



**Berrien  
County  
Cancer  
Service**

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

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

**December 2019**

**VOLUME XXVI  
ISSUE XIII**

# 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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*Merry Christmas from the  
Berrien County Cancer Service Staff!*

*Suzanne Arent      Connie Demler  
Debra Hansen      Henrietta Hein  
Kimberly McCoy      Sarah Rodgers  
Nancy Church*



**Here Comes Santa Claus!**

Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus  
right down Santa Claus Lane.  
Vixen and Blitzen and all his reindeer pullin' on the reins.  
Bells are ring' children singin', all is merry and bright.  
So hang your stockings and say your prayers  
Cause Santa Claus comes tonight!!

Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus  
right down Santa Claus lane.  
He's got a bag that's filled with toys for boys and girls again!  
Hear those sleigh bells jingle jangle, oh what a beautiful sight!  
So jump in bed and cover your head  
Cause Santa Claus comes tonight!!

*Lyrics by Gene Autry*



# BCCS Bulletin Board

## SAVE THE DATES!!!

### **PENNIES FOR PATIENTS**

*Coming in May of 2020!  
Date to be determined!*

## **BCCS will be closed for the following Holidays!**

*Christmas Eve – Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at  
NOON*

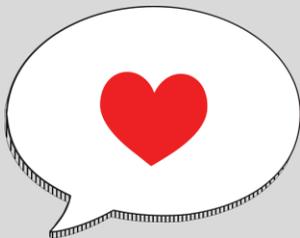
*Christmas Day - December 25<sup>th</sup>  
New Year's Day - January 1<sup>st</sup>*

## Recent Star Givers

### Include:

Berrien Dental, PLC  
Berrien Springs, MI

Michigan Contractor's  
Association of Southwest  
Michigan  
Kalamazoo, MI



## Patient Remarks

"We are so lucky to have Berrien County Cancer Service available. Caring and compassionate people to help us. Thank you!"

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

- **That we love sharing from our loan closet** and want to be able to have the items that are needed. Here are the current needs that we have for the loan closet:
- Shower Chairs with backs
- Small Depends-type products
- Baby Shampoo for wigs (especially trial size)

***Christmas giving is always a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit. We always have families who could use a little extra help at Christmas. If you would like to help by giving a contribution or sponsoring a family, please give us a call at the office: 269-429-3281.***

**"THANK YOU"** to the Wolverine Pathfinder Club of the Village Adventist Church in Berrien Springs for Thanksgiving food to pass out to our patients.



## **Fun at the Art Festival**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual BCCS Art Festival was a wonderful success! Adults and children alike enjoyed the interactive art projects, live music, art displays and food! We are sincerely grateful to all of our guests who attended the Art Festival on November 13<sup>th</sup> and to the many volunteers who made this evening possible. Thank you to The Art Play Workshop families for creating their art throughout the year that all could enjoy on this special evening. We appreciate the many artists and others who contributed items to our silent auction as well as food items. The funds raised from this event will help to keep our art program and other services available to those who need them in our community. Please visit our website ([www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org)) for details of those who contributed as well

## **Thank You to Berrien Dental!**

Berrien Dental Dentists – Dr. Todd, Dr. Eric, and Dr. Greg and staff had fun with "Put on Pink" during the month of October. Not only did the dentists have to color their hair (or beard) pink, they gave BCCS a generous donation! Check it out all the details on the Berrien Dental Facebook page.

# Cancer Awareness – Survivor Story



## Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

BCCS may be closed for snow days during inclement weather. So, if it is snowing, please call us at 269-429-3281 prior to coming to the BCCS office to make sure that we are open. On the days that the office is closed, the answering machine will be checked periodically. If you have a medical emergency, please call 911. The nurses will still be visiting patients unless the roads are hazardous. Often the nurses will make patient visits a day early if they know that a snow storm is coming.



*Art Play*

*Workshops*

**Art Play Workshops are on hold until February of 2020!!!**

## Sophia's Survivor Story...

Sophia was five years old when her first symptoms occurred while playing T-ball - she had a hard time running because her back and legs hurt.

The doctors had a difficult time diagnosing what was wrong with Sophia. Some thought it was growing pains, others thought it was appendicitis. It was not until a doctor took a close look at Sophia's blood work that he noticed something wrong. He sent Sophia to the nearby Children's hospital where doctors discovered the little girl had leukemia. Sophia was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, a blood cancer that attacks the body's immune system. The disease also attacks the body's main blood-making area, which is near the hips. Sophia said a doctor told her that her "blood factory was malfunctioning."

While the disease can be fatal if it is untreated, compared to other kinds of cancer it is easier to treat. That does not mean it was easy for 5-year-old Sophia. While Sophia was getting treatment for leukemia, she received beads of courage from health care professionals to mark every step of the way. Black ones symbolized "pokes," when Sophia had blood tests or shots, blue beads represented clinic visits, white symbolized chemotherapy, red meant blood transfusions. (she has six of those beads), and yellow marked overnight stays at the hospital (Sophia has nearly 100 of those.) Ambulance trips earned her a star for her necklace and Sophia has 24 beads for spinal taps. She received a special bead for hair loss, but there were pains she suffered for which there were no beads. Sophia has a special bead in the shape of an anchor that represents the support she received from her family and friends while she went through three years of treatments.

Sophia and her mom live in Wisconsin and the 11-year-old cancer survivor attends public school. She plays soccer and competes in track with no pain in her legs. Sophia goes back to a clinic once every three months

# In Loving Memory

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



**In Memory of Ed Hoag**

Jackie Rohdy, Dowagiac  
George & Patricia LaPorte, Dowagiac  
Alfred & Bonnie Eaton, Niles  
Lyle & Janet Morrow, Rolling Prairie IN  
Keri & Timothy Mass, South Bend IN  
Joyce Richards, Bridgman

**In Memory of Otto Stanhiser**

Barbara & Jerry Lausch, Galien

**In Memory of Rick Ledesma**

Shelly Xue, New York NY  
Janet Ledesma, Berrien Springs

*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.*

**Thought for the Day**

Little by little time goes by.  
Short if you sing, long if you sigh.

# Looking Ahead...

## Looking Ahead

### **BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles Greater Niles Senior Center**

1109 Bell Road  
December 17 – 1:30 pm  
January 21, 2020 – 1:30 pm

### **BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – St. Joseph Marie Yeager Cancer Center**

3900 Hollywood Road  
December 10 – 2:30 pm  
January 14, 2020 – 2:30 pm

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

On hiatus until February 2020!  
Visit [www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org) or call  
BCCS at 269-429-3281 for details

### **OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP**

Lakeland Regional Medical Center  
December 12 – 6:00 pm  
January 9, 2020 – 6:00 pm

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER**

December 1 – Day with Art  
December 4 – National Cookie Day  
December 7 – National Cotton Candy Day  
December 9 – Weary Willie Day  
December 11 – International Mountain Dew Day  
December 14 – Gingerbread Decorating Day  
December 17 – Christmas Carol Day  
December 20 – Ugly Christmas Sweater Day  
December 21 – Humbug Day  
December 24 – Eggnog Day  
December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY  
December 26 – National Whiners Day  
December 31 – NEWS YEARS EVE

### **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 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](mailto:staff@bccancerservice.org). If you are not reading the newsletter, you may contact us to be removed also. We

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PERMIT NO. 129



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

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Joseph Dick, Treasurer  
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\*Dr. Sapna Patel  
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\*Indicates Emeritus Memebers

**NURSING STAFF**

Nancy Church, R.N., President/CEO  
Connie Demler, R.N.  
Debra Hansen, R.N.

**OFFICE STAFF**

Kimberly McCoy, Patient Care Coordinator  
Henrietta Hein, Office Clerk  
Sarah Rodgers, Office Assistant  
Suzanne Arent, Administrative Assistant

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - St. Joseph**

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  
Phone: (269) 983-8804

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Niles**

3rd Tuesday of each month – 1:30 p.m.  
Greater Niles Senior Center  
1109 Bell Road  
Niles, MI 49120  
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