

# BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE NEWSLETTER

www.bccancerservice.org

In honor of the committed service of Olove Colcord, R.N.

## THE MISSION OF THE BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE:

To provide free skilled home nursing services, equipment, information and supplies at cost for cancer patients and their families in Berrien County.



December 2012

(269) 429-3281

VOLUME XXI

ISSUE XII

---

The **BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** is a group for patients, family members and care givers. Come share successes, feelings, fears and practical methods of coping with the physical and emotional aspects of living with the diagnosis of cancer.

---

## **My Song - Myrna Hunt** The story of a BCCS patient

Our Father which are in heaven, Hallowed be thy name  
They Kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
On Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
You said you would supply all my needs,  
According to your riches, I have but to ask and I shall receive,  
To go from here and share this love you gave to me,  
To show someone who's lost and help them find their way.

The way to truth and faith so they can be free like me.  
Lord we need your love, Lord we need your peace,  
Lord we need your joy, thank you for this day,  
We thank you for this day.

I love the Lord, he heard my cry and pitied every groan.  
Long as I live while troubles rise, I'll hasten to his throne.

Read about Myrna's encouraging story inside.



# One of Our Own, Myrna Hunt



half the hours of accumulated sick time when one retires. I retired with a total of 830 sick leave hours.

**I discovered a cyst on my left breast in November 1994.**

While on this journey, I discovered a cyst on my left breast in November 1994. My gynecologist removed the fluid from the cyst and sent it to the lab for testing. Abnormal cells were found and my gynecologist ordered me to have a biopsy. This procedure was done in January 1995. My biopsy report stated that no cancer was found, however, abnormal cells were found. I decided to stay ahead of anything coming to surface. I made sure I had a mammogram every year on time, so if anything did surface, it would be detected early.

## *My Story*

## *My Journey*

The cast you will read about are real people. There is no fiction. Everything is true about them.

My Journey began when I was born February 3, 1945. My parents named me Myrna Jean. My parents were George and Myrna Baker. I was born in Marshall, Michigan in Calhoun County.

I am the oldest of five children. We moved from Marshall to Niles, Michigan when I was two. I went to church school through ninth grade. I graduated in 1963 from Niles High School. I attended Oakwood University in Huntsville, AL., Andrews University and Southwestern Michigan College.

I met my husband, Delbert Hunt, June 1964 after our freshman year in College. We met at Skate-A-Rama Roller Rink. On August 13, 1967, we got married. On April 18, 1971, we were blessed with the most precious son. We named him Todd Christopher Hunt.

Todd was 8 months old when I committed my life and career to public service working for the Michigan Department of State. I worked faithfully from December 1971 until March 31, 2005 when I retired.

I lived a healthy lifestyle. I was rarely sick during my time on the job. For the record, the state only pays for

For 15 years I faithfully went for my mammogram. March 26, 2010, was the scheduled time. One week later, I received a call from my physician. It was Tuesday, I was visiting my mother in West Woods Nursing Center, the doctor reached me on my cell phone. He told me the results had come back, showing that I had breast cancer on the left side. In the mean time, the hospital's "Breast Care Center" called me in for an ultra sound and needle biopsy to confirm I had breast cancer. When I received the news, I immediately thought, this is my death sentence. All kinds of horror thoughts came into my mind.

My physician read the results of the needle biopsy and showed me that nothing had gone into my lymph nodes. I was most thankful for the good news. I kept wondering, "How did I get this disease?" Breast cancer does not run in my family. My mother had eight sisters, and not a trace of breast cancer showed up in any of them.

The support system I experienced was magnificent. My nurse and doctor magnified the mass on the screen. They informed me that I was in stage one of breast cancer. My mind was put at ease to learn that the lump in my breast was all that needed to be removed.

There is an organization at the "Memorial Breast Care Center" called *Women in Touch*. This is a very strong organization. I can't thank the Coordinator enough for

showing her support to me. She came from South Bend to Lakeland hospital for my surgery.

My doctor informed me that the lump would have to be removed surgically. He asked me if I had anyone in mind to do the surgery. I told him whom ever he suggested I would have that physician perform the surgery. I am so grateful for the surgeon my doctor recommended. After examining me, the surgeon was able to tell me that I was a good candidate for the mammosite radiation treatment which would follow my surgery.

The date of April 28 could not come too soon after being told on April 6 that I would be scheduled for surgery. I told our son of my diagnosis, as one would realize, he did not take the news very good. Todd came home from Omaha, Nebraska for my surgery. My instructions were to arrive at Lakeland by 8:30 a.m. Upon my arrival, my pastor and head elder met with me to have prayer. My pastor and elder prayed before I went in for my preliminary procedures prior to my surgery. Thank you for that prayer.

The Lakeland Breast Health Care Nurse Navigator met me at the front door and took me to admissions. She is an extraordinary person. I call her my Angel. She was in the operating room during my surgery and was with me each step of the way. I will never forget her. Before my scheduled surgery, my surgeon came into my room where my husband and son were by my side. I was prompted by a voice that said, "Ask your surgeon if he prayed this morning?" His response to me was, "Are you a believer?" I answered him by saying "I most certainly am." His response back to me was that he prayed that morning and he was going to pray again with us, us meaning, my husband, son and me. The doctor prayed the most beautiful prayer that morning and I regret that his prayer was not recorded. The fear I have before I went into surgery had disappeared and I knew that that everything was going to be all right. The doctor's prayer was a true blessing to me and I am grateful to him.

After my surgery, I had to receive radiation treatments. The radiation doctor said I could do ten treatments in five days, having two treatments a day – at 7:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The radiation doctor was the best. His staff was very knowledgeable, kind and compassionate.

Each morning my husband and I had to rise by 5:30 a.m. to be on time for my 7:00 a.m. appointment. Del, my husband, my soul mate, never murmured or complained about getting up early and driving me to St. Joseph. I thank God for Del, his patience with me and his untiring love.

Every day I arrived for my radiation treatments, a smiling face always graced me at the receptionist desk. I could always count on a beaming smile from her to keep my spirits up. There were technicians who administered my CAT Scans twice a day. The technician never let me leave radiation therapy without a good laugh. Thanks to him, he helped me to endure it all by putting a little fun and laughter in the mix. The radiologist was always at his post and I looked forward to him operating the radiation machine. He made sure he never got those wires crossed, and he never administered the radiation treatment until the doctor examined it first. My bandages over my incision had to be changed each day I went for radiation. The two nurses were gracious and sympathetic to me. Thank you for your smiles and doing your job so professional.

I want to give a special thank you to the Berrien County Cancer Service (BCCS) for coming to my home to change my bandages. The BCCS nurse was making sure I wasn't over doing anything at home that indicated I was doing too much. Thanks to all the in-home nurses, I truly salute you for being so caring to your patients.

I wasn't sure what I had to face following my radiation treatments. My Oncologist said, "if the chance of recurrence came back a high percentage, I would have to enter treatments of chemotherapy."

There is a diagnostic test called Oncotype DX that can determine the percentage of my breast cancer returning. The test was done and the best news came when I returned to the doctor's office. The physician's assistant, gave me my most hoped for news. The Oncotype DX showed a low percentage of recurrence of 0-5%.

After I received my low recurrence percentage, I had to thank God my Creator. I thanked Him for His Word, the Holy Bible. I thank Him for keeping me from giving into unhealthful habits or practices such as smoking, drinking alcohol, illegal drugs of any kind and even coffee. I strongly endorse the 8 laws of health which are Sunshine, Temperance, Exercise, Proper Diet, Fluid Intake, Air pure and fresh, Sleep, Recreation and Rest and trust in God. I make sure I receive 8-9 hours of sleep per night. For extra exercise in the winter, I bowl twice a week on a league for seniors. A good laugh every day helps to keep me in good health. The Bible says "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Proverbs 17:22

During this traumatic experience, I bonded with so many wonderful people, and each one had a part in My Journey, My Story and My Song. I salute every one of you for making my experience one I will always remember. I appreciate everything and everyone at the hospital.

# *In Loving Memory*

During October 2012, Memorial Donations were generously made by and for the following people

**In Memory of Norma Arnett**

Ruth & Doug LaFontaine, Bloomfield Hills

**In Memory of Clarence "Sonny" Ballard**

Julia & Jodi Ballard, Benton Harbor

**In Memory of Dr. John R. Bruni**

Mike & Marsha Ellis, Niles  
Lounette Hinkle, Berrien Springs  
Ann Rudman, Niles

**In Memory of Malvine Burke**

Ruth Twarucsek, Benton Harbor

**In Memory of Wyndol & Chad Butler**

Lue Butler, Sawyer

**In Memory Robert W. Cerny**

Erna Felgner, Karen, Kurt, Kathy & Families, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Edna M. Edwards**

Arlene, Janet Barchett & Bruce Bezant, Watervliet  
Vera Brightup, Benton Harbor  
Joseph & June Schommer, Dowagiac  
Kathy Slater, Kettering, Northampton United Kingdom

**In Memory of Ray Emerick**

John & Barbara Norton, Dowagiac

**In Memory of Edward Fester**

Harriet Fester, Bridgman

**In Memory of Gary Hardt**

Lakeland Health Care

**In Memory of Jane C. Johnson**

Anonymous

**In Memory of Michaeline Konar**

Joseph & Angela Jo Naines, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Jerry B. McCarty**

Sara Frost, Niles  
Ruth Olmstead, Galien  
Patricia L. Wilson, Springfield IL  
Anonymous

**In Memory of Louise White**

Robert F. White, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Florence Youngblood**

Kerry Dorstewitz, Sodus  
Jim & Linda Hays, Sodus  
Elsie Jasper, St. Joseph  
Dan & Kim Lummis, Mattawan  
Dorothy J. Thar, 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.



SEASONS GREETINGS  
FROM  
ALL OF US HERE AT BCCS  
TO ALL OF YOU!



## **BCCS donations to Berrien Community Foundation**

During the time period of January 1- December 31, 2012, the Berrien Community Foundation will provide a match of .50 cents (up to a maximum of \$1,000) on each dollar contributed to the Berrien County Cancer Service Endowment Fund at the Berrien Community Foundation. Checks should be made out to BCF/Berrien County Cancer Service Endowment Fund and mailed directly to the Foundation at the address below:

Berrien Community Foundation  
2900 South State Street, Suite 2 East  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

The full moon on the 28th is called "Cold Moon" by Native Americans of New England and the Great Lakes because at this time of the year the night is long, the days are short and so less sunlight means more cold days.

**Choose your friend wisely,  
Test your friend well;  
True friends, like rarest gems,  
Prove hard to tell.  
Winter him, summer him.  
Know your friend well.**

Looking Ahead

**BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville**

December 4 & 18 - 1:30 p.m.

January 1 & 15 - 1:30 p.m.

**BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles**

December 11 - 1:30 p.m.

January 8 & 22 - 1:30 p.m.

**OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville**

December 18 - 1:30 p.m.

January 15 - 1:30 p.m.

**RAINBOWS OF HOPE– St. Joseph**

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

December 13 - 5:30 p.m.

**Ostomy Support Group**

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

December 13 - 6:00 p.m.

**Man to Man – Prostate Support Group**

Trinity Center, St. Joseph

December 18 – 6:30 p.m.

**DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER**

December 1 - Special Education Day

December 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 4 - Special Kids Day

December 6 - National Sales Person Day

December 8 - World Choral Day

December 10 - Human Rights Day

December 14 - Monkey Day

December 16 - National Chocolate-covered Anything Day

December 19 - National Regifting Day

December 21 - World Peace Day

December 25 - CHRISTMAS

December 26 - National Cotton Candy Day

December 31 - New Years Eve

**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 the 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.  
7301 Red Arrow Highway  
Stevensville, MI 49127

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
STEVENSVILLE, MI  
PERMIT NO. 129

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE, INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Dr. Fred Busse ...President	Linda Beushausen	Dr. Peter Lai	Jolita Allene Smith
Cheryl Weise... V/President	Darlene Hawkins	Renee Parnell	Sally Taylor
Joseph M. Appel...Treasurer	Jerry Koch	JoAnn Pullen-Bruni, R.N	Tyanna Weller
Sharon Hainer...Secretary			

*Indicates Honorary Members	* Dr. Betty Koshy	* Dr. Gerald Kozuh	* Barbara Lane R.N.
	* Dr. Eric Lester	* Dr. Michael Method	* Hannah Noble
	* Dr. Edmund Paloyan	* Rita Reid	* Dr. Michael Rodriguez
	* Eileen Schultz	* Dr. Robin Zon	

**NURSING STAFF:**

Nancy Church, R.N. (Interim Executive Director)  
Connie Demler, R.N.  
Carrie Klint, R.N.  
Ruth Walker, R.N.

JoAnn Pullen-Bruni, R.N.  
Susan Lerke, R.N.  
Marilyn Dopp, R.N.

**OFFICE STAFF:**

Julie Koch (Accounting Manager)  
Claudia Brister (Office Manager)  
Henrietta Hein

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** – Stevensville Office

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month – 1:30 p.m.

**Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.**

7301 Red Arrow Highway  
Stevensville, MI 49127

Phone: (269) 429-3281 or (269) 465-5257

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** – Niles

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month – 1:30 p.m.

**Niles Senior Center**

1109 Bell Road  
Niles, MI 49120

Phone: (269) 429-3281

**RAINBOWS OF HOPE GROUP**- St. Joseph

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month – 5:30 p.m.

**Marie Yeager Cancer Center**

Ward and Kinney Room  
3900 Hollywood Rd.

St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 556-7114

**OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP**

2nd Thursday of each month- 6:00 p.m.

**Lakeland Regional Medical Center**

Community Room  
1234 Napier Ave

St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 983-8804

**MAN TO MAN** – Prostate Support Group

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month – 6:30 p.m.

**Trinity Center**

619 Main Street (use Main entrance)  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (800) 465-5244