

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 compassionate in home skilled nursing care
and supportive resources for those affected by cancer
or related illnesses in Southwest Michigan.



December 2015

(269) 429-3281

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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.

To All of You



Merry Christmas!
Happy Holidays! &
Seasons Greetings!



From All of Us Here at BCCS



BCCS Bulletin Board

Art Festival



Our art festival was a lovely evening showcasing our first year of “Art Play” Workshops. The artists, children, volunteers, community, and BCCS staff came together to support children and families impacted by cancer in our community. The stylish displays featured the children’s art with sparkly Christmas decorations, a large variety of clay items including owls, plates, and masks to name a few, tie dye items, scarecrows, paintings, styroprints, jewelry, crafts, and other artistic projects. One of our artists, Debra Sawyer, and her music assemblage, Ah-Tu, provided live instrumentals and vocals to promote a relaxing, soothing environment. There were art stations for all to create Christmas ornaments, jewelry, and clay figurines, which provided a mini demonstration of our “Art Play” Workshops and featured our artists Holly Garces and Kim Bollman. Pam Kirkham who painted the “Fight or Flight” series featuring the oriole, was on hand as well as face painting by Jenni Bush of Funny Face. Clay Artist, Cathy Tapia, and Tie-Dye artist, Heather Rospierski, joined us for the evening to answer questions regarding their classes. Several children participants and class volunteers were there to enjoy the festival celebrating our first year. Jenny Miner of Water Street Glass Works invited everyone to make a tile for the community project to be installed in the Arts District Park in the spring of 2016 (an Upton Foundation grant). Delicious hors d’oeuvres were supplied by CK Catering and served by nursing student volunteers from Lake Michigan College and Andrews University. Many Thank You’s to Mike of Graphic Creek Photography, Greg of Rizzo Photos, the Veranda at the Whitcomb for tables, and Dave Pagel for apples. We greatly appreciate the Marie Yeager Cancer Center and all the volunteers who put much time and effort into this art festival and a HUGE THANK YOU to the Berrien Community Foundation for a grant this past year that made this dream a reality.

Our Condolences

The Board of Directors and staff of the Berrien County Cancer Service would like to send condolences to the family of Dr. Michael Rodriguez. Dr. Rodriguez was an oncologist at Michiana Hematology-Oncology in Mishawaka for many years. He also served as one of our Honorary Board Members. The community will greatly miss his contribution to the fight against cancer.

THANK YOU FROM OUR HEARTS

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful to everyone who has enabled us to reach out in a meaningful way to those with cancer and related illnesses in our community. It is you that care enough for others to keep our nurses going into the homes of those around us and bring in donations to our loan closet so that others have the needed medical equipment and medical supplies. It is you that bring in pennies and donations for our Pennies for Patients™ Day and get winded on bikes as you pedal through the countryside on our Bike Ride. It is you that bring wonderful food for our Open House and Quilt Raffle. So we say, ***“THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND MAY THE COMING YEAR BE FILLED WITH LOVE AND LAUGHTER FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY”***.



A special **“THANK YOU”** to the **Stevensville American Legion**. For many years – including this year, they have generously provided Thanksgiving food assistance for some of our patients.

Another caring group is the **Mary-Martha Circle of the First Congregational Church of St. Joseph**. They wrap all kinds of present for our nurses to hand out at Christmas time. It is the generosity of our community that allows us to touch people in a special way beyond our nursing care. This support is so meaningful to those who are going through difficulties, knowing that you are there.



A story from our Art Play Workshops

It was nearly a month ago when my children, husband and I were holed up in a hotel room due to some unfortunate circumstances at our home that left us temporarily homeless. We were doing our best to make the situation into a fun-filled adventure for everyone. It was in the quiet of our second night away from home though when my eldest son, shared his whole heart with me for the first time since I was diagnosed with Stage III Hodgkin's Lymphoma in June of 2014. My diagnosis hit hard for our entire family, but our eldest had remained steadfast and strong throughout. He saw it all, from my being hospitalized for eight days at the start with tubes and pumps and wires hanging from my body like contorted octopus limbs to being doubled over in agony with severe stomach cramps during chemotherapy so bad they made PMS seem like a cake walk. He watched as my hair fell out and even helped me shave my head that very first time. He was always the first to help Mom out with his younger siblings as I carried on through treatment and he still managed to have his best year ever in school. I gained remission in October of 2014, but continued chemotherapy until December of 2014 and recovery from treatment has been painstakingly slow. He was just six years old in first grade during my treatment, now seven and entering second grade. Little did we know just how much of his young childhood my illness had taken from him.

It was in the quiet of nighttime at the hotel then, with just me listening intently, that my son finally told me that he had been scared the entire time. In his words, "it was screaming inside of my head that you were going to die and I just couldn't get it out" and my heart broke into a million tiny shards for him. Something as simple as telling me he was that scared was something he hadn't allowed himself to put on me or my husband for all of this time. I don't remember him ever shedding a

single solitary tear the entire time I was sick, but his tears came quick and steady now.

I reflected on his revelation in the days following and continued to see how he had been affected by my illness. I wondered why he had suddenly opened up to me that night. And then it occurred to me that the only thing to have changed recently in our busy post-cancer lives was that he, and occasionally his younger brother and sister, had been attending Art Play classes offered by the Berrien County Cancer Service. The classes are free to children affected by cancer and they've been given a gift of working with all sorts of mediums including his favorite, clay, with a former preschool teacher of his. A big bonus is that the classes are offered all over the county and with children who he would not normally come into contact with.

I started to connect the dots between the classes and not only his recent revelation, but also his behavior in general. He has been kinder, gentler at times and more compassionate towards others since he began attending the Art Play classes regularly. It's as if when he attends the classes a heavy weight has been lifted from his tiny shoulders and getting to be a kid and express himself freely has really opened him up. It's also forced me to realize how much inadvertent pressure I was putting on him to continue being responsible for his siblings when I am now in fact "better" and am near completely capable of taking care of them myself. When asked how attending the classes makes him feel he uses just one word, and with the biggest grin ever, he simply says, "happy". Art Play has given my son his childhood back and for that matter my motherhood in a way that we both needed and for this I thank the Berrien County Cancer Service. I hope the program will continue for years to come and for other children who need this service so desperately.

Wendy L. Chapman August 2015

In Your Honor

In October 2015 donations were made by and in honor of the following:

In Honor of Olove Colcord
Kimberly Godfrey, Niles

In Loving Memory

During October 2015, Memorial Donations were generously made by and for the following people

In Memory of Beth (Klann) Kalin

Barbara Clark, Benton Harbor
Kappa Theta Chi Sorority, St. Joseph
Joseph & Wilma Appel, Benton Harbor

In Memory of Michael Bowers

Toni Jankoviak, Niles
Leslie Strychalski, South Bend

In Memory of Steve Brink

Edward & Marcia Koehler, St. Joseph

In Memory of Irene Fellner

George & Frances Krugh, Stevensville
Lonna & John Salnoske, Benton Harbor
Ursel Stawski, St. Joseph
Piet & Patty Keegstra, Eau Claire
Vikki Wade, St. Joseph
Lee & Kimra Myers, Stevensville
Gunar & Marlene Kampe, Berrien Springs

In Memory of Edward Fester

Harriet Fester, Bridgman

In Memory Margaret Foulkes

Joseph & Angelajo Naines, St. Joseph

In Memory of Deanna Rydleski Frietas

Amy Bert, Stevensville
Lois & Ken Redman, Metamora IL
Hanson International, St. Joseph
Anthony & Carol Dlouhy, Stevensville
Debra & Charles Pearson, Racine WI
Nancy Brown, Stevensville
Lisa Shiveley, St. Joseph
Erik & Irene Fiskars, St. Joseph
Bob & Carol Jarrett, Austin TX
Joyce Cerecke, St. Joseph
Sharon & Howard Sophn
Doug Mensinger, Baroda
Gene & Carol O'Riley, Hartford
Kurt & Christine Gerlach, Baroda

In Memory of Joseph Krejci

Eleanor Krejci, Stevensville

In Memory of Jackie McAllister

Joseph & Angelajo Naines, St. Joseph

In Memory of Rita G. Reid

Rachel Arent, Berrien Springs
Bradford Jay Smith, Niles
Cheryl Weise, St. Joseph
Catherine Kaufman, Portage
HandyPro of Southwest Michigan, St. Joseph
Barbara Lane, Benton Harbor
Jeanette & Dolores Fester, Benton Harbor
Rose Lucker, Benton Harbor
Corinne & Mike McGue, St. Joseph
Keith Layman, St. Joseph
Mary Smith, Cumming GA
Noreen Joyce, Burbank IL
Rodrick & Nancy Church, Berrien Springs
Dennis & Robin Mack, St. Joseph
Connie & Bob Demler, Baroda
Ronald & Deatra Hathcock, Stevensville
Erik & Irene Fiskars, St. Joseph
Joyce & Dale Delong, Benton Harbor
Doris Champagne, St. Joseph
Anthony & Carol Dlouhy, Stevensville
Fred & Linda Busse, Niles
Cheryl Glowacki, Stevensville
Denise Stewart, St. Joseph
John & Phyllis Wilk, Baroda
Christine Preston, Kalamazoo

In Memory of Valerie Romeo

John Benya, St. Joseph

In Memory of Elizabeth "Kay" Samm

Sherri Ryan, Stevensville
Leon & Joan Dodd, Dowagiac

In Memory of John Schaffrinski

Erika Guse Mai, Stevensville
Olga Linke, Bridgman
Trigo Pizza Company, Inc. Stevensville

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

Please Consider...

Looking Ahead

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville
December 1 – 1:30 p.m.
January 5 – 1:30 p.m.

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles
December 15 – 1:30 p.m.
January 19 – 1:30 p.m.

- RAINBOWS OF HOPE– St. Joseph
Marie Yeager Cancer Center
December 10 – 5:30 p.m.
January 14 – 5:30 p.m.

Ostomy Support Group
Lakeland Regional Medical Center
December 10 – 6:00 p.m.
January 14 – 6:00 p.m.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER 2015

- December 1 – Day With (out) Art Day
- December 2 – National Mutt Day
- December 4 – National Cookie Day
- December 5 – Bathtub Party Day
- December 7 – National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 10 – Human Rights Day
- December 12 – Gingerbread Decorating Day
- December 15 – Bill of Rights Day
- December 17 – National Re-gifting Day
- December 18 – National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
- December 20 – World Day of Prayer
- December 21 – Humbug Day
- December 25 – **Christmas Day**
- December 28 – National Chocolate Day
- December 31 – **New Year’s Eve!**

_____ 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!**

Newsletters available online and on email

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.

Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.
7301 Red Arrow Highway
Stevensville, MI 49127

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value our readers & hope you enjoy it.

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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville Office

1st 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

2nd 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

3rd Tuesday of each month – 1:30 p.m.

Niles Senior Center

1109 Bell Road

Niles, MI 49120

Phone: (269) 429-3281

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