

BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE NEWSLETTER

www.bccancerservice.org

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

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.



May 2018

(269) 429-3281

VOLUME XXV

ISSUE V

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

Happy Mother's Day

Dear Mom

I will love you forever,
and forever you will be,
the most wonderful Mother,
you mean everything to me.

I thought of buying you flowers,
in the usual way,
but I know you would prefer,
a forever bouquet.

Unknown



BCCS Bulletin Board

TIME TO BRING IN THE PENNIES!

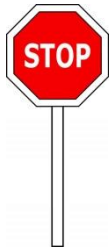
As we celebrate our **29th Annual PENNIES FOR PATIENTS™ DAY**, our goal is to surpass last year's total of \$20,194. ***Come join us May 10, 2018 starting at 6:00 a.m. with Pat Moody and the Moody in the Morning show.*** All day long until 6:00 p.m. you can see the excitement of thousands of pennies being counted along with refreshments and fun. There will also be a new Niles location at the St. John's United Church of Christ (601 Sycamore St, Niles) from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. with cookies and punch. **All the proceeds stay local to help those with cancer in our community.** Bring your pennies, silver, and dollars and join us for our **29th Annual PENNIES FOR PATIENTS DAY!** If you miss the May 10th date, don't worry, we will be collecting through May 31st for our 2018 campaign.



In conjunction with our “**PENNIES FOR PATIENTS™**” fundraiser, the Berrien County Cancer Service is conducting a **Wheatback Penny silent auction**. For details regarding the Wheatback pennies, please call the office at 269-429-3281. Bids may be called in or emailed to staff@bccancerservice.org prior to Pennies Day and will end at 6 p.m. on May 10th.

Stevensville 4 Corners

She's done it again! Ashley Weber, our extraordinary teen volunteer has set up to collect contributions for Pennies for Patients Day at Stevensville's 4 Corners. Come by John Beers Road and Stevensville Baroda intersection on Friday, May 11th between 4:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m. to give your donation to the BCCS volunteer at the intersection. Ashley started with us in 2010 when she became Miss Pre-Teen SW Michigan. Her passion for volunteering has never wavered and over the past several years, Ashley has collected over \$12,000.00 for BCCS!!! What an amazing volunteer!



A Special Thank you to Biggby Coffee!

A special “Thank You” to everyone who stopped by Biggby Coffee to order a specialty beverage on “Thankful Thursday”, March 15th. As a result, Biggby Coffee donated \$238.00 to BCCS. Al Mussman the owner of Biggby and Coffee and Zoup! has been an amazing supporter of BCCS and many other nonprofit partner agencies in the community. So if you are in downtown St. Joseph area, stop by Biggby Coffee for a great cup of coffee or Zoup! for delicious sandwiches, salads, and Zoup! Thank you, Al, for all you do here in southwest Michigan to make it a great place to live!



ART PLAY WORKSHOPS

Thursday – May 10th & June 14th at Marie Yeager Cancer Center from 5:30-7:00 pm

Monday – May 14th & June 11th at Buchanan Art Center from 4:30-5:30 pm

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 or are a stable pediatric cancer patient, please have them call 269-429-3281 and ask for Nancy regarding these workshops. You can also find out more information on our website www.bccancerservice.org or on our FB page: Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.

Thymoma and Thymic Cancer

Thymomas and thymic carcinomas are rare tumors that form in cells on the outside surface of the thymus. The thymus is a small organ that lies in the upper chest under the breastbone. It is part of the lymph system and makes certain types of white blood cells that help the body fight infection.

The tumor cells in a thymic carcinoma look very different from the normal cells of the thymus. They grow more quickly and have usually spread to other parts of the body when the cancer is found. Thymic carcinoma is harder to treat than thymoma.

People with thymoma often also have autoimmune disorders such as myasthenia gravis and rheumatoid arthritis. Thymoma and thymic carcinoma may not cause early signs of symptoms. The cancer may be found during a chest x-ray or CT scan that is done for another reason.

Key Points

- Thymoma and thymic carcinoma are diseases in which malignant cells form on the outside surface of the thymus.
- Thymoma is linked with myasthenia gravis and other autoimmune diseases.
- Signs and symptoms of thymoma and thymic carcinoma include a cough and chest pain.
- Tests that examine the thymus are used to detect thymoma or thymic carcinoma.
- Thymoma and thymic carcinoma are usually diagnosed, staged and treated during surgery.
- Certain factors affect prognosis and treatment options.

There are different types of tumors of the thymus. Thymomas and thymic carcinomas are rare tumors of the cells that are on the outside surface of the thymus. The tumor cells in a thymoma look similar to the normal cells of the thymus, grow slowly, and rarely spread beyond the thymus. On the other hand, the tumor cells in a thymic carcinoma look very different from the normal cells of the thymus, grow quickly, and have usually spread to other parts of the body when the cancer is found. Thymic carcinoma is more difficult to treat than thymoma.

Signs and symptoms of thymoma and thymic carcinoma include a cough and chest pain.

Check with your doctor if you have any of the following:

- A cough that doesn't go away
- Chest pain
- Trouble breathing

Thymoma and thymic carcinoma are usually diagnosed, staged, and treated during surgery.

A biopsy of the tumor is done to diagnose the disease. The biopsy may be done before or during surgery, using a thin needle to remove a sample of cells. This is called a fine-needle aspiration biopsy. Sometimes a wide needle is used to remove a sample of cells and this is called a core biopsy. A pathologist will view the sample under a microscope to check for cancer. If thymoma or thymic carcinoma is diagnosed, the pathologist will determine the type of cancer. There may be more than one type of cancer cell in a thymoma. The surgeon will decide if all or part of the tumor can be removed by surgery. In some cases, lymph nodes and other tissues may be removed as well.

Certain factors affect prognosis and treatment options.

The prognosis and treatment options depend on the following:

- The stage of cancer.
- The type of cancer cell.
- Whether the tumor can be removed completely by surgery.
- The patient's general health.
- Whether the cancer has just been diagnosed or has recurred.

Tests done to detect thymoma or thymic carcinoma are also used to stage the disease.

Staging is the process used to find out if cancer has spread from the thymus to other parts of the body. The findings made during surgery and the results of tests and procedures are used to determine the state of the disease. It is important to know the stage in order to plan treatment.

There are three ways that cancer spreads in the body.

- Tissue
- Lymph system
- Blood

Adapted from: cancer.org

In Loving Memory

During March 2018, Memorial Donations were generously made by and for the following people:

In Memory of Mrs. Hazel Elms

Barbara Selge, Edwardsburg

In Memory Edward David Schultz

James & Melissa Jakubs, Baroda

In Memory of Herbert Engel

Gail Roush, St. Joseph

In Memory of Rhonda Short

Donna Janke & Family, Benton Harbor

In Memory of Lucinda (Cindy) Gale Kuhl

Kay Foster, Seabring FL

In Memory of Ruth Twarucsek

Dolores Fester, Benton Harbor

In Memory of Marianne Reitz

Vicki Metzger, Buchanan

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

Today is the tommorrow
that we worried about
yesterday



Looking Ahead

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville

May 1 – 1:30 pm

June 5 – 1:30 pm

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles

May 15 – 1:30 pm

June 19 – 1:30 pm

RAINBOWS OF HOPE– St. Joseph

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

May 10 – 5:30 pm

June 14 – 5:30 pm

CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Art Play Workshop

2nd Thursday at Marie Yeager Cancer Center

2nd Monday at the Buchanan Art Center

Visit www.bccancerservice.org or call

BCCS at 269-429-3281 for details

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

May 10 – 6:00 pm

June 14 – 6:00 pm

DATES TO REMEMBER IN MAY 2018

May 1 – MAY DAY

May 3 – World Password Day

May 5 – Bladder Cancer Day

May 8 – World Ovarian Cancer Day

May 10 – World Migratory Bird Day

May 12 – American Indian Day

May 14 – National Chicken Dance Day

May 16 – National Employee Health & Fitness Day

May 19 – Morel Mushroom Day

May 23 – World Crohn's and Colitis Day

May 25 – Cookie Monster's Birthday

May 28 – MEMORIAL DAY

May 31 – World No-Tobacco 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 the 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.
7301 Red Arrow Highway
Stevensville, MI 49127

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 also. We
value our readers & hope you enjoy it.

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Debra Hansen, R.N.		Kimberly Penney, R.N.

OFFICE STAFF:

Claudia Brister	Office Manager
Sarah Rodgers	Admin Assistant
Henrietta Hein	Office Clerk

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville Office

1st Tuesday of each month - 1:30 p.m.

Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.

7301 Red Arrow Highway
Stevensville, MI 49127

Phone: (269) 429-3281 or (269) 465-5257

RAINBOWS OF HOPE GROUP- St. Joseph

2nd Thursday of each month – 5:30 p.m.

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

Ward and Kinney Room
3900 Hollywood Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 556-7114

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Niles

3rd Tuesday of each month – 1:30 p.m.

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.

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

Community Room
1234 Napier Ave.
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 983-8804