



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!



To the First Robin

Louisa May Alcott

Welcome, welcome, little stranger,
Fear no harm, and fear no danger;
We are glad to see you here,
For you sing, "Sweet Spring is near."

Now the white snow melts away;
Now the flowers blossom gay:
Come, dear bird, and build your nest,
For we love our robin best.



Louisa May Alcott was one of four daughters born to Bronson and May Alcott. To help support the family, she worked as a governess, a seamstress, a laundress, and a nurse but, in her heart she was always a writer. Her first book, was a collection of stories for Ralph Waldo Emerson's daughter, who was a friend and neighbor. Louisa's best known work is Little Women, which has never been out of print since it was first published in 1868.

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS DAY!

It's time to start saving for Pennies for Patients Day!

Join us on Thursday, May 12th



So, keep adding to those jars of coins and remember, we also will accept paper money, checks, and online donations. YOU have made this our signature event; since 1990 over \$550,000 has been given to provide services to those with cancer and related illnesses in our local community. More details will be coming next month!

BCCS Bulletin Board

MARCH is Multiple Myeloma, Colon, Rectal, and Kidney Cancer Awareness Month

Multiple myeloma is a cancer that begins in plasma cells. These are a special type of white blood cell important for a healthy immune system.

Over time, these defective plasma cells called myeloma cells grow out of control and collect in the bone marrow, forming tumors in many of the body's bones. These tumors may keep the bone marrow from making enough healthy blood cells and weaken the bone.

While the causes of are not fully understood, it is more common in older people, especially men, and African Americans. Common symptoms may include bone pain, weakness or fatigue, weight loss, frequent infections, thirst, and frequent urination.

STAR GIVERS!

W.K. Kellogg Foundation for your generous matching gift.

Tosi's Restaurant for your amazing fundraising over the past few months! Not only does it directly assist our patients, but it certainly helps to get the word out about how we can help people here in SW Michigan. Awesome Job! To Dan and Lori McCrery, the Tosi staff, and especially the generous customers!

Very Special "Thank You" to the Frederick S. Upton Foundation. Recently, we were awarded a grant for the next 2 years. This grant money will assist us in our transition to utilizing EPIC for our electronic patient records and for meeting the needs of people who use our resource closet. It is such a blessing to have these funds! They enable us to loan out quality medical equipment, purchase specialty items, and provide supplemental nutrition drinks for those going through treatment. The Upton Foundation has been an AMAZING supporter of BCCS and the people we serve for many years - THANK YOU!



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. We are taking precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you need medical equipment supplies or our skilled nursing services, please give us a call.



ART PLAY WORKSHOP Clay Wall Hanging

For children and families impacted by cancer
Join us on Thursday, February 17th from 4:30-6:00pm
at the Krasl Art Center
Registration is required
Call Nancy at 269-429-3281 for more information

VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINAIRE!

Volunteers are the key to every successful event! Last November, we had a very scaled down display of art from our Art Play Workshops while we were videotaping for our testimonial video. Thank you to Joshua and Cassie Frazee, Rex and Sue Hartwig, Cassie Nalepa, Isis Smith, Keith Stevens, and Carol Weller for your friendly, enthusiastic help!



In Memory

In Memory of Ben and Mae
Hickman
Deborah McCartney

In Memory of David C. Rittase,
Virginia Dunfee, and Edwin N.
Williams
Cynthia Rittase

In Memory of Eleanor and Ed
Pierscinski, and Mary Alice
Hanson
Connie Hanson

In Memory of Frieda Phillippi
Henrietta Hein

In Memory of Kay Varga Smith
AJ Jaeger-Heiden
Alton Wendzel
Douglas Bennitt
Michael OConnor
Michael & Mimi Zeidman
"In fond memory of a
wonderful lady!"

In Honor of Jeannette Holton
Sacred Heart, Serenity Hills

In Honor of Kay Varga Smith
Joseph Domenico

In Honor of Susan Dearing Bond
Lydia Dearing

In Honor of Olivia Gremore
Happy Birthday!
Luralynn Wright



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

Have you ever had the experience when someone said something that motivated you to do something that you had been putting it off? That happened to me several years ago when when a nurse practitioner I was seeing for a general visit said to me, "I don't understand why everyone doesn't get a colonoscopy when they should. It is a test that will catch colon cancer early or even before it starts". It was the motivation I needed to make that appointment and find out that it wasn't nearly as bad as I had thought it might be. Colon cancer is a very serious cancer that has a high chance of complete recovery if caught in the early stages. Many insurances will cover the screening colonoscopy because of how important it is. Other screening tests include a variety of stool tests that may look for blood and/or DNA, but none have the accuracy of the colonoscopy. So while we may have to take a day off from our activities, it is certainly worth the time and peace of mind.



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.

"Dedicated staff who are compassionate and understanding. I have always felt welcomed and comfortable in explaining my needs. A true asset to our community that we can all be proud of."

Comment by a patient