



**Berrien
County
Cancer
Service**

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

**January 2021
VOLUME XXVIII
ISSUE I**

**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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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 have again limited our staff and services in accordance with MDHHS guidelines. 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.**

Happy New Year from the staff of Berrien County Cancer Service!

*Nancy Church, Kimberly McCoy, Suzanne Arent,
Connie Demler, Debra Hansen, Sarah Stathakis, Lorna Pullen,
Henrietta Hein, and Sheryl Stone*

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!**

**Follow us on social
media today!**



BCCS Bulletin Board

SAVE THE DATE!!!

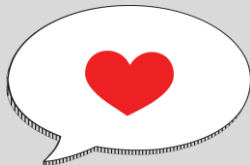
Virtual Art Play Workshop
January 21st from
4:30-6:00 p.m.

See the next page for more
information

Thought for the Day...

*"The best and most beautiful
things in the world cannot
be seen or even touched –
they must be felt with the
heart."*

Helen Keller



Patient Remarks

"I looked forward to my nurse coming. She was a friend to me and I was sad when I didn't need her help anymore!"

T. H.

Current STAR GIVERS

We've had some awesome business STAR GIVERS recently:

- Despite the COVID restrictions, **City Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning** in St. Joseph amazingly stepped up for another year of **Flush Out Cancer** in October. Joining them were **Mid-West Family Broadcasting** with advertising and processing donations, **South Shore Women's Health Care** with a display including a mini pink toilet, and **Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 357** along with a whole lot of community supporters --- **GREAT JOB!**
- **Campbell Ford Lincoln in Niles** for donating based on car sales in October – **WHAT A LOT OF SALES!**
- **Chapel Hill United Methodist Church** has faithfully remembered us for many years – **THANK YOU!**
- **Hair By The Shore** in Stevensville – Pink was the color for October Hair Extensions – **HOW FUN!**
- **Lakeshore HS Volleyball Booster Club** – **KEEPING THE BALL UP!**

If it is a snowy day, please call us at 269-429-3281 to make sure the BCCS office is open. Our nurses will notify their patients of any schedule changes due to inclement weather.

The BCCS Frederick S. Upton Foundation Challenge Grant starts again this month!

We were excited to be awarded a two-year \$10,000 grant (\$5,000 per year) in 2020 for our loan closet, patient nutrition needs, and assistance for nurses traveling to patient homes. Thanks to you, we matched our first \$5,000 challenge for 2020! Our second portion of the challenge to match has started! We need to match another \$5,000 for 2021!

SUPPORT GROUPS

Due to social distancing requirements and facility restrictions, support groups for St. Joseph and Niles are cancelled until further notice. 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 others are specific to a particular diagnosis. A few websites to get started with are cancer.org, cancerhopenet.org, and cancersupportcommunity.org.

HOLIDAY APPEAL RESULTS

A HUGE THANK YOU to all those who responded to our holiday appeal. Your response is helping to make up the difference to replace funds that normally are generated through our fundraisers. As this is being written, the envelopes are still coming!

January Cancer Awareness - Cervical



ART PLAY WORKSHOPS

Art Play Workshops are now held virtually through the Krasl Art Center. Packets for the class can be picked up prior to joining a class via Zoom! If you are interested in joining a workshop, please call 269-429-3281 and ask for Nancy or email her at 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 out more information at www.bccancerservice.org or facebook.com/bccancerservice.

January – Valentines Painting Sculpture



From the Desk of Nancy Church, RN

I think that most of us were ready to see 2020 pass and are hopeful that the pandemic that we have been living through will be brought under control in 2021. This past year there have been moments of distress on many different levels as well as moments of people rising above the distress and giving in heroic ways. I am very proud of the BCCS staff as they have continued to care for our patients in the home and from the office despite fears of COVID and changing guidelines. Thank you to each of you who have supported us and our patients. We also thank patients who have been flexible as we have made changes based on recommended guidelines.

One of the changes that has occurred in the new year, is that Suzanne Arent is moving on to a new horizon and Lorna Pullen will be the new administrative assistant. We will certainly miss Suzanne and wish her the best while welcoming Lorna and are excited to have her with us.

As we observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and the National Day of Racial Healing, we reflect on the need to serve and empower all individuals equally. Unfortunately, cancer sees no racial boundaries. Disparities in healthcare make this a greater risk for those of color. We are here to help anyone who is in need of services. Please call our office at 269-429-3281 for assistance.

With January being cervical cancer awareness month, let's spend a few minutes discussing it. According to the American Cancer Society, cervical cancer can often be found early, and may even be prevented by having regular screening tests. If detected early, it is one of the most successfully treatable cancers. This cancer starts in the cells lining the cervix which is found at the lower part of the uterus as it connects to the vagina. Generally, the normal cells of the cervix first gradually develop abnormal changes that are called pre-cancerous. If these cells are caught at this stage, treatment of these cells often by removal will prevent further abnormal growth. Having certain human papillomaviruses (HPV) which cause some types of genital warts are strongly linked to cervical and other cancers while other HPVs have a low cancer risk.

Ways to prevent cervical cancer:

- Regular screen tests called the Pap test and HPV test evaluate the cervical cells for abnormalities. If a pre-cancer is found, it can be treated to keep it from turning into a cervical cancer.
- Vaccines are available that can protect children and young adults against certain HPV infections. Talk with your physician to find out if this is recommended for your child or young adult.
- Limit exposure to HPV. HPV is passed from one person to another during skin-to-skin contact with an infected area of the body. Most people associate it with sexual activity, but sex doesn't have to occur for the infection to spread. Limiting the number of sexual partners and avoiding sex with people who have had many other sexual partners may lower your risk. Condoms may provide some protections but don't completely prevent infection.
- Avoid smoking – women who smoke are about twice as likely as non-smokers to get cervical cancer. Adapted from: www.cancer.org

In Loving Memory

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

In Memory of Douglas Allen

Ferol Allen
Karol and Jack Banyon
DiMaggio's
Robert Ehrenberg
Frederick and Linda Fish
Courtney Flanagan
Barbara and William Klein
George and Julie Kolettis
Roy H. Liskey, Inc.
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Stephanie Rayyan
Mark Reiser
Alison Schwartz
Dan and Monica Sherlock
Anna Russo Sieber
Straub, Seaman and Allen, P.C.
Robert and Courtney Zalik

In Memory of Gayle Borst

Pamela Forst

In Memory of Siegfried Herrmann

Selma Herrmann

In Memory of Cindy Clausen

Marvin and Judy Anderson

In Memory of Karen Jordan

Randall and Shelly Frank

In Memory of Dieter Kruger

Katai Machine Shop
Todd and Ginny Tyler

In Memory of Ronald Kruger

Irma Reed

In Memory of Family members who lost their lives to cancer

Deanna Wolford

In Memory of Marion Milnikel

John Kroonblawd

In Memory of Gerald Schaffer

Peggy Schaffer

In Memory of Janice Stevens

Carolyn Mason

In Memory of Janey Waterhouse

Mary Jane Waterhouse Rev Trust

In Honor of Matt Alisch

Kim Alisch

In Honor of Nancy Church

Dana and Dawn Wales

In Honor of Joan Clausen

Marvin and Judy Anderson

In Honor of Marilyn Miller

Randy Miller

In Honor of Krislyn Rousseau

Jack and Sharol Burd

In Honor of Helen Schultz

Kathryn Schultz

In Honor of Aida Torres

Renee Catania

In Honor of Sue VanderWaal

Curtis VanderWaal

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 January

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

Will not be meeting in January

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP
Lakeland Regional Medical Center

Will not be meeting in January

CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
Art Play Workshop
Thursday, January 21st

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

DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY

January 1st – New Year's Day
January 2nd – Happy "Mew Year" for Cats
January 4th – National Trivia Day
January 9th – National Static Electricity Day
January 16th – National Nothing Day
January 18th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 19th – National Day of Racial Healing
January 25th – National Opposite Day
January 28th – Bubble Wrap Appreciation 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, you may 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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NURSING STAFF

Nancy Church, R.N., President/CEO
Connie Demler, R.N.
Debra Hansen, R.N.
Sheryl Stone, R.N. PRN Status

OFFICE STAFF

Kimberly McCoy, Patient Care Coordinator
Lorna Pullen, 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 - 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