



BCCS Newsletter

Mission Statement

To provide
compassionate in-home
skilled nursing care and
supportive resources for
those affected by cancer
or related illnesses in
Southwest Michigan.

Location

Marie Yeager Cancer
Center - 2nd floor
3900 Hollywood Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269-429-3281

www.bccancerservice.org
staff@bccancerservice.org

Follow us on social
media today!



Sonnet 18

by William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed,
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course untrimmed:
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st,
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS DAY!

THE POWER OF A PENNY! We had a fun and eventful 33rd Annual Pennies for Patients Day! All day long we were greeting many of you who came bearing wonderful gifts of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars, and checks. Special "Thank You's" to Roger's Foodland who generously hosted our St. Joseph drop off site for the first time and the St. John's United Church of Christ who has faithfully hosted our Niles drop off site for several years. Since we collect through the end of May and will have a final count in the July newsletter and a listing of everyone who liberally gave.

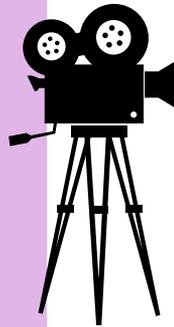
What a wonderful, caring community we live in, "Thank You" to all who participated!



BCCS Bulletin Board

June is Cancer Survivor's Month

Taking care of yourself after surviving through cancer treatment and remission is key to returning to life and activities. Using a Survivorship Care Plan can be extremely useful when you've completed treatment. Per the CDC, "A survivorship care plan includes important information about your cancer and treatment, which helps you and your doctors understand each other. Your plan should say when you need to get follow-up tests, and which doctors are responsible for your care. Keep your plan and refer to it so you can be sure you get the tests you need." Using a Survivorship Plan is another assurance that your health needs are in order.



STAR GIVERS!

Berrien Area Hockey Association and Grand Valley Amateur Hockey Association Stars Blue for a VERY AMAZING Slap the Puck fundraiser.
Lighthouse Attic board & volunteers for a very generous cancer care donation.
Sturgis Bank, St. Joseph for a generous gift and sponsoring a video showing.
Exchange Club of SW Michigan for inviting us to give a presentation.
Brown Funeral Home for sponsoring the video showing at the Niles District Library in July - COME JOIN US!!!

BCCS TESTIMONIAL VIDEO

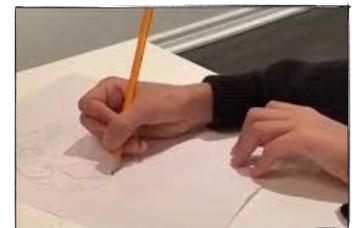
If you have been able to join us for a Testimonial Video showing, you will have been very touched by the stories and hopefully inspired to share about our services to those you know who are in the midst of cancer treatment. *Our next public showing will be July 7th at the Niles District Library at 10:00 a.m. This will include a display of the life of our founding nurse, Olove Colcord.* The display will be at the library through September. You will not want to miss this!

RESOURCE CLOSET SPECIALS!

Right now we have an excess supply of regular walkers, compression stockings, mastectomy bras, oral swabs, lancets, and some ostomy items. If you need a durable medical equipment item for short-term use, you may borrow equipment from us regardless of the diagnosis. If you have cancer and need medical items, we have a large array of supplies. Please call 269-429-3281 for information.

ART PLAY WORKSHOP

For children and families impacted by cancer
Join us on Thursday, June 16th from 4:30-6:00pm
for a fun time at the Krasl Art Center
The art project is TBD.
Registration is required
Call Nancy at 269-429-3281 for more information



BCCS PRESENTATIONS!

Are you a member of a group or organization who invites speakers to talk about community services? Our Director of Development, Tyanna Essig, is available to give a 20-30 minute presentation to your group upon request. Please contact Tyanna Essig in our office at 269-429-3281 or tyanna@bcccancerservice.org. We want everyone in Berrien County to know about our services!



In Memory

In Memory of Ray & Flora Cheek

Linda Cheek

In Memory of Johnny Coulson

Linda Coulson

In Memory of Roann Dudiak

With our fondest sympathies
-WOTM Chapter Wetmore

In Memory of Donald Lane

Barbara Lane

In Memory of Jerry Schaffer

Peggy Schaffer

In Memory of Nancy E. Smith

Brad Smith & Renee' Reid-Smith

In Memory of Val Weinstein

Karlyn March

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 those with cancer in Southwest Michigan.

From the Desk of Nancy Church, RN

With June being Survivorship month, I thought it would be a good time to discuss some of the ways we can support those who are facing or are currently receiving cancer treatment. It can be difficult when you find out that someone you know has cancer. Whether it is a good friend or a casual acquaintance, you may not know what to say. Take your cues from the person with cancer. Each of us have our own coping mechanisms and how we respond to situations can vary widely. Start by showing your support without words. Eye contact, facial expressions, body language, allowing for silence and listening attentively can convey a message of caring. Some carefully worded phrases such as, "I care about you", "I'm sorry to hear that you are going through this", "If you want to talk about it, I'm here to listen" can help open up conversation. People with cancer are often asked many questions by friends and family members, which can become tiresome. Acting like you know what they are going through or giving advice is often counterproductive and stress inducing. Cancer is such an individualized disease that just because it sounds like the same diagnosis, it does not mean it is going to be the same for that person. If someone does ask for advice, be sensitive and cautious with your answers. Offer to help with a practical suggestion - bring a meal, do laundry, walk the dog, etc. If extra help is needed on a regular basis, there are websites that can help organize with a sign-up calendar. Be sensitive about how much energy the person has. I often encourage people going through treatment to set boundaries based on their energy and emotional tolerance levels. Don't take it personally if someone doesn't want to see or talk to you, they need to utilize their energy in the way they prioritize and that may change every day. Don't forget they are the same person they were before the diagnosis. As much as possible, treat them like the special person they always were in your life. Ask about interests, hobbies, and other topics not related to cancer. They want to hear about living and life. Remember there is a time for everything - for crying, for grieving the loss of health, for frustration, and even laughter. Be the trusted friend who can keep things confidential and is not afraid of allowing for expression of emotions.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESOURCE CLOSET DONATIONS!

Please call us at 269-429-3281 if you have donations for our resource closet so that we can phone screen items prior to you bringing them. If you need medical equipment, supplies or our skilled nursing services, please give us a call.

Berrien County Cancer Service
3900 Hollywood Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

To 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 this newsletter.*

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BCCS is a non-profit organization funded primarily by donations, memorials, fundraisers, and United Way of Southwest Michigan. We receive no Medicare or insurance payments. To continue our services at no cost to those with cancer who need our help in the home, we need your help. Any donation is greatly appreciated. You may donate online at www.bccancerservice.org or mail your check to our address listed on the front cover. 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.

"I can go in public due to a wig and walker they provided. It means a lot."

From Rhonda