



# 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!

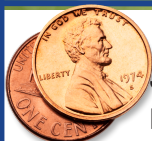


## In Perpetual Spring

By Amy Gerstler

Gardens are also good places  
to sulk. You pass beds of  
spiky voodoo lilies  
and trip over the roots  
of a sweet gum tree,  
in search of medieval  
plants whose leaves,  
when they drop off  
turn into birds  
if they fall on land,  
and colored carp if they  
plop into water.

Suddenly the archetypal  
human desire for peace  
with every other species  
wells up in you. The lion  
and the lamb cuddling up.  
The snake and the snail, kissing.  
Even the prick of the thistle,  
queen of the weeds, revives  
your secret belief  
in perpetual spring,  
your faith that for every hurt  
there is a leaf to cure it.



## A New Look at Pennies for Patients Day "WEEK"!

Just as we visit patients throughout Berrien County, we are coming to a  
location near you! Another exciting change is United Federal Credit Union will  
take your "change" and donations during the month of May. Please run coins  
through the coin machine and let the teller know that it is a donation for BCCS.

Drop-Off  
Locations

## The Week of May 8-12, 2023

Monday, May 8, noon - 4pm, **Bridgman**, Corner of Church & Lake St  
Tuesday, May 9, 7:30am - 4:30pm, **Coloma**, park next to library  
Wednesday, May 10, 9:30am - 3:30pm, **Niles**, St. John's United Church of Christ  
Thursday, May 11, 7:30am - 5pm, **St. Joseph**, Saron Lutheran Church lawn  
Friday, May 12, 10am - 3pm, Senior Expo, LMC, **Benton Harbor**

Sponsored by



Throughout the month of May drop off at  
any UFCU branch in Berrien County!

## April is Cancer Control Month

Cancer Control Month focuses on the importance of improving cancer treatments and  
increasing the survival rate of cancer. Currently, between 30-50% of all cancer cases are  
preventable with early detection. Screenings are a key to controlling cancer for all.

# BCCS Bulletin Board

## April is Esophageal Cancer Awareness

According to the National Cancer Institute, risk factors for developing esophageal cancer include:

- Smoking
- Drinking alcohol
- Having acid reflux or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)

Men are also approximately three times more likely to develop esophageal cancer than women



## BCCS STARGIVERS - BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIONS

Milano's Cancer Fund  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
Jim & Cindy Welch Family Foundation, a Donor Advised Fund of U.S. Charitable Gift Trust

## Minority Cancer Awareness Month

- Asian population has higher rates of gastric cancers, colon cancer, breast & lung cancer.
- Black/African American people are more likely to be diagnosed and die from colon cancer.
- Black/African American women are more likely to die from breast cancer, although they are diagnosed at a similar rate.
- Hispanic people have high rates of gastric cancer.
- Hispanic & Black/African American women have the highest rate of cervical cancer.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives have the highest liver and intrahepatic bile duct cancer rates, followed by Hispanics/Latinos and Asians/Pacific Islanders.
- Information from: [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

## April is Testicular Cancer Awareness Month

A TESTICULAR SELF-EXAM CAN DETECT EARLY SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Most common form of cancer in men ages 15-44
- Every hour a male is diagnosed with testicular
- If detected early, testicular cancer is over 95% curable

## Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness

April 16-22, 2023

### Risk factors

- Alcohol and tobacco use
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Preserved or salted foods
- Oral health
- Occupational exposure
- Radiation exposure
- Epstein-Barr virus infection
- Ancestry



Berrien County  
Cancer  
Service

## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Wednesday, April 13, 2023 at 11:30am  
at the Marie Yeager Cancer Center

Calling all BCCS Volunteers, past and present, please plan to join us at the Marie Yeager Cancer Center to celebrate YOU! We could not do what we do without your support and help.

3900 Hollywood Rd  
2nd Floor  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

269-429-3281  
[tyanna@bccancerservice.org](mailto:tyanna@bccancerservice.org)

## 2023

Fundraising Goal  
We need your help!

**\$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





# In Memory

In Memory of Kris Teply  
Sharon Baker

In Memory of Dolly Voss  
Cherie Okonski

In Memory of Landon Womack  
Gloria Parker

*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 Southwest Michigan.*

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

April is one of my favorite months....despite the showers and occasional snowflakes that may still hang on. I love the soft greens on the tips of the branches, the songbirds returning on their migration north, the fresh smell of the air, and the daffodils that bring cheer to the dark ground. It is a month to celebrate those joys in life that come after the cold winter months.

April is also a month to celebrate the specialness of our Volunteers who give their time, energy, and dedication to the Berrien County Cancer Service. When I became the Executive Director, I quickly became acquainted with an important group of committed individuals who make up the Board of Directors. They work behind the scenes to ensure our longevity as a nonprofit and as ambassadors in the community to increase awareness of our services.

Our Loan Closet desperately needed a complete overhaul and thanks to the ingenuity of the building maintenance crew, we were able to get commercial grade shelving to replace the rather flimsy shelving units. It has been amazing to watch the progress as our volunteer, Deb Standen, who works tirelessly to process the donations all year long, and volunteer Linda Brady and Kala (Staff) have transformed it into the Resource Locker!

Receiving the mailed newsletter is a labor of love by our newsletter volunteers, many of whom have showed up the first Tuesday of the month so that you can receive this information about BCCS.

None of our events could happen without volunteers. From the planning, execution, all the way to the clean-up, volunteers are engine that make the events happen. I wish I could list everyone who has helped us this past year, but this editorial space is not enough. The amazing thing about volunteers is that they do it from the heart, not to be set on a pedestal. Thank you from our hearts at BCCS.

If you would like to join our group of purposeful people and meet new friends, become a BCCS Volunteer! We will be needing extra help with Pennies for Patients as we have expanded our outreach. With this outreach to more communities, more people will be able to learn about our services and more patients helped.

This year marks our 75th anniversary! For this momentous occasion, we are planning a reception in July to invite all the community to celebrate this amazing legacy. It is YOU who have enabled us to support those going through cancer treatment since 1948. Join us for an evening of music, refreshments, stories, and fellowship. If you want to receive an even greater amount of purpose and joy, contact us to be a volunteer for this event....there will be many opportunities to use your talents!

## **75th Anniversary Celebration**

**Howard Performing Arts Center - July 20th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Campus of Andrews University, Berrien Springs**



**P.S. FOR OUR 75TH YEAR, PLEASE HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$100,000!**

**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**  
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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.

"I am so glad I do not  
have to go to the  
hospital lab, this  
makes things so much  
easier."

Michelle