



**Berrien
County
Cancer
Service**

**In memory of the committed
service of Olove Colcord, R.N.**

**May 2021
VOLUME XXIX
ISSUE V**

**3900 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085
www.bccancerservice.org 269.429.3281
staff@bccancerservice.org**

Newsletter

THE MISSION OF THE BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE:

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

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**Follow us on social
media today!**



For flowers that bloom about our feet;

For tender grass, so fresh, and so sweet;

For song of bird, and hum of bee;

For all things fair, we hear or see,

Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

It is YOU our community that enables us to care for those with cancer and related illnesses in our community. We are grateful for all the support and are honored that you trust us to do our best to provide in-home skilled nursing care for our patients and those who need our assistance. **A special *thank you* to Van's Medical Equipment for picking up, cleaning and delivering our durable medical equipment as a courtesy to BCCS in support of our community!**

STAY SAFE!

The Berrien County Cancer Service is joining healthcare providers and organizations to work collaboratively with other local, state, and national partners while the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation is being closely monitored. **We are taking precautions to assist in the prevention of the spread of Coronavirus and to limited our staff and services in accordance with MDHHS guidelines. If you have loan closet donations or need medical equipment, supplies, or our skilled nursing services, please call us at 269-429-3281.**



BCCS Bulletin Board

SAVE THE DATE!!!

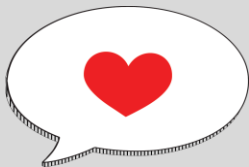
Virtual Art Play Workshop
May 20th from
4:30-6:00 p.m.

See the next page for more
information

Thought for the Day. . .

*“No matter how long the
winter,
Spring is sure to follow.”*

-Anonymous



Patient Remarks

“BCCS is always there
when you need them.
They are extremely
helpful. We don’t know
what we would do
without them.”



PENNIES FOR PATIENTS



Join us for PENNIES FOR PATIENTS DAY on Thursday, May 13!

2 COLLECTION SITES

7:30am – 6:00pm
Cedarwood Med Building
820 Lester Ave, St.

11:00am – 2:00pm
St. John’s United Church of Christ
601 Sycamore Street, Niles

These will be DRIVE-THROUGH SITES, so you will not have to get out of your car. Safety precautions will be in place including asking everyone to wear a mask as you drive up to hand your donation to the volunteer receiving it.

So, keep adding to those jars of coins and remember, we also accept paper money, checks, as well as online donations at www.bccancerservice.org for Pennies for Patients Day.

If you would like jars to set out or flyers to post, please call us!

Current STAR GIVERS

We’ve had an awesome business STAR GIVER recently:

- ***Priebe Creative Woodworking*** – Thank you for the generous gift!

SUPPORT GROUPS

Due to social distancing requirements and facility restrictions, support groups for St. Joseph and Niles are cancelled until further notice. However, that does not mean that there is not support for those with cancer. There are a large variety of online cancer support groups with some groups being general and covering all cancer diagnoses while others are specific to a particular diagnosis. A few websites to get started with are cancercaare.org, cancerhopenetwork.org, and cancersupportcommunity.org.

The BCCS Frederick S. Upton Foundation Challenge Grant starts again this month!

We were excited to be awarded a two-year \$10,000 grant (\$5,000 per year) in 2020 for our loan closet, patient nutrition needs, and assistance for nurses traveling to patient homes. Thanks to you, we matched our first \$5,000 challenge for 2020! Our second portion of the challenge to match has started! We need to match another \$5,000 for 2021!

May Cancer Awareness – Brain and Melanoma Skin Cancer Month



ART PLAY WORKSHOPS

Art Play Workshops are now held virtually through the Krasl Art Center, with limited classroom seats. Packets for the class can be picked up prior to joining a class via Zoom. If you are interested in joining a workshop, please call 269-429-3281 and ask for Nancy or email her at director@bccancerservice.org

These workshops are designed for families impacted by cancer and are designed for children and adults to learn side-by-side as they use clay, watercolor, and other media to express themselves through art. If you know of any children who have a family member or close friend with cancer, please call us.

You can also find more information at www.bccancerservice.org or facebook.com/bccancerservice.

Thursday, May 20th



Ceramic
Garden
Mushroom

From the Desk of Nancy Church, RN

The setting was the Little Black Dress Party in October 2019 and she was definitely in charge. While her mother's sweet, soft voice wafted through the air, Cha'Tavea was energized and not afraid of the microphone or being at the center of the stage. Everyone was smitten by this 10-year-old girl who radiated such confidence and poise! By just looking at the scene, no one would have suspected the incredible journey this girl and her mother have taken since Cha'Tavea was only 9 months old. That was when a secret hidden in her brain was discovered....cancer!

Six year prior to this, we received a phone call from another agency asking if we could flush the port of a 4-year-old girl. They were needing to discharge her and wanted to make sure that she continued to receive good care. While this was an unusual request to have someone so young, we knew we had to meet her and see what we could do. Much to our nurse Connie's surprise, here was a bouncy, vivacious Cha'Tavea who quickly bonded to her. She was curious about everything and wanted to actively participate in her port flush. In fact, she would tell the nurses at her oncology clinic, she wanted nurse Connie to take care of her.

It is a joy for us to see Cha'Tavea growing into a beautiful, vibrant young lady who no longer needs port flushes and trips to the oncology clinic. We know you will go far with your energy and ability to connect with those around you.



Cha'Tavea and
Nurse Connie at the
Little Black Dress
Party

Look at those
SMILES!

With May also being Melanoma and Skin Cancer awareness month, be sure to avoid sunburns and limit your sun exposure, especially during the hottest times of the day! Don't forget, you can get a sunburn while sitting in the shade.

In Loving Memory

Memorial and honorary donations were generously made by and for the following:

In Memory of Sally Ann Mettler

Mark Mettler

Julie Nitz

Berrien County Trial Court Finance Office

In Memory of Nancy Conybeare

Sherry Conybeare


In Memory of Jimmie Little

Jeanette Fester

In Memory of Robert J. Rhoa

Kenneth Kelly

Phyllis Wilk



*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 are very much appreciated and will help cancer patients in Berrien County.
Thank you.*

Looking Ahead....

Looking Ahead

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – St. Joseph
Marie Yeager Cancer Center
3900 Hollywood Road

Will not be meeting in May

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles
Greater Niles Senior Center
1109 Bell Road

Will not be meeting in May

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP
Lakeland Regional Medical Center

Will not be meeting in May

CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
Art Play Workshop
Thursday, May 20, 2021

Visit www.bccancerservice.org or call
BCCS at 269-429-3281 for details

DATES TO REMEMBER IN May

May 1 – May Day
May 2 – Brothers and Sisters Day
May 5 – Cinco de Mayo
May 7 – International Tuba Day
May 9 – Mother's Day
May 12- Limerick Day
May 15 – Armed Forces Day
May 16 – Love a Tree Day
May 20 – Be a Millionaire day
May 23 – Lucky Penny Day
May 27 – Sun Screen Day
May 29 – International Jazz day
May 31 – Memorial Day

Newsletters available online

Our newsletters are available on our
website: www.bccancerservice.org. If you
would like to be removed from this mailing
list, please send us an e-mail:
staff@bccancerservice.org.

Please Consider...

Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc., is a non-profit organization funded primarily by United Way, private donations and fundraisers. We receive no Medicare, Medicaid or other insurance payments. To continue our free services to Berrien County cancer patients, we need your help. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

Donations to our General Fund will help balance our current budget. Donations to our Endowment Fund will help guarantee that the Cancer Service will be available for as long as needed. Your contribution to our non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation is tax deductible – 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.

___ General Fund ___ Endowment Fund

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

OR

In Memory of _____

Please send notification of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

**Thank you for your
generosity!**

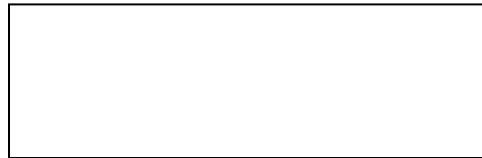
Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.
3900 Hollywood Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**JOIN THE NEWSLETTER VIA
EMAIL**

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 it.

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*Dr. Edmund Paloyan

*Dr. Sapna Patel

Jolita Allene Smith

*Indicates Honorary Members

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - St. Joseph ON HOLD

2nd Tuesday of each month 2:30 p.m.

Marie Yeager Cancer Center Second Floor

3900 Hollywood Road

St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 429-3281

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP ON HOLD

2nd Thursday of each month – 6:00 p.m.

Spectrum Health Lakeland Regional Medical Center

Community Room

1234 Napier Ave.

St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 983-8804

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Niles ON HOLD

3rd Tuesday of each month – 1:30 p.m.

Greater Niles Senior Center

1109 Bell Road

Niles, MI 49120

Phone: (269) 429-3281

NURSING STAFF

Nancy Church, R.N., President/CEO

Connie Demler, R.N.

Debra Hansen, R.N.

Sheryl Stone, R.N. PRN Status

OFFICE STAFF

Kimberly McCoy, Patient Care Coordinator

Lorna Pullen, Administration Assistant

Henrietta Hein, Office Assistant

Sarah Bennett-Stathakis, Office Assistant