

# 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.



November 2017

(269) 429-3281

VOLUME XXIV

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The **BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**  
is a group for 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.



## We Thank Thee

For each hour of each day,  
For each minute spent at play  
For the seed you helped us sow  
For the blessed things that grow –  
We thank thee.

For the roses wild that run,  
For the trees that shade the sun,  
For the rainbows brilliant blend,  
For the showers that you send –  
We Thank Thee.

For the men who raise the wheat,  
For the bread we get to eat –  
For the cattle that we need,  
For the pastures where they feed –  
We thank Thee

For our humble, small abode,  
For the blessings you bestow,  
For the roof that shields the storm,  
For the walls that keep us warm,  
We Thank Thee.

*By Anthony J. Pettito*

# BCCS Bulletin Board

## ART FESTIVAL

On Tuesday, November 14 from 5:30 – 8:00pm at the Box Factory for the Arts, please join us for an enjoyable evening strolling through the beautiful art objects that children have created while taking part in our “Art Play” Workshops this year. Come talk with the families that have benefitted from this program about their experiences and art pieces.



**To make your evening memorable:**

- **Jenni Bush, a professional face painter**
- **Jeff & Theresa Heaton of Cheeky Chic-y Studio with a fun turntable interactive art project**
- **Other interactive art projects**
- **Refreshments (enough to feed your kids!)**
- **Live music by John Tolhuizen of Mockingbird and music students of Michael Koch**

“Art Play” Workshops are a BCCS community based therapeutic art program for children ages 5-17 who have been impacted by cancer (family member, friend, self). Come and learn about and experience the benefits of art as a means of expressing feelings. A BIG “Thank You” to Jamie Bingaman for hosting the BCCS Art Festival. The Box Factory for the Arts is located at 1101 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI. Come support these children and families of Berrien County. For more information: call 269-429-3281 or visit: [www.bccancerservice.org/events/art-festival](http://www.bccancerservice.org/events/art-festival).

## Christmas Sponsors Needed



**Christmas giving is always a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit. We always have families who are in need of a little extra help at Christmas. If you would like to help by giving a contribution or sponsoring a family, please give us a call at the office: 269-429-3281.**

## Thrivent Choice

We are pleased that Tracy Coombs, a Thrivent Financial Associate from St. Joseph reached out to us to present us with an opportunity to become a Thrivent Financial approved nonprofit organization. This means that if Thrivent is part of your financial portfolio, you are able to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to the Berrien County Cancer Service. Those Choice Dollars would then be used to provide skilled in-home oncology nursing to those with cancer and related illnesses in our community. Another exciting way that Thrivent Financial reaches out in the community is through Action Teams. We want to say, “Thank you” to Tracy for organizing a Thrivent Action Team for our Art Festival. If you are a Thrivent member and would like to know how to use the Choice Dollars program or organize a Thrivent Action Team, please contact Tracy Coombs at 269-605-4949.



**Check out our Website and Facebook page for additional events that are in currently being planned: Website – [bccancerservice.org](http://bccancerservice.org) Facebook – Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.**

# Pancreatic Cancer

## Key Points

- Pancreatic cancer is a disease in which malignant cells form in the tissue of the pancreas.
- Smoking and health history can affect the risk of pancreatic cancer.
- Signs and symptoms of pancreatic cancer include jaundice, pain, and weight loss.
- Pancreatic cancer is difficult to detect and diagnose early.
- Tests that examine the pancreas are used to detect, diagnose and stage pancreatic cancer.
- Certain factors affect prognosis and treatment options.

## **Pancreatic cancer is a disease in which malignant cells form in the tissues of the pancreas.**

The pancreas is a gland about 6 inches long that is shaped like a thin pear lying on its side. The wider end of the pancreas is called the head, the middle section is called the body, and the narrow end is called the tail. The pancreas lies between the stomach and the spine.

The pancreas has two main jobs in the body:

- To make juices that help digest food.
- To make hormones such as insulin and glucagon, that help control blood sugar levels. Both of these hormones help the body use and store the energy it gets from food.

The digestive juices are made by exocrine pancreas cells and the hormones are made by endocrine pancreas cells. About 95% of pancreatic cancers begin in exocrine cells.

## **Signs and symptoms of pancreatic cancer include jaundice, pain, and weight loss.**

Pancreatic cancer may not cause early signs or symptoms. Signs and symptoms may be caused by pancreatic cancer or by other conditions. Check with your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Jaundice
- Light-colored stools
- Dark urine
- Pain in the upper or middle abdomen and back
- Weight loss for no known reason
- Loss of appetite
- Feeling very tired

## **Pancreatic cancer is difficult to detect and diagnose early.**

Pancreatic cancer is difficult to detect and diagnose for the following reasons.

- There aren't any noticeable signs or symptoms in the early stages of pancreatic cancer.
- The signs and symptoms of pancreatic cancer, when present, are like the signs and symptoms of many other illnesses.
- The pancreas is hidden behind other organs such as the stomach, small intestines, liver, gallbladder, spleen and bile ducts.

## **The following Stages Are Used For Pancreatic Cancer**

Stage 1. Cancer has formed and is found in the pancreas only.

Stage 2. Cancer may have spread to nearby tissue and organs and may have spread to lymph nodes near the pancreas.

Stage 3. Cancer has spread to the major blood vessels near the pancreas.

Stage 4. Cancer may be any size and has spread to other parts of the body.

Stage 5. Cancer may be of any size and has spread to distant organs, such as the liver, lungs and peritoneal cavity.

# *In Loving Memory*

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

**In Memory of Naomi Coburn**

Victoria Holt, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Gary J. Groat**

Margaret Collins

**In Memory of Dan Johnson**

Don & Diana Kamp, Stevensville

**In Memory of Dorothy Lake**

Rodney Nimitz, Kalamazoo

Joyce & Lawrence Effa, Stevensville

Raymond & Roberta Whittaker, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Mary Ann Lolmaugh**

Beverly Matthews, Buchanan

**In Memory of Margaret Rose**

Cathy Koeppe, St. Joseph

Kaye LaVee Swanson, St. Joseph

Carolyn Corteville, Benton Harbor

Les & Donna Collins, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Margaret Rose (con't)**

Dee Flippo, Stevensville

Kerry Lewis, Stevensville

Chylon Poluhanyca, Baroda

Eden & Justin Airbets, Big Rapids

Carol Marshall, Stevensville

Dawn & Steve Consolino, Coloma

Gary & May Sisson, St. Joseph

Linda Cheek, St. Joseph

Christina Newton, Haslett

Robert & Lydia Dearing, St. Joseph

Lonna & John Salnoske, Benton Harbor

Mary Ellen & Carter Scales, St. Joseph

Carol Wesner, St. Joseph

**In Memory of Ron Schaffer**

Wendy Lozeau, Bridgman

Otis Watkins, Sawyer

**In Memory of Helen Trail**

John & Phyllis Wild, Baroda

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**

Jim and Char Matthews 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
Gene Lolmauch & Beverly Matthews

### **Thought For The Day**

From your parents you learn love and  
laughter and how to put one foot before the other.  
But when books are opened you discover that you have wings.

*Helen Hayes*

## Looking Ahead

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

November 7 – 1:30 pm  
December 5 – 1:30 pm

### **BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles**

November 21 – 1:30 pm  
December 19 – 1:30 pm

### **RAINBOWS OF HOPE – St. Joseph**

Marie Yeager Cancer Center  
November 9 – 5:30 pm  
December 14 – 5:30 pm

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

#### **Art Play Workshops thru November**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at Buchanan Art Center  
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  
November 9 – 6:00 pm  
December 14 – 6:00 pm

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER 2017**

November 1 – Stress Awareness Day  
November 2 – Cookie Monster Birthday  
November 5 – Daylight Savings Time Ends  
November 7 – ELECTION DAY  
November 10 – NET Cancer Awareness Day  
November 13 – World Kindness Day  
November 16 – World Pancreatic Cancer Day  
November 19 – Mother Goose Day  
November 23 – THANKSGIVING DAY  
November 25 – World Day of Giving  
November 27 – Cyber Monday  
November 29 – Square Dancing Day  
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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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

**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

**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

**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