



**Berrien
County
Cancer
Service**

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

**November 2020
VOLUME XXVII
ISSUE XI**

**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.

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.

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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. Please contact us at (269) 429-3281 if you need medical equipment, supplies, or skilled nursing services.

November

November comes and November goes, with the last red berries and the first white snows.

With night coming early and dawn coming late, and ice in the bucket and frost by the gate.

The fires burn and the kettles sing and earth sinks to rest until next spring.

~Clyde Watson

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!**



BCCS Bulletin Board

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Virtual Art Play
Workshop
November 19th**

Thought for the Day...

“The beautiful thing about life is, that we will never reach an age where there is nothing left to learn, see or be; it’s magical really.”

~ Unknown



Patient Remarks

“The cancer service women that have helped me have been so great. They are kind and caring.”

HOLIDAY APPEAL

Like you, all of us at Berrien County Cancer Service (BCCS) are working toward a new normal. When COVID-19 hit the area like a whirlwind this year, it was important for us to make sure that each patient had the best plan in place for being as safe as possible. This holiday season in particular, your financial support is needed now more than ever. This year we have had to change how we receive support from the community. Our traditional fundraisers have become virtual events for the safety of all involved.



Soon you will receive a request to consider a meaningful gift in support of the patients we serve. You can help make the difference in the lives of those fighting cancer this holiday season.

You can donate online at www.bccancerservice.org.

Thank you!

SUPPORT GROUPS



Due to social distancing requirements and facility restrictions, support groups for St. Joseph and Niles are cancelled for the month of November. 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 other are specific for a particular diagnosis. A few websites to get started with are cancercaare.org, cancerhopenetwork.org, and cancersupportcommunity.org.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED...

to the BCCS Frederick S. Upton Foundation Challenge

Grant! We are excited to be awarded a two-year \$10,000 grant (\$5,000 per year) 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 for 2021 starts NEXT MONTH! Stay tuned!

November is Pancreatic/Neuroendocrine Cancer Awareness Month



ART PLAY WORKSHOPS

Art Play Workshops have re-started at the Krasl Art Center in a virtual way with picking up art packets and joining a class on 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 on our website www.bccancerservice.org or on our FB page: Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.

On November 19th there will be a virtual Art Play Workshop via Zoom in conjunction with the Krasl Art Center. In order to participate and obtain details regarding picking up an art bundle, you will need to call our office at 269-429-3281 and ask for Nancy or email director@bccancerservice.org

From the Desk of Nancy Church, RN

We all have personal connections to different types of cancer. When I think of pancreatic cancer, my mind immediately goes to my Grandmother, or as all of us called her, "MeeMa". As an older adult, she had become a practical nurse and worked the night shift at St. Anthony's Hospital in Michigan City. She was so happy when she found out that I was going into nursing. A year or so after my graduation, she started losing weight and was eventually diagnosed with Stage IV pancreatic cancer. My most vivid memory of her at that time was being with her in a private room after surgery with family gathered around her. Despite being tired and in pain, she had a smile on her face seeing her children and grandchildren around her. That smile stays with me today as I remember MeeMa.

At that time, there was very little that could be done for those with pancreatic cancer aside from surgery. While pancreatic cancer continues to be challenging, treatment may include surgery, radiation, and/or chemotherapy. There are numerous studies that are finding more effective ways to treat this disease. Some of these studies specifically target cancer cells, use vaccines, or other types of immunotherapy.

The pancreas sits behind the stomach where it releases enzymes that aid digestion and produces hormones such as insulin that help manage the blood sugar. Often there are few symptoms when pancreatic cancer occurs until after it has spread to other organs.

Symptoms that may occur include:

- Abdominal pain that radiates to your back
- Loss of appetite or unintended weight loss
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Yellow of your skin and the whites of the eyes (jaundice)
- Light-colored stools
- Dark-colored urine
- Itchy skin
- Blood clots
- Fatigue
- Elevated blood sugar (the vast majority of people with a new diagnosis of diabetes do not have pancreatic cancer)

You can reduce your risk of pancreatic cancer if you choose a healthy diet, maintain a healthy weight, and not smoke. If there is a family history of pancreatic cancer, especially in conjunction with cancers affecting the GI system, liver, kidney, uterine, breast, or prostate, consider meeting with a genetic counselor to determine if you might benefit from a genetic test to understand your risk of pancreatic cancer or other cancers.

In Loving Memory

Memorial donations were generously made by and for the following:

In Memory of Lois Huff*

Matthew Kasewurm
Edwin and Judith Folts
Sherry Lange
Gerald and Jane Kabelman
Charles and Beth Smith
William and Marsha Ammeson

In Memory of Dean Stanich

Erica Tobe
Jerry and Sioux McLane

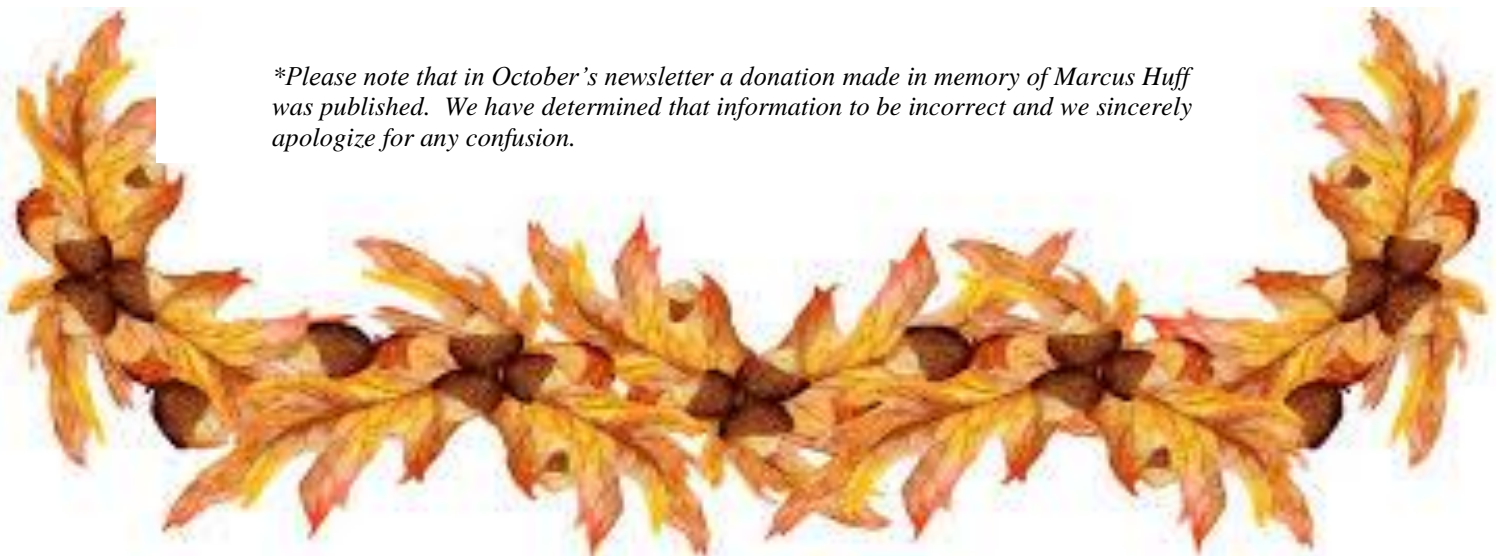
In Memory of Manroe Raschke

Brian and Coanne Hohman

In Memory of Lois Stepich

Janet Metheny

**Please note that in October's newsletter a donation made in memory of Marcus Huff was published. We have determined that information to be incorrect and we sincerely apologize for any confusion.*



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 November

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

Will not be meeting in November

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP
Lakeland Regional Medical Center

Will not be meeting in November

**CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
Art Play Workshop**

**Buchanan Art Center – Not meeting in
November**

**Krasl Art Center – Virtual Project
November 19th**

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

DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

November 1st – Cook for your Pets day
November 2nd – Cookie Monster’s Day
November 10th – Young Readers Day
November 14th – World Diabetes Day
November 17th – Homemade Bread Day
November 19th – Women’s Entrepreneurship Day
November 25th – International Hat Day
November 29th – Square Dancing Day
November 30th – Mason Jar 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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BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE, INC. – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OFFICE STAFF

Kimberly McCoy, Patient Care Coordinator
Suzanne Arent, 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