



# Berrien County Cancer Service

In memory of the committed  
service of Olove Colcord, RN

April 2024  
VOLUME XXXI  
ISSUE IV

# 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.

[staff@bccancerservice.org](mailto:staff@bccancerservice.org)

Follow us on social media today!

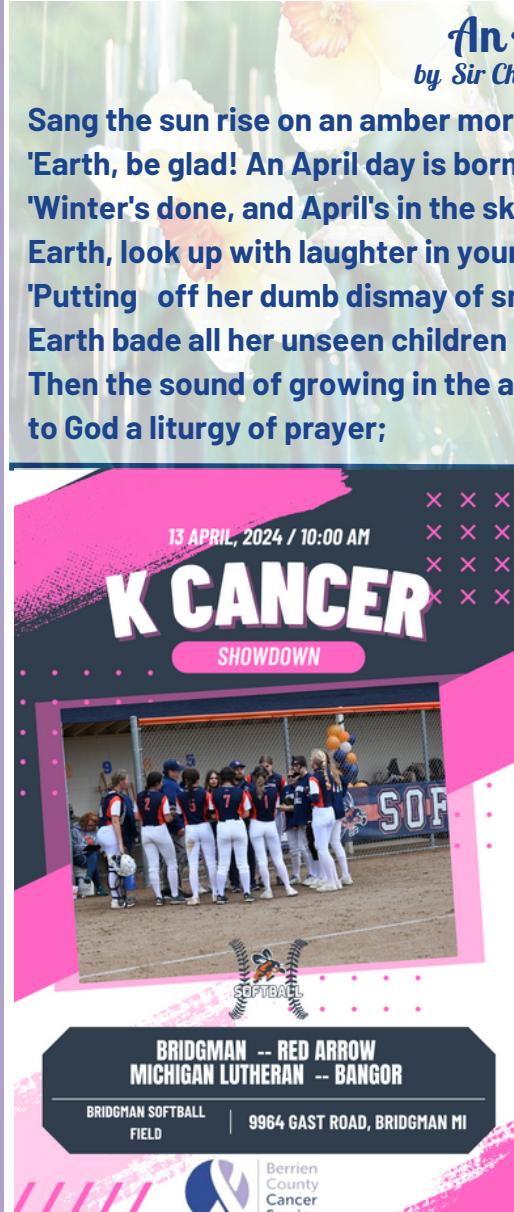


**35<sup>th</sup> Annual PENNIES FOR PATIENTS**  
5,000 PENNIES can provide mileage for a nurse to travel to the home, work or school of a cancer patient



[www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org)  
269-429-3281

April 13, 2024 - 10: 00 am  
**K CANCER SHOWDOWN**  
Bridgman Softball Field  
9964 Gast Road, Bridgman, MI



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US  
PIZZA HUT  
GIVE BACK NIGHT  
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

We are celebrating our volunteers at Pizza Hut's Give Back Night. Volunteers will enjoy complimentary salad, pizza and breadsticks at Pizza Hut in St.

Joseph on April 22, 2024 4:30-6:30 PM

Non-Volunteers are responsible for their own meal.

3900 Hollywood Road  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
269-429-3281  
[www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org)

## An April Adoration by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts

Sang the sun rise on an amber morn –  
'Earth, be glad! An April day is born.  
'Winter's done, and April's in the skies,  
Earth, look up with laughter in your eyes!  
'Putting off her dumb dismay of snow,  
Earth bade all her unseen children grow.  
Then the sound of growing in the air Rose  
to God a liturgy of prayer;

And the thronged succession of the days  
Uttered up to God a psalm of praise.  
Laughed the running sap in every vein,  
Laughed the running flurries of warm rain,  
Laughed the life in every wandering root,  
Laughed the tingling cells of bud and shoot.  
God in all the concord of their mirth  
Heard the adoration-song of Earth.

## Pennies for Patients Day in Bridgman 2024

It's time to start collecting change from your car, dresser, desk or laundry room to donate to BCCS for patient care. We are partnering with the Bridgman Softball Tournament, K Cancer.

You can bring us your pennies containers, change, dollars and plastic funds to help local cancer patients at this event on Saturday, April 13, 2024. All funds stay in Berrien County helping local patients with cancer care. We will have a table at the softball fields.

Watch for us at several other locations in May and throughout the remainder of the year. Contact our office at 269-429-3281 if you need a donation pickup.



Downtown Niles  
United Federal Credit Union  
Wednesday, May 8, 2024  
8:30am - 4:00 pm





# BCCS Bulletin Board

## APRIL SHOWERS Bring MAYFLOWERS

### BCCS STARGIVERS

- Apothica Teas
- Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services
- Drive & Shine Car Wash
- Jose Ontiveros, Edward Jones Financial Advisor
- Shane Shidler, Edward Jones Financial Advisor
- The Flower Cart
- Iron Shoe Distillery
- NPC Coatings
- Niles Brewing Company
- Niles Nutrition
- Prime Table Restaurant
- Salon 414
- Tans Down Under, Niles
- Underground Laugh Lounge
- Veni's Sweet Shop



25,000 pennies pays for  
1 hour of in-home skilled  
nursing

[www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org)

### Berrien County Cancer Service

#### TABOR HILL

Private Event Tent  
5:30 VIP Cocktail Reception by

6:00 Dinner is served

Raspberry Chicken or Zucchini Noodle Caprese

6:30 Nancy Church, RN, President & CEO

7:00-9:00 Live Music and Dancing

Starring Jimmy Fastiggi

Sponsored by



**BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**PENNIES FOR PATIENTS**

"Pennies for Patients cents brought me a sense of hope and comfort when I needed it the most" ~ Karol Kesterke

**Drop-Off Locations**

- Saturday, April 13, 10:00am
  - Bridgman - K Cancer Showdown at the Bridgman Softball Field (9964 Gast Road)
- Thursday, May 2, 3:30pm - 8:00pm
  - Sawyer - Local Pour (12857 Red Arrow Hwy, Sawyer, MI 49125)
- Wednesday, May 8, 9:00am - 4:00pm
  - Niles - United Federal Credit Union Downtown (123 Sycamore Street)
- Tuesday, May 14, 8:30am - 4:00pm
  - Coloma - Downtown Coloma Park
- Friday, May 17, 9:00am - 4:00pm
  - St. Joseph - St. Joseph Today Welcome Center (301 State Street)

Donate Virtually at [www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org)

Contact the BCCS office at 269-429-3281 if you would like a canister to collect change for Pennies for Patients or if you need us to pick up your donation.

**Berrien County Cancer Service**

Friday, August 9, 2024  
5:30-9:00PM

**TABOR HILL**

Private Event Tent  
donated by Moersch Hospitality Group  
333 Mount Tabor Road  
Buchanan, MI

Sponsored by

**FIGHT CANCER IN ALL COLORS**

**Gala**

### Early Bird Special!

Tickets on sale now get them **before March 31, 2024** for \$100 use coupon code **Spring!** After April 1, 2024 \$125 per person. This includes a salad, appetizer, meal and 1 drink per person. More details to the left and on Facebook event.

# In Memory

## In Memory of Judith Jones

Tom & Sherry Kohlmann  
Gena Schultz  
Connie Wright

## In Memory of Justin Smith

Peggy Schaffer

## In Memory of Coach Willie Wilson

Present Foundation

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.

## *From the Desk of Nancy Church, RN*

As we are approaching May, I have been reflecting on the changes that have occurred over the years with Pennies for Patients Day. Some of you may have fond memories of our spinning penny machine. It was quite a spectacle as the director's desk was topped with a large board where pennies were sorted to remove the "bad pennies" that would jam the machine and eyes diligently looked for those precious wheat pennies to place in a special jar. Below are photos of the spinning penny machine and my mother who was an enthusiastic penny sorting volunteer.



Another tradition starting at 6:00 a.m. was Pat Moody of 94.9 WSJM radio with his cheerful voice interviewing penny donors and staff regarding what Pennies for Patients Day meant to them. There was a feast all day long as people came and went with their jars of pennies and donations.



With our building on Red Arrow Highway getting old and access being a problem for people needing equipment, when the opportunity to move into the Marie Yeager Cancer Center building arose in 2018, we jumped at the opportunity. This was a big change for us with a much smaller office, but the opportunities for the patients were much larger. Sometimes I wondered if we could keep up with the equipment and nutritional requests, but through the years, local foundations such as the Frederick S. Upton and Berrien Community Foundations have generously provided grants to help meet the needs. One of the changes with the move (and then COVID-19) was trying to figure out where to hold Pennies Day, so last year, Tyanna our Director of Development, decided to take it into the communities and had Pennies for Patients Week. This was enthusiastically supported, so again we are coming to a community near you during the month of May, so you can get to know us.

Throughout all the changes, the one thing that has remained constant is the excellent care that we provide those who need our services. Whether it is someone in treatment having difficulty going to the clinic and needing labs drawn in the home, a patient losing weight during treatment needing extra nutrition, or a person having surgery needing a shower chair afterwards, we are here, ready to help and be the support that is needed.

Pennies for Patients started with the premise that anyone can give a penny. Tyanna tells me that with inflation, it needs to be a quarter and if everyone in Berrien County gave a quarter, it would raise \$38,000! So bring your pennies, your "change", your green paper pennies, your plastic and spend some time with us at one of the designated sites. Or just relax and go to [www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org) or use this QR code to give a gift. Either way, you can know that you are an instrument of change in someone's life who is facing the challenge of cancer or a similar health crisis.

April is:

Testicular cancer awareness  
Minority Cancer awareness month  
Esophageal Cancer awareness month  
National Cancer Control month  
16th to 22nd - National Oral, Head & Neck

## In Memory of Randy Reimers

Randy inspired us with faith, humor and kindness. He lived his life to the fullest. His loss is felt deeply..

Anonymous Donor

## In Loving Memory of Jerry &

Marilyn Conrad

Glenn and Dorothy Conrad

## In Memory of Mattox Williams

The impact Mattox had on the community is profound! He was a student, mentor, coach, friend and inspiration for his strength and determination to live his life!

Anonymous Donor

## *Now is a great time to give a gift to Pennies for Patients!*

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

*Thank you!*



Donate by QR code  
or online at:  
[www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org)

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](mailto: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](http://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 making your donation.

"You have been very helpful! Since I am not employed and over 90!"

William

