



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!



An Excerpt from Santa Filomena by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

A poem alluding to Florence Nightingale

Honor to those whose words or deeds
Thus help us in our daily needs,
And by their overflow
Raise us from what is low.

Thus thought I, as by night I read
Of the great army of the dead,
the trenches cold and damp,
The starved and frozen camp,

The wounded from the battle-plain,
In dreary hospitals of pain,
The cheerless corridors,
The cold and stony floors.

Lo! in that house of misery
A lady with a lamp I see
Pass through the glimmering gloom,
And flit from room to room.

And slow, as in a dream of bliss,
The speechless sufferer turns to kiss
Her shadow, as it falls
upon the darkening walls.

As if a door in heaven should be
Opened and then closed suddenly,
The vision came and went,
The light shone and was spent.

On England's annals, through the long
Hereafter of her speech and song,
The light its rays shall cast
From Portals of the past.

A Lady with a Lamp shall stand
In the great history of the land,
A noble type of good,
Heroic womanhood.

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS DAY!

Join us on Thursday, May 12th for our 33rd year!

Your pennies are needed to help our patients more than ever as costs increase
and we are in the midst of "shrinkflation".

2 collection sites:

Roger's Foodland from 7:30am-6:00pm, 4039 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph
St. John's United Church of Christ from 11am-2pm, 601 Sycamore, Niles

If you would like to volunteer or
need a collection jar call us at 269-429-3281

So, keep adding to those jars of coins and remember we also accept paper
money, checks, and online donations at www.bccancerservice.org.



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.

Donations for Pennies Day will be accepted through May.

BCCS Bulletin Board

May is Brain Cancer,
Bladder Cancer,
Melanoma/Skin Cancer
Awareness, and
National Cancer
Research Month

The key to future progress in the fight against cancer lies in the critical work of unlocking the secrets of cancer, what makes it grow and how to treat it. As of today, cancer will directly affect one in three people at some point during their lives and all of us are touch by it through someone we love. Research into Biological and Immune therapies are paving the way toward better outcomes and quality of life for those who are diagnosed with cancer. Cancer is unique in that it is not a single condition, but rather hundreds of distinct conditions with widely varying treatment guidelines. Research is often enabling treatment to be individualized according to the genetic makeup of the cancer cells.



STAR GIVERS!

Sturgis Bank for being the sponsor and Silver Harbor Brewing Company for being the site our very successful video premiere in April.

Slumberland Furniture for donating gift certificates

Thank you blessings to churches who blessed us with giving

First Presbyterian Church of Niles

Trinity Lutheran Church Ladies Aid Society

Zion United Church of Christ - we appreciate your inviting us for a presentation

Dan & Lori McCrery and the Tosi's Team for our March Video Premiere!

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. 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, May 19th from 4:30-6:00pm
to create abstract clay chickens at the Krasl Art Center
Come get your hands dirty! 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 our 3 Brothers
Myron, Elwyn, and Victor Gillette
Elwood and Jim Gillette

In Memory of Helen Polashak
Anthony & Judith Belski

In Memory of Barry Harmon
With Sincere sympathy,
-Anne Green

Deepest sympathy to you and your
family - Patti Gerlach

In Memory of Eleanor Krejci
Jeanette & Delores Fester

In Memory of Robert Krieger
Melanie Pettit

In Memory of Ann Herrygers
In loving memory of my sister.
A fellow "little"
Bill & Kim Daly

It is with our deepest sympathies that we remember Eleanor Krejci. Eleanor was a long-time volunteer for BCCS Newsletter assembly. We are grateful for her service and donation of time. She will be dearly missed.

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

As a young child, Florence was drawn to helping the ill who lived in the villages near her parent's estate. By the time she was a teenager, she knew that nursing was her call in life, despite it not being a proper place for a girl belonging to an elite socialite family. Strong-willed and determined to forge her own way in the world, she enrolled in a nursing school despite her parent's forbidding her. She excelled at nursing and made it her mission to improve hygiene practices, significantly lowering the death rate at the hospital where she worked. When the Crimean war in 1853 broke out, British soldiers were suffering greatly without nursing care. The British Secretary of War reached out to Florence for help. She rose to the challenge and organized a corps of nurses to go to Crimea. The horrid situation of the soldiers shocked them as filth, bugs, rats, and infection abounded. Rather than shrinking from the situation, she and her nurses armed with scrub brushes and compassion, cared for the soldiers reducing the hospital death rate by two-thirds.

Florence Nightingale became known to the soldiers and immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem as the "Lady with the Lamp" as she would be seen at night moving from one soldier to another. She returned from Crimea to start the Nightingale School of Nursing. Throughout her life she was a trailblazer and even developed a graphic to translate statistics into a visual diagram. Despite becoming bedridden at age 38 from "Crimean Fever" that she never fully recovered from, she continued her work to revolutionize nursing into an honorable profession. As we celebrate Nurses Week, May 6-12, let us remember the roots of compassion and calling that continues to draw people into nursing and THANK A NURSE!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESOURCE CLOSET DONATIONS!

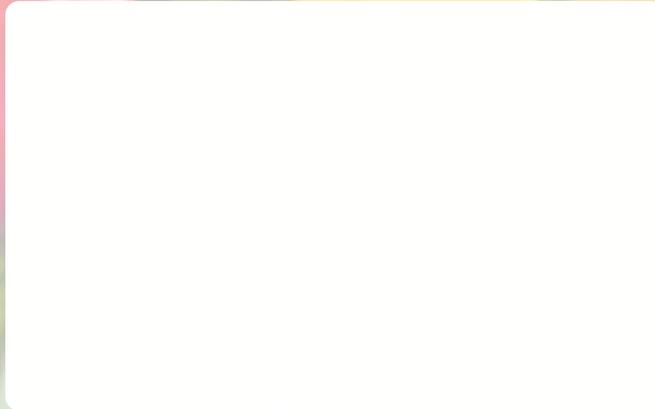
Please call us at 269-429-3281 if you have donations for our resource closet so that we can phone screen items prior to you bringing them. If you need medical equipment, supplies or our skilled nursing services, please give us a call.

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.

"The Cancer Services has sent a nurse to my house once a month to draw blood for my doctor and it is a real helpful experience for me."

From W.B.