

# 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



November 2014

(269) 429-3281

VOLUME XXII

ISSUE XI

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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.

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## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time to remember the blessings of yesterday, enjoy the blessings of today and cherish the promises of all of our tomorrows.

Thanksgiving is a season of the heart. Some celebrate every day with thanksgiving; some remember to be thankful only on this special day.

To those who have heavy hearts, Thanksgiving seems a paradox. It is a soul-searching holiday and may be difficult to find anything to be thankful for.

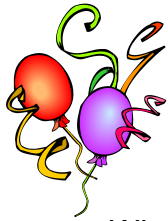


But everyone bears a private heartache, whether large or small, and with a few moments of contemplation, one finds there are many, many things to be thankful for. Thanksgiving is a special time. It is a time of sharing. We share heartaches, we share joys, we share blessings and forever. We share memories.

We pause at this Thanksgiving time and we give thanks for family and friends, shelter and food, faith and love and joy and peace in our land.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.





# BCCS Bulletin Board

## Celebrating BCCS!

What a joy it was to be able to interact with our friends at the BCCS Open House on Thursday, October 23! We were especially honored and surprised to be able to give Representative Fred Upton and Clay McCausland a tour of our office and detailed explanation of our mission. We thank everyone who made the BCCS Open House and Quilt Raffle a success! Congratulations to Judy Thompson who was able to take the quilt home. Her story of being a Cancer Survivor is told last month in our October 2014 newsletter. Congratulations to Judy and to all who bought tickets to make the quilt raffle a success. A total of \$1,800 was raised from the raffle. A special thank you to Julie Koch for the many hours she spent to lovingly hand stitch this beautiful quilt. A Special "Thank You" to Subway / The Wheaton Family for the wonderful lunch time sub sandwiches and to Michigan Pizza Hut Corp. for their generous pizza discount. You may see pictures of the Open House on our facebook page: Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.

## ***AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE BCCS NEWSLETTER***

We will be conducting a telephone survey regarding our newsletter during the months of November and December 2014. This short survey will be asking questions regarding relevance of our newsletter as well as your ability to receive the newsletter by email. It is important to us that our newsletter be relevant and fiscally responsible. With a printing of nearly 4,400 each month, we will be encouraging those who use email regularly to switch to our convenient email version. We will continue to have a printed newsletter for all who choose to continue to receive it in the mail. Thank you for your cooperation with the newsletter changes as we go forward in the new year.

## **Holiday Fashion Show**

Be dazzled by the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Fashion Show, "Holidays Wrapped in Pink" being sponsored by the Coloma Lioness Club. This fashion show will be held on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the D.A.N.K. located at 2651 Pipestone Rd near I-94 exit 29 in Benton Harbor. A \$15 donation includes the Fashion Show as well as a Salad Lunch with the doors opening at 11:30 a.m. For tickets or questions please call: 269-944-5859 for details. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Berrien County Cancer Service.



## **Appreciation for Falling for Quilts**

***Thank you to the Berrien Towne and Country Quilt Guild*** for their mini-quilt silent auction to benefit BCCS. Seeing over 200 quilts on display was amazing! The love and time of the local quilting artisans showed through in their remarkable artwork. If you missed it this year, you will want to make sure that you are there next year!

## ***Thank You from Tara***

A special thank you for those who came to show love and support for Tara and her family at the Spaghetti Dinner Benefit on Saturday, October 18. The family appreciates your expressions of care during the difficult time. You can continue to follow Tara's story on the facebook page, "Prayers for Tara Deam".



# Lending a Helping Hand

A Niles cancer patient and his family received a helping hand this week from a local petroleum products transportation company.

Kevin, who did not want his last name used in the story, said he was diagnosed with cancer in May. Since then, he and his family have had neither the time nor the financial resources to tackle a number of projects in and around their home in downtown Niles.

“When your husband has cancer, making sure he gets treated and cared for becomes your whole world,” said Kevin’s wife, Cassie. “Getting yard work done and other things just isn’t a priority. While the house is falling down around you your focus is on your husband.”

When Wolverine Pipe Line in Niles learned about Kevin’s story from the Berrien County Cancer Service – with the family’s permission – they decided to take action.

On Monday, nearly a dozen Wolverine employees spent the entire day completing a number of projects at the family’s home, including fixing a fence, replacing windows, doing yard work and installing a dehumidifier in the basement, among other things.

“I’m really grateful that they came out and helped,” Kevin said.

“Words can’t describe how grateful we are,” said Cassie. “It is such a relief to see some of this work get done and it makes you feel good to see that people care. It is inspirational.”

Wolverine Niles employee David Brooks said the company has been providing help to local people with its day of caring initiative over the past several years. Past projects include building a wheelchair ramp and deck for a Niles senior and doing a home repair project for a local person suffering from multiple sclerosis.

“We try to help people do the things that they can’t do themselves,” Brooks said. “We want to put joy in their heart, relief on their face and help rejuvenate their spirit.”

Kevin has been receiving treatment at Lakeland Hospital and additional care from the Berrien County Cancer Service, a non-profit organization that provides in-home nursing care and other supportive services to those affected by cancer or related illnesses in Southwest Michigan.

Renee Reid-Smith, BCCS community development liaison, said she too was grateful to see Wolverine help out one of the families they are assisting.

“It has given them a spirit to fight which you can’t measure,” she said.

Milano’s Pizza in Niles donated food to the family and workers Monday.

Quality Glass of Niles donated the new windows for the project.

***“We want to put joy in their heart, relief on their face and help rejuvenate their spirit.”***

Quote by: David Brooks, Wolverine Pipe Line Company



# *In Loving Memory*

During September 2014, Memorial Donations were generously made by and for the following people

**In Memory of Bert Ballard**

Garry & Deb Peterman, Stevensville

**In Memory of Joseph Blake**

Erwin & Dorothy Hasse, Benton Harbor

**In Memory of Pearl Burgdorf**

J.S. Vig Construction Co.

% Joe, Val, Renee & Families, Taylor

Mr. William Kohn, Livonia

Gloria & Jerry Hart, Canton

**In Memory of Gerald & Marilyn Conrad**

Glenn Conrad, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Terry Lyn Crouch**

Passaro, Kahne & Taylor Law Office,

Benton Harbor

**In Memory of Milton De Zwaan**

Carolyn Corteville, Benton Harbor

**In Memory of Ray Dillman**

Michael & Valerie, Wur & Rex, Kristen,  
& Eldie, Osceola

**In Memory of Brian Holt**

Duane Holt, Benton Harbor

**In Memory of Mari Israel**

Connie Foster, Stevensville

**In Memory of Lisa McPherson**

Eileen Schultz, Fort Myers

**In Memory of Henriette Mokowski**

Joan Verwilst, Niles

**In Memory of Michael Moore**

Ron & Char Hanners, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Walter Rudowske**

Karen Kuiper, Stevensville

Chuck & Earlene Whorton, Eau Claire

Janet Sherburn, Berrien Springs

Judy McGhee, Sawyer

Doris Helm, Berrien Springs

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.



## **November Thankfulness**

With November being the month of Thanksgiving, we would like to express our thankfulness for all the support and love that you, the community show to us throughout the year. Without your support in so many ways, we would not be able to impact those with cancer and related illnesses in our local community. Many of you have supported our signature fundraisers including collecting pennies (even the green paper ones) for our Pennies for Patients™ Day in May, have ridden or sponsored a rider in our annual Bike Ride, or bought quilt raffle tickets. Others have spent much time and energy by creating their own fundraiser with BCCS as the benefactor. To you, we are extremely grateful for the effort and love expended on our behalf to support our mission. Many have donated their time as volunteers or given us donations of medical supplies that can be used to help our patients and those in need. To all who have stopped by or sent a gift in the mail, we want you to know that your gift is a gift that will make a difference in someone's life. We also want to thank the dedicated nurses who travel in all kinds of weather to care for our precious patients and the staff who so diligently keep the office going and tend of all those who walk through our doors. To all of you, we are very grateful knowing that this is YOUR organization and it is because of YOU that we are able to care for those with cancer here in our community.

## Looking Ahead

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

November 4 & 18 – 1:30 p.m.

December 2 & 16 – 1:30 p.m.

### **BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles**

November 11 & 25 – 1:30 p.m.

December 9 & 23 – 1:30 p.m.

### **OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville**

November 18 – 1:30 p.m.

December 16 – 1:30 p.m.

### **RAINBOWS OF HOPE– St. Joseph**

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

November 13 – 5:30 p.m.

December 11 – 5:30 p.m.

### **Ostomy Support Group**

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

November 13 – 6:00 p.m.

December 11 – 6:00 p.m.

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER**

November 1 – National Caregivers Day

November 2 – Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 4 – Election Day

November 6 – National Men Making Dinner Day

November 9 – World Freedom Day

November 11 – Veterans Day

November 13 – World Kindness Day

November 14 – Operation Room Nurse Day

November 16 – International Day of Tolerance

November 19 – American Made Matters Day

November 20 – Great American Smoke out Day

November 23 – Doctor Who Day

November 25 – Shopping Reminder Day

November 27 – THANKSGIVING DAY

November 29 – National Day of Giving

November 30 – Stay Home because you're Well 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).

## *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.

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Henrietta Hein (Newsletter)  
Reneé Reid-Smith (Community Liason)

**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

**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  
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

**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