory of Ellwin, Rucilla & Ann

Coulston

Jim & Marion Maier

In Memory of Connie Deaner

Jeanette & Dolores Fester

In Memory of Virginia Dunfee

Cynthia Williams Rittase

In Memory of Milton H Freshwater

Gerald Williamson

In Memory of Vera Fricke

Susan Fricke

In Memory of Clarence Eichler

Cindy Eichler

Steven & Rebecca Doak

Michael & Karen Kasischke

Richard & Virginia Kruck

Judy Machalleck

Michael & Karen Ott

Bernice Tretheway

In Memory of Jennifer Gerstenkorn

Teresa Gerstenkorn

In Memory of Donna Godush

Amber Godush

In Memory of Karen Jordan

Randy & Shelly Frank

In Memory of Bob & Dolly Krieger

Joseph & Evelyn Rambo

In Memory of Mary Mitchener

Cheryl Barry

In Memory of Narlo Schiesser

Stacy & John Berndt

Susan & Kurt Jeske

Karen Killian

Southwestern Michigan Car

Collectors

The Chemosabies

In Memory of Mildred Schinske

Lois Howard

In Memory of Dick Schuelke

Leona Schuelke

In Memory of Cindy Shonk

Sandra Kiel

Janice & Gordon Miller

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frank

Slosson

Gail Roush

In Memory of Betty Swanson

and her daughter,

Susan Swanson Lyman

Greg Lyman

In Memory of Martha Szymarek

Ruth Schmidt

In Memory of Adam Tilly

Rebecca Toth

In Memory of Edwin N Williams

Cynthia Williams Rittase

In Memory of Dorothy Zick

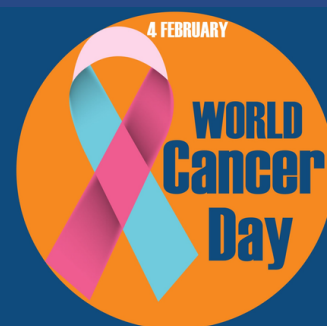
Janet Ellis

Berrien County Cancer Service sends our sincere sympathy to all those who have recently lost loved ones. We thank all of our generous donors. Your donations appreciated to help those with cancer in SW Michigan.

- Charities Aid Association of America
- Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid Society
- Trinity Lutheran Ladies League of Glendora

BCCS STARGIVERS

- Dana Wales Ameriprize Private Wealth Advisor
- Silver Beach Pizzeria



Berrien County Cancer Service
3900 Hollywood Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL


To help us save postage, you may call
269-429-3281 or email us at
staff@bccancerservice.org. If you are not
reading the newsletter, you may contact
us to be removed. *We value our readers
and hope you enjoy this newsletter.*

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BCCS is a non-profit organization funded primarily by donations, memorials, fundraisers, and United Way of Southwest Michigan. We receive no Medicare or insurance payments. To continue our services at no cost to those with cancer who need our help in the home, we need your help. Any donation is greatly appreciated. You may donate online at www.bccancerservice.org or mail your check to our address listed on the front cover. An acknowledgment and receipt for tax purposes will be sent.

Donations can be made in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one. In these instances, we would also like to send acknowledgment to the honoree or next-of-kin, so please provide that information when when making your donation.



"My nurse goes above
and beyond what
was expected"

Joyce
Holt