



Berrien  
County  
Cancer  
Service

## BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE NEWSLETTER

[www.bccancerservice.org](http://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.

June 2019

(269) 429-3281

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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.



### ***How Little In Me Is Not Touched By You***

*How little in me is not touched by you!  
A friendship is a light that fills the heart,  
Painting with its gold each darkened hue,  
Providing warmth to each sequestered part.  
You are the mirror of my better self,  
Verifier of the best in me,  
A bridge across the unsuspected gulf  
Lodged between what can and ought to be.  
Expectations can be wings, not bars,  
Necessary to sustain our flight.  
The faith of friends in us is wholly ours,  
Incoming to uplift us to its height.  
No soul can see itself, but must depend,  
Each on each, upon a trusted friend.*

*By Nicholas Gordon*

# BCCS Bulletin Board

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## **Thank You to ALL of our Wonderful Supporters!**

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.



## **Recent STAR GIVERS include:**

First Congregational Church UCC St. Joseph, MI - \$500.00  
Lake Michigan College Nursing Students "Penny Wars" - \$1,000.00

## **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION**

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!

## **Cancer Support Group**

Join us as we come together to share experiences with others in similar situations. This group is for those affected by cancer as well as family, friends, and caregivers. We will be meeting from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11 at the Ward Conference Room on the 2nd floor of the Marie Yeager Cancer Center (3900 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI). This cancer support group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you have any questions, please call the Berrien County Cancer Service at 269-429-3281.



## **Pennies For Patients**

What a great day Pennies for Patients was!! Even though the morning was soggy, it ended up being a fun day with lots of people stopping by to donate their pennies! Since we are collecting through May 31, donation acknowledgements will be in the July Newsletter. Thank you to everyone who participated!



## **ART PLAY WORKSHOPS – KRASL PARTNERSHIP**

**Dates and locations are as follows:**

**Buchanan Art Center June 10th & July 8th from 4:30-5:30 pm**

**Krasl Art Center June 20th & July 18th from 4:30-6:00 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](http://www.bccancerservice.org) or on our FB page: Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.

**Special Appreciation to Chris and Molly Craft of KEY REALTY for their Premier Sponsorship of our Art Program.**

### ***June is Liver Cancer Awareness Month.***

Liver cancer includes Hepatocellular Carcinoma and bile duct cancer. Risk factors for HCC include chronic infection with hepatitis B or C and cirrhosis of the liver.

The liver is the largest internal organ in the body. It plays a key role in the digestion of food. No one can survive without a liver. Liver functions include:

- Collecting and filtering blood from the intestines.
- Processing and storing needed nutrients absorbed by the intestines.
- Converting some nutrients into energy or into substances needed to repair and build tissue.
- Producing some of the body's blood-clotting factors.
- Removing toxins from the body.
- Helping maintain the proper sugar level in the body.

Cancer begins when healthy cells change and grow out of control, forming a mass called a tumor. A tumor can be cancerous or benign. A cancerous tumor is malignant, meaning it can grow and spread to other parts of the body. A benign tumor means the tumor can grow but will not spread.

People with HCC may experience no symptoms, particularly when the tumor is detected early as part of a screening program. When symptoms or signs do occur they include:

- Pain, especially at the top of the abdominal area, near the right shoulder blade, or in the back.
- Unexplained weight loss.
- A hard lump under the ribs on the right side of the body, which could be the tumor or a sign that the liver has gotten bigger.
- Weakness or fatigue.

When HCC is diagnosed, some people will already know that they have cirrhosis and will be receiving care from a doctor. Some symptoms experienced by people with HCC may be caused by cirrhosis rather than the tumor. These symptoms include abdominal swelling from fluid accumulation, called ascities, and needing more water tablets, called diuretics, to control the fluid accumulation. Hepatic encephalopathy (mental confusion) and bleeding from the esophagus or stomach, or any worsening of the condition, may also indicate cancer.

If you are concerned about any changes you experience, please talk with your doctor.



## *In Loving Memory*

During April 2019, Memorial Donations were generously made by and for the following people:

**In Memory of Ernest & Minnie Arent**

Alma Arent, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Patricia Ann Macholtz**

Donna Janke, Benton Harbor

**In Memory of Pastor Larry Easton**

Cynthia Rittase, Hartford

**In Memory of James Millin Sr.**

Sandra Horvath, Mishawaka, IN

**In Memory of Jon Grabemeyer**

Kathleen Cullitan, Paw Paw

**In Memory of Lauretta Titman**

Terry Wilkins, Galls Church, VA

**In Memory of Richard Heckinger**

Laura Arterburn, Sarasota, FL

**In Memory of Bonnie Kurbis**

Dale & Joyce Gano, St. Joseph

*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***

Regret is an appalling waste of energy.  
You can't build on it.  
It's only for wallowing in.

*Katherine Mansfield*

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### ***Patient Remarks***

*Nancy Church is a blessing. Her skillset and compassion are beyond exception. Please keep this valuable and necessary service to the community as a top priority of how best to serve our community and its people.*

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## Looking Ahead

### **BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles**

June 18 - 1:30 pm

July 16 - 1:30 pm

### **BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – St. Joseph**

June 11th – 2:30 pm

July 9th - 2:30 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](http://www.bccancerservice.org) or call

BCCS at 269-429-3281 for details

### **OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP**

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

June 13 - 6:00 pm

July 11 - 6:00 pm

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER IN JUNE 2019**

June 2 - National Cancer Survivor Day

June 5 - National Moonshine Day

June 8 - Missing Mutt Day Awareness

June 16 - FATHERS DAY

June 18 - Autistic Pride Day

June 21 - National Selfie Day

June 23 - Pink Flamingo Day

June 25 National Catfish Day

June 27 - PTSD Awareness Day

June 30 - National Organization for Women

### **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!