



**Berrien
County
Cancer
Service**

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

**August 2020
VOLUME XXVII
ISSUE VIII**

**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.

The **BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP** is a group of patients, family members and caregivers. Come share successes, feelings, fears and practical methods of coping with the physical and emotional aspects of living with the diagnosis of cancer.

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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 may have limited services through the month of July. Please contact us at (269) 429-3281 if you need medical equipment, supplies, or skilled nursing services.

August

August is a lovely month.
Long hot summer days.
Near the end they're getting short.
Autumn's on its way.

*From the Calendar Poem
Michelle Woodswaldron*

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!**



BCCS Bulletin Board

SAVE THE DATES!!!

**TEAM LUCKY CHARMS'
10th ANNUAL PUB RUN
IS ON HOLD – MORE
INFORMATION ON THE
BULLETIN BOARD!**

Thought for the Day...

*You are never too old to
set another goal or dream
a new dream.*

– C.S. Lewis



Patient Remarks

“Staff is always exceptionally helpful.”

ART PLAY WORKSHOP FOR AUGUST!

On August 20th there will be a virtual Art Play Workshop in conjunction with the Krasl Art Center. In order to participate and obtain details regarding picking up an art bundle, you will need to call our office at 269-429-3281 and ask for Nancy.

TEAM “LUCKY CHARMS” PUB RUN

The decision has been made to place the 10th Annual Pub Run on hold until 2021. With the increase in COVID-19 cases in Berrien County and around the U.S. in the recent weeks, planning a date for this year is not feasible. Team “Lucky Charms” continues to promote supporting BCCS and the services we provide. We are grateful for their many years of dedication to BCCS and our patients.



SUPPORT GROUPS

Due to social distancing requirements and facility restrictions, support groups for St. Joseph and Niles are cancelled for the month of August. 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 cover all cancer diagnoses while other are specific for a particular diagnosis. A few websites to get started with are cancercare.org, cancerhopenetwork.org, and cancersupportcommunity.org.

DID YOU KNOW...

BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE is a grateful recipient of a Frederick S. Upton Foundation Challenge Grant! We are excited to be awarded a two-year \$10,000 grant (\$5,000 per year) for our loan closet, patient nutrition needs, and assistance for nurses traveling to patient homes. Since it is a CHALLENGE GRANT, our part is to let you know that when you give a donation, it will now be doubled up to a total of 5,000! Join us in our attempt to match \$5,000 to support cancer patients and their families in **Southwest Michigan!**

August is Community Health Worker Appreciation Month



ART PLAY WORKSHOPS

Art Play Workshops have re-started at the Krasl Art Center in a virtual way with picking up art packets and joining a class on Zoom! If you are interested in joining a workshop, please call 269-429-3281 and ask for Nancy.

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 out more information on our website www.bccancerservice.org or on our FB page: Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.

From the Desk of Nancy Church, RN

When I started at the Berrien County Cancer Service, I had several years of nursing experience which included some patients with cancer but I had not worked with those with cancer as a group and I had never made a home visit as a nurse. I fell in love with the job my first day as I drove around with the director and was able to meet the most amazing people. Meeting people in their homes was so different from the hospital environment that I was used to. The relationships formed felt more like family than patients. This month has been declared “Community Health Worker Appreciation Month” by Governor Whitmer. In celebration of that appreciation, I have a special story about a special young man who has recently shown BCCS how grateful he is for the care he received from us.

Kevin Jones – An Enthusiastic Supporter and Survivor!

In 2014, a concerned Dad stopped by the BCCS office to find out what services we provided. His 15-year-old son, Kevin, had recently been diagnosed with brain cancer and would be coming back from the University of Chicago in about a week. Soon our nurse, Connie, became acquainted with Kevin and was there to answer questions, give guidance, and assess his progress. Connie was able to help Kevin by drawing his lab work at home as well as at school, so he was able to keep up with his schoolwork more easily. About 6 months later, Kevin completed his treatment and has been cancer free ever since.

For many people, the story might end there, but Kevin is an unusual young man. Every year since then, Kevin has found ways to give back to those who assisted him along the journey. This year, Kevin collected an amazing 2,200 pop cans and \$1,000 in donations! He divided the funds between the 3 outstanding programs/nonprofits that supported him when he needed it most: Berrien County Cancer Service, Ronald McDonald House at Comer’s Children Hospital, and the University of Chicago Comer’s Child Life Program, who received 201 toys for children. A photo of Kevin donating to BCCS can be found on our Facebook page.

Last year he created a survivor video and documentary of his story to promote brain cancer awareness and to give hope to those who are also going through cancer treatment. Through radio and social media, he encouraged the community to donate to support those who had helped him along the way. This documentary called “A Change of Mind” and a short video, “Project Survivor” can be found on Kevin’s Facebook site: KJones Production LLC in the video section as well as on our Facebook page. Kevin has this to say, “Thank you to all of the Berrien County residents for making My Dream come true to help give back to the great people of Berrien County Cancer Service”.

Thank you, Kevin for sharing your story and for making a difference!

In Loving Memory

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

In Memory of Denise Kantauskas

Kurt and Debra Weber
Family of James and Nancy Hall
Michele Zandarski
Renee Burrington
Joan Siemans

In Memory of Pam Kirshenbaum

Barbara Lane
Cheryl Pold

In Memory of Marsan Schaer

Byrl and Carolyn Moore
Pam Burger

In Memory of Michael Richards

Joyce Richards

In Memory of Matt Kickles

Karen Harner
Michele Donley



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 August

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

Will not be meeting in August

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP
Lakeland Regional Medical Center

Will not be meeting in August

**CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
Art Play Workshop**

**Buchanan Art Center – Not meeting in
August**

**Krasl Art Center – Virtual Project
August 20th**

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

DATES TO REMEMBER IN AUGUST

August 1st – National Postal Workers Day
August 4th – National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
August 6th – National Root Beer Float Day
August 9th – National Book Lovers Day
August 14th – National Financial Awareness Day
August 18th – National Fajita Day
August 20th – National Radio Day
August 25th – National Kiss and Make Up Day
August 26th – National Dog Day
August 30th – National Grief Awareness 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 call our office at 269-429-3281
or 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 fund-raisers. 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 Rd
St. Joseph, MI 49085

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**JOIN THE NEWSLETTER VIA
EMAIL**

Help us save postage, 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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BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE, INC. – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Indicates Honorary Members

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Sheryl Stone, R.N. PRN Status

OFFICE STAFF

Kimberly McCoy, Patient Care Coordinator
Suzanne Arent, Administration Assistant
Henrietta Hein, Office Assistant
Sarah Bennett-Stathakis, Office Assistant

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

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