



# 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](http://www.bccancerservice.org)  
[staff@bccancerservice.org](mailto:staff@bccancerservice.org)

Follow us on social  
media today!



## September

*by Helen Hunt Jackson*

The golden rod is yellow;  
The corn is turning brown;  
The trees in apple orchards  
With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes  
Are curling in the sun;  
In dusty pods the milkweed  
Its hidden silk has spun.

The sedges flaunt their harvest,  
In every meadow nook;  
And asters by the brook-side  
Make asters in the brook.

From dewy lanes at morning  
The grapes' sweet odors rise;  
At noon the roads all flutter  
With yellow butterflies.

By all these lovely tokens  
September days are here,  
With summer's best of weather,  
And autumn's best of cheer.

But none of all this beauty  
Which floods the earth and air  
Is unto me the secret  
Which makes September fair.

'Tis a thing which I remember;  
To name it thrills me yet:  
One day of one September  
I never can forget.

*H. H. Jackson (1830 - 1885) was  
an American poet, writer and  
activist on behalf of improved  
treatment of Native Americans.*

## Ladies Tea

Benton Harbor Public Library

Saturday, September 30, 2023  
11:30am - 1:00pm

Wear your prettiest hat or decorate one  
for our hat contest, games, prizes and more  
*Women's cancers are increasing at  
an alarming rate .... let's get ahead  
of the curve and take this opportunity to educate  
ourselves and take control of our health.*

Shelley Wilkinson, RN,  
MYCC Nurse Navigator

Nancy Church, RN, President and  
CEO of the Berrien County Cancer Service



Berrien County  
Cancer Service

269-429-3281 for more information

Decorate a hat for the contest and join us for a  
ladies chat to discuss the importance of taking  
care of ourselves and our bodies during gynecological  
cancer awareness month. We will  
discuss the challenges women face in the midst  
of busy careers, parenting and maintaining a  
house and lifestyle serving as the rock for the  
entire family.

- Journaling your health issues and feelings
- Importance of gynecological screening
- Teas and snacks
- A scavenger hunt, games, and contests

## Pink Toilet Time Out's at the Pink Party

Be sure to nominate someone for their 10 minutes of Pink Toilet glory. They can use  
this time to garner donations to get them off the pink throne, read the toilet humor joke  
book, write inspirational messages on cards for cancer patients or add to the clean toilet  
joke club. We are asking for a \$10 nomination fee, but that can be added to the toilet bond  
to be paid to bond off the pink toilet. This will be part of the Gift Match with Wolf Financial.



Childhood cancer is devastating to the child with cancer and their  
family; we have seen far too many children with cancer over the years,  
but there appears to be a bit of an uptick in the past few years.  
Cancer is the #1 leading cause by disease deaths for children. One in  
285 kids will be diagnosed with cancer before they turn 20 years old.



# BCCS Bulletin Board

**\$100,000**

—\$95,000  
—\$90,000  
—\$80,000  
—\$70,000  
—\$60,000  
—\$50,000  
—\$40,000  
—\$30,000  
—\$20,000  
—\$10,000  
—\$5,000



**TOGETHER  
WE CAN!**

JOIN US IN REACHING OUR  
GOAL OF \$100,000!



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

## 2023 Art Play Workshops

### KRASL ART CENTER

707 Lake Blvd  
St. Joseph, MI  
4:30-6:00 pm

*Join us for a fun time creating art!*

#### THURSDAYS

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

MARCH 16, 2023

APRIL 20, 2023

MAY 18, 2023

JUNE 15, 2023

**JULY 20th - Join us at the Howard  
Performing Arts Center for our 75th  
Reception**

AUGUST 17, 2023

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

OCTOBER 19, 2023

### ART PLAY FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

The Art Play Workshops are for any child who is impacted by cancer including a family member, grandparent, close friend, or stable pediatric patient. To register, call Berrien County Cancer Service at 269-429-3281, go to our website: [bccancerservice.org](http://bccancerservice.org), or email [director@bccancerservice.org](mailto:director@bccancerservice.org)

A program of the Berrien County Cancer Service



## BCCS STARGIVERS

- Robert Wolf and Wolf Financial Advisory
- All those who gave to the Wolf Matching Gift Fund
- First Presbyterian Church, Niles
- Dr. Loren and Dr. Ann Hamel
- Chapel Hill United Methodist Church

## Grow Your Gift



## with a Matching Fund!

**Wolf Financial Advisory is proud to support  
the Berrien County Cancer Service by offering  
to match your gift up to \$10,000!**

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For more information call BCCS at 269-429-3281



**Wolf Financial Advisory**

**Robert Wolf**  
(269) 982-1988

728 Pleasant Street  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

- The funds will provide in-home nursing care and support services at no cost for those with cancer in our community.
- You have the power to make a life-changing impact.

QR code  
giving



## LOOKING AHEAD: Ways to Support BCCS in October

BCCS Pink Party at Lazy Ballerina

- \$10 entry fee

Renaissance Athletic Club

- A portion of Joiners Fee to Benefit BCCS during October

Watermark Brewing Company

- Feel Good Tap Proceeds to BCCS

Moersch Hospitality Group/ Round Barn

- A portion of any Rosé wine purchase to BCCS

Pink Potty Timeouts

- Nominate someone to sit on the Pink Toilet to raise funds for BCCS



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 AT 6:00PM



Sponsored by



- PINK CANDLE MAKING
- PINK TOILET TIME-OUTS
- SCAVENGER HUNT
- RAFFLE PRIZES AND 50/50 DRAW
- BEST PINK OUTFIT CONTEST
- WINE AND CIDER TASTINGS
- LIVE MUSIC FEATURING JIMMY FASTIGGI

Watch for more details on how you can nominate people for the Pink Toilet Timeouts and other ways to help BCCS meet it's challenge grant by November of 2023



# In Memory

## In Memory of Ivelise Boynton

Barbara Lane  
Siham Sayegh

## In Memory of Clifford A Gerlach

Susan Borrelli

## In Memory of Mark Gitersonke

Jeff and Roseann Shirley

## In Memory of Eugene "Geno" Metz

Jack and Karol Banyon

Dolores Fester

Jeanette Fester

Jean Gitersonke

Eileen Graves

## In Memory of Rhonda Dent

Norma Kirchner

Tina Kirby

Steve Engler

Sue and Marian

## In Memory of Ralph Hines

JoAnn Hoover

## In Memory of Nicholas J Moloci

Charles and Jacqueline Ward

Franklin and Wanda Jackson  
Pro Transmission Service Center, Inc.

Michael Van Arkel

Thomas and Merry Yops

*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

Have you ever wondered the impact that our nurses have on the patients that we visit? What exactly does a BCCS nurse do? We became acquainted with a wonderful young man 5 years ago and he would like to share his story with you in hopes that you will have a better understanding of what it means to have one of our nurses come to your home.

Greg has had many health challenges in his 37 years of life. Our nurse, Connie, became acquainted with Greg a few months after his bone marrow transplant (BMT) for acute leukemia. He had a fever, was coughing frequently, and feeling very weak. With Greg having cerebral palsy and the physician managing his care post BMT being in Grand Rapids, having Connie evaluate him in the home was much appreciated. Greg ended up being hospitalized locally with Connie following up in the home. One major concern of Greg's was his having a highly specialized central line that needed maintained and used for drawing labs. Connie was able to be trained to manage this line, making trips to Grand Rapids less frequent. Greg has many health issues including graft versus host syndrome, is prone to infections, and his wounds heal slowly, resulting in frequent medical care. Connie is there to keep a close eye on his many needs and



provide support for Greg and his mother, who is his caregiver. She has also been able to provide items from the our Resource Locker such as dressings, bed pads, and essential nutritional supplements such as Boost®. Greg and his mother are very grateful to BCCS and Connie for their in-home skilled nursing care and supportive resources. They had this to say, "The Berrien County Cancer Service and Connie have been there for us for every- thing we've been through. They have been both a comfort and a great amount of help."

**"Without BCCS we would have had a lot more difficulties and more of a struggle for Greg to get the care that he needs." Dorothy (mother)**

**As of August 22nd, we have \$6,100 toward our \$10,000 match! Let's hit it out of the ballpark this month!**



Leukemia



Lymphoma



Hodgkins



Prostate



Thyroid



Endometrial



Ovarian



Gynecological





**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.*

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**STEVENSVILLE, MI**  
**PERMIT NO. 129**

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.

My nurse is very friendly and cares about my health. I am so thankful that she comes here and I don't need to make an appointment for blood draws.

From Ann