

# BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE NEWSLETTER

[www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org)

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

## 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.



January 2018

(269) 429-3281

VOLUME XXV

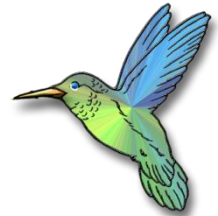
ISSUE II

---

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.

---

## Happy New Year 2018!



*Like birds, let us,  
Leave behind what we don't need to carry,  
Grudges Sadness Pain Fear And Regrets.  
Life is beautiful, enjoy it.*

*Happy New Year 2018.*

*Anonymous*



# BCCS Bulletin Board

**MANY THANK-YOUs** to those who provided Christmas for some of our patients: **Mary-Martha Circle of the First Congregational Church of St. Joseph**. They wrap all kinds of presents for our nurses to hand out at Christmas time. **Norma G.** made Christmas much more special for a family with food and presents for all! Thank you to the **Bunco Babes** and **Joyce B.** for giving funds to share with our patients who needed a little extra help this holiday season. It is the generosity of our community that allows us to touch people's lives in a special way beyond our nursing care. ***This support is so meaningful to those who are going through difficult times.....knowing that you are there.***

## ART PLAY WORKSHOPS – KRASL PARTNERSHIP



We are excited to partner with the Krasl Art Center on the following **Thursdays: February 15th, March 15th, and April 19th for additional Art Play Workshops above and beyond our usual two workshops per month.** 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 or are a stable pediatric cancer patient, please have them call 269-429-3281 and ask for Nancy regarding these workshops. You can also find out more information on our website [www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org) or FB page: Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.

## Grants Awarded!

We are excited to announce that BCCS was recently awarded 2 grants! The Berrien Community Foundation awarded us a \$4,000 grant for our loan closet to ensure that we have the equipment, medical supplies, and nutrition that is needed to assist those with cancer in our community. The Frederick S. Upton Foundation awarded us \$7,500 for nursing transportation and \$1,000 for our loan closet. We are very grateful for these grants and appreciate the support that the local foundations give to nonprofits in the area. The grants for the loan closet have enabled us to loan our durable medical equipment to anyone in Berrien County for the short term use of less than 3 months. Those with cancer are able to borrow equipment for as long as needed.



## Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

Just wanted to remind you that the BCCS office may be closed for snow days during inclement weather. **So if it is snowing, please call us first at 269-429-3281 prior to coming to the office to make sure that we are open.** On the days that the office is closed, the answering machine will be checked periodically. If you have a medical emergency, please call 911. Our nurses will notify their patients regarding home visits and often will make patient visits a day early if a snow storm is coming.



## IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO START COLLECTING PENNIES!

As we celebrate our **29<sup>th</sup> Annual PENNIES FOR PATIENTS™ DAY**, our goal is to surpass last year's total of \$20,194. ***Come join us in May 2018*** (date to be determined – we will let you know next month) and see the excitement of thousands of pennies being counted along with refreshments and fun. There will also be a new Niles location from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. with cookies and punch, stay tuned for more information on the exact location. **All the proceeds stay local to help those with cancer in our community.** Bring your pennies, silver, and dollars and join us for our **29<sup>th</sup> Annual PENNIES FOR PATIENTS DAY!**



## **Childhood Brain & Spinal Cord Tumors**

**A childhood brain or spinal cord tumor is a disease in which abnormal cells form in the tissues of the brain or spinal cord.**

There are many types of childhood brain and spinal cord tumors. The tumor may be benign or malignant. Benign brain tumors grow and press on nearby areas of the brain. They rarely spread into other tissues.

Malignant brain tumors are likely to grow quickly and spread into other brain tissue. When a tumor grows into or presses on an area of the brain, it may stop that part of the brain from working the way it should. Both benign and malignant brain tumors can cause signs or symptoms and need treatment.

Together, the brain and spinal cord make up the central nervous system.

**The brain controls many important body functions and has 3 major parts:**

- The cerebrum is the largest part of the brain. It is at the top of the head. The cerebrum controls thinking, learning, problem solving, emotions, speech, reading, writing, and voluntary movement.
- The cerebellum is in the lower back of the brain. It controls movement, balance and posture.
- The brain stem connects the brain to the spinal cord. It is in the lowest part of the brain (just above the back of the neck). The brain stem controls breathing, heart rate, and the nerves and muscles used in seeing, hearing, walking, talking, and eating.

**The Spinal cord connects the brain with nerves in most parts of the body.**

The spinal cord is a column of nerve tissue that runs from the brain stem down the center of the back. It is covered by three thin layers of tissue called membranes and are surrounded by the vertebrae (back bones). Spinal cord nerves carry messages between the brain and the rest of the body, such as a message from the brain to cause muscles to move or a message from the skin to the brain to feel touch.

**Brain and spinal cord tumors are a common type of childhood cancer.**

Although cancer is rare in children, brain and spinal cord tumors are the third common type of childhood cancer, after leukemia and lymphoma. Brain tumors can occur in both children and adults. Treatment for children is usually different than treatment for adults.

The cause of most childhood brain and spinal cord tumors is unknown. The sign and symptoms of brain and spinal cord tumors are not the same in every child.

**Signs and symptoms depend on the following:**

- Where the tumor forms in the brain or spinal cord
- The size of the tumor
- How fast the tumor grows
- The child's age and development

Signs and symptoms may be caused by childhood brain and spinal cord tumors or by other conditions, including cancer that has spread to the brain.

**Check with your child's doctor if your child has any of the following:**

- Headache that goes away after vomiting
- Frequent nausea and vomiting
- Vision, hearing, and speech problems
- Loss of balance and trouble walking
- Unusual sleepiness or change in activity level
- Unusual changes in personality or behavior
- Seizures
- Increase in the head size

**Spinal Cord Tumors Signs and Symptoms:**

- Back pain or pain that spreads from the back towards the arms or legs
- A change in bowel habits or trouble urinating
- Weakness in the legs
- Trouble walking, Sitting up

*Adapted from: cancer.gov*

# *In Loving Memory*

During November 2017, Memorial Donations were generously made by and for the following people:

## **In Memory of Nancy Jane Baggett**

Butch & Kaye Totzke, Berrien Springs  
Kathy Thornton & Family, St. Joseph  
Lindsay Reitz  
Biology Graduate Student Association

## **In Memory of Nancy Bradham**

Amber Dixon  
Linda Cheek, St. Joseph  
Sue & Jon Dixon, Mattawan  
David Golf, Bridgman  
Ruth Wood, Berrien Springs  
Raymond Paulson, St. Joseph  
American Electric Power, Canton OH  
Steve Castellino  
Bernie & Jan Becker, Auburn IN

## **In Memory of Naomi Coburn**

Grace Chester, Vandalia

## **In Memory of Edward Fester**

Harriet Fester, Bridgman

## **In Memory of Martha Gossett**

Ed Dunn  
Frank Joyce, Christine, Lori and  
Mark Burgeners, St. Joseph  
William & Barbara Vegter, Stevensville

## **In Memory of Michael Guess**

Pat Mangold, Stevensville  
Cassie Golomb, Coloma

## **In Memory of Diane Hale**

Fran Konya, St. Joseph

## **In Memory of Nelda Jean Kuschel**

Nora Nielsen, St. Joseph

## **In Memory of Max Rogalski**

Ruth Shuler, Baroda

## **In Memory of Margaret Rose**

Gordon Schreiber, St. Joseph

## **In Memory of Jerold Scoma Jr.**

Jim Shank & Family, St. Joseph  
David & Diane Boelcke, Stevensville  
Georgia Begnaud, Benton Harbor

## **In Memory of Jerold Scoma Jr. (con't)**

Pam & Steve Schmaltz, Sawyer  
Kathy & Charles Archey, Stevensville  
Janet & Doug Conner, Stevensville  
Lisa & Paul Siebert (Haughey), Chicago IL  
Larry & Danette Kiessell, Niles  
Coldwell Banker Anchor Real Estate  
Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph  
Garry & Sandy Sempert, Eau Claire  
Kristeen & Daniel Walter, St. Joseph  
Don & Joyce Baum, St. Joseph  
Harry & Joan Bullard, St. Joseph  
Denise Groenke, Eau Claire  
James & Lisa Bonahoom, Fort Wayne IN  
Carol Sue Merkel, Fort Wayne IN  
Ronald Sieber, Stevensville  
Jackie & Kali Ruppel, St. Joseph  
Scott Hollingshead, Buchanan  
Gail & Edward Roush, St. Joseph  
Gabriele & Steve Radies, Stevensville  
Mary Jane Johnson, St. Joseph  
Emery & Jessica Johnson, Rolling Prairie IN  
Carol & Roger Dinges, Baroda  
Nick & Cheri Nannfeldt, Berrien Springs  
Eugene & Janet Wolff, St. Joseph  
Linda & Gregory Henning, St. Joseph  
Steve Vonk, Bridgman  
Sherri & Lee Baun, Stevensville  
Karen Coffey, Stevensville  
James Chamers, South Haven  
Joseph Andrulis

## **In Memory of Rhonda Steinke**

Fred & Nadine Steinke, Eau Claire

## **In Memory of Roberta Ann "Robbie" Whittaker**

Dennis & Shirley Lee, Stevensville  
Scott Berry, Stevensville  
Norma Truhn, St. Joseph  
Charles & Arlene Dinges, Stevensville  
Larry & Joan Geis, Bolingbrook IL  
Great Lakes Eye Care P.C., St. Joseph  
Kellie Wright, Willman, MN  
Tamara Ackerman, St. Joseph  
Kristina, Nicole & Michael Nagle, Wilton CT  
Ronald & Patricia Collins, Homer Glen IL  
Pam Schueneman, St. Simons Island GA  
Brian & Lisa Dicristofano, Homer Glen IL

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.

***In Honor of Berrien County Cancer Service Staff***

Mary Sundblad, Stevensville

## Looking Ahead

### **BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville**

February 6 – 1:30 pm

March 6 – 1:30 pm

### **BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles**

February 20 – 1:30 pm

March 20 – 1:30 pm

### **RAINBOWS OF HOPE– St. Joseph**

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

February 8 – 5:30 pm

March 8 – 5:30 pm

### **CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP**

#### **Art Play Workshop**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at Marie Yeager Cancer Center

Go to [www.bccancerservice.org](http://www.bccancerservice.org) or call

BCCS at 269-429-3281 for details

### **OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP**

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

February 8 – 6:00 pm

March 8 – 6:00 pm

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY 2018**

January 1 – NEW YEARS DAY!

January 4 – Dimpled Chad Day

January 6 – Fruitcake Toss Day

January 7 – National Bobblehead Day

January 11 – Cigarettes Are Hazardous to Your Health Day

January 14 – Organize Your Home Day

January 16 – Nothing Day

January 23 – National Pie Day

January 26 – National Big Wig Day

January 27 – Rubber Duckie Day

January 29 – Seeing Eye Dog Day

January 31 – Inspire Your Heart With Art Day

#### **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).

#### **Thought For The Day**

*You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.*

## **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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**JOIN THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL**

Help us save postage, call 269-429-3281  
or email us at [staff@bccancerservice.org](mailto:staff@bccancerservice.org).  
If you are not reading the newsletter, you  
may contact us to be removed also. We  
value our readers & hope you enjoy it.

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



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

Dr. Melinda Gruber	Chair	Tim Brown	*Dr. Betty Koshy	*Hannah Noble
Dr. Gerald Kozuh	Vice Chair	*Dr. Fred Busse	*Peter Lai	*Dr. Edmund Paloyan
Joseph Dick	Treasurer	Sharon Hainer	*Barbara Lane R.N.	*Dr. Sapna Patel
Nancy Gothberg	Secretary	Darlene Hawkins	*Dr. Eric Lester	Jolita Allene Smith
Joshua Simons	Executive Comm.	*Jerry Koch	Mike Levi	Tyson Tharp

\*Indicates Emeritus Members

**NURSING STAFF:**

Nancy Church, R.N.	Executive Director	Jean Carow, R.N.
Connie Demler, R.N.		Susan Lerke, R.N.
Debra Hansen, R.N.		Kimberly Penney, R.N.

**OFFICE STAFF:**

Claudia Brister	Office Manager
Sarah Curtiss	Admin Assistant
Henrietta Hein	Office Clerk

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** – Stevensville Office

1<sup>st</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

**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 Road

St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 556-7114

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** – Niles

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

**Niles Senior Center**

1109 Bell Road

Niles, MI 49120

Phone: (269) 429-3281

**OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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