



**Berrien  
County  
Cancer  
Service**

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

**August 2021  
VOLUME XXXI  
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.

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**Follow us on social  
media today!**



## Seashells

I picked up shells with ruby lips  
That spoke in whispers of the sea,  
Upon a time, and watched the ships,  
On white wings, sail away to sea.

The ships I saw go out that day  
Live misty—dim in memory;  
But still I hear, from far away,  
The blue waves breaking ceaselessly.

*By Alexander Posey*



## 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 DATE!!!**

**Art Play Workshop  
August 19<sup>th</sup>**

### *Thought for the Day. . .*

*“Live in the sunshine.  
Swim in the sea.  
Drink in the wild air.”*

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*



### **Patient Remarks**

“Connie is very helpful and has good suggestions. She knows what to check for when something doesn’t feel right.”

### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

Due to social distancing requirements and facility restrictions, in-person support groups for St. Joseph and Niles are cancelled until further notice. However, there are a large variety of online cancer support groups. A few websites are [cancerhopenetwork.org](http://cancerhopenetwork.org), [cancercare.org](http://cancercare.org), and [cancersupportcommunity.org](http://cancersupportcommunity.org).

### ***Pennies for Patients***

Some pennies have continued to roll in! Thank you for remembering those we care for and serve with your continued donations. These are names that were not on the July list.

#### ***Special Thanks to:***

Spero Gousetis  
Mike Jennings  
Catherine Ravitch  
Thomas and Karen Tarpley

### **Current STAR GIVERS**

**We’ve had some awesome business STAR GIVERS recently:**

- ***Watermark Brewing Company and Connected Soles*** – Thank you for hosting a 5K Charity Run. Not only have they helped BCCS, but also 11 other nonprofit organizations. Future dates include: 8/18 for Children’s Advocacy Center of SWM, 9/1 Humane Society, 9/15 Special Olympics, 9/29 CASA of SWM, 10/13 Caring Cupboard Food Pantry.

### **BCCS EVENTS!!!**

Be sure to check the September newsletter as well as our Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages for upcoming events. We are starting to make plans for some of the events that were on hold last year. While we do not have details at this time, please visit our website and social media pages for listings as they arise. Website:

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**

We are taking precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please call if you have loan closet donations so that we can phone screen items prior to bringing them. Please contact us at (269) 429-3281 if you need medical equipment, supplies, or our skilled nursing services.

### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

Due to social distancing requirements and facility restrictions, support groups for St. Joseph and Niles are cancelled until further notice. 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 [cancercare.org](http://cancercare.org), [cancerhopenetwork.org](http://cancerhopenetwork.org), and [cancersupportcommunity.org](http://cancersupportcommunity.org).

# August Awareness – Community Health Workers Sarcoma and Bladder (July)



## **ART PLAY WORKSHOPS**

**Art Play Workshops are held monthly through the Krasl Art Center, with limited classroom seats. We are in a transition with having both in-person and Zoom options at this time. If you are interested in joining a workshop, please call 269-429-3281 and ask for Nancy or email her at [director@bccancerservice.org](mailto: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](http://www.bccancerservice.org) or [facebook.com/bccancerservice](https://facebook.com/bccancerservice).



Thursday,  
August 19<sup>th</sup>  
At 4:30 p.m.  
Tie Dye Project

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

Last month the newsletter was filled with many of your names – all those who had given to Pennies for Patients Day. In preparing for Pennies for Patients Day, I had a chance to go through photographs that we had taken through the years and see many of your faces even if I didn't personally have a chance to greet you this year. Just know that I was smiling and remembering good times together.

Last year on July 31st, Governor Whitmer declared the month of July to be Community Health Workers Month. These frontline workers are vital to reaching underserved areas to help promote and protect the health and well-being of their communities. They serve in all regions of the state to help prevent and manage chronic conditions, develop healthy lifestyles, improve maternal and child health, and improve rates of preventative screenings. They effectively deliver health and social services to underserved communities across Michigan through outreach, enrollment and patient education. This past year they have been especially essential with helping people connect with community resources during the pandemic. We applaud these very valuable workers!

I would like to spend a few minutes on a type of cancer that is rather rare in adults (1% of all cancers) but more common in children (20% of childhood cancers) – Sarcoma. Sarcomas develop in bones and soft tissues such as fat, muscles, blood vessels, nerves, and other tissues. There are more than 100 different types of sarcomas and can start growing in nearly any part of the body with the arm or leg being the most common. Each year, over 13,000 cases of soft tissue and 3,000 cases of bone sarcomas are diagnosed in the U.S. Soft tissue sarcomas often occur in adults while bone sarcomas are more common among children. Early signs of soft tissue sarcoma can include a painless lump or swelling. Some sarcomas may not show any symptoms until they grow and press on neighboring nerves, organs, or muscles. While many lumps and bumps are benign, it is important to have them evaluated by a physician while small in case it is sarcoma. Common symptoms of bone sarcomas include pain and/or swelling in an arm or leg, the trunk, pelvis, or back, limited range of motion in a joint, a fever of unknown origin, and a bone that breaks from no apparent cause. Because many children and teens have bone pain during times of growth, a sarcoma might be mistaken for a “growing pains” or a sports injury. If the pain doesn't get better or is only in one extremity talk to your doctor.

When I was growing up, I remember hearing about Ted Kennedy Jr. having osteosarcoma diagnosed in his leg resulting in a surgical amputation of his right leg. He was 12 years old at the time. This was a life changing experience that guided his career so that he became a specialist in disability issues as a lawyer and eventually became the Chairperson of the board of directors of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). In accepting this position, Kennedy said, “I want to continue to fight for a society in which people with disabilities are valued equally and participate fully. As the national umbrella group that unites all disability organizations, AAPD is uniquely positioned to organize and coordinate a renewed nationwide effort to educate, encourage, and train new leaders and engage our corporate partners who share our goals.”

This cancer challenge of Ted Kennedy Jr. has made a difference in the lives of many people who have had cancer as well as disabilities.

# In Loving Memory

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

**In Memory of Rex Harding**

Ruth Schmidt  
Thomas Thorn

**In Memory of Marcia Williams**

Robert Cheek

**In Memory of Judith Fogarty**

Nancy Bowen

**In Memory of David Walter**

Cheryl Amparano  
John Burge  
David Ingeson

**In Memory of Ann Herrygers**

Bill & Kim Daly  
Tim Evans  
Mary Sue Mahan



*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**

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Visit [www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org) or call  
BCCS at 269-429-3281 for details

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### DATES TO REMEMBER IN AUGUST

- August 1 – Friendship Day
- August 3 – National Watermelon Day
- August 4 – U.S. Coast Guard Day
- August 7 – Campfire Day
- August 10 – National S'mores Day
- August 13- Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>
- August 16 – National Tell a Joke Day
- August 20 – National Radio Day
- August 26 – National Dog Day
- August 31 – National Eat Outside Day

### **Newsletters available online**

Our newsletters are available on our website: [www.bccancerservice.org](http://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](mailto: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](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 it.

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**BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE, INC. – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**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**

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