

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



March 2017

(269) 429-3281

VOLUME XXIV

ISSUE III

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.

A Little Laugh

Where can a man buy a cap for his knee,
Or the key to a lock of his hair?
Can his eyes be called an academy because
There are pupils there?
Is the crown of your head where jewels are found?
Who travels the bridge of your nose?
If you wanted to shingle the roof of your mouth,
would you use the nails of your toes?
Can you sit in the shade of the palm of your hand
Or beat on the drum of your ear?
Can the calf in your leg eat the corn off your toe?
Then why not grow corn on the ear?
Can the crook of your elbow be sent to jail?
If so, just what did he do?
How can you sharpen your shoulder blades?
I'll be darned if I know – do you?

Author Unknown



BCCS Bulletin Board

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS – THE POWER OF A PENNY!



Would you believe what the power of a penny is? Since it started, Pennies for Patients Day has raised \$464,085.05! Fortunately, this has not all come as “pennies”. When bringing your pennies in, remember, we love silver and green paper pennies also! As we celebrate our **28th Annual PENNIES FOR PATIENTS™ DAY**, let’s pass up last year’s total of \$22,017.32. **Come join us in May 11, 2017** any time between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., so if you’re an early bird or not, we have a time for you!

Come and see the excitement of thousands of pennies along with refreshments and fun. There will also be a Niles location on Main and 3rd Street from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. with cookies and punch. All the proceeds stay local to help those with cancer in our community. Bring your pennies, silver, and dollars and join us for our **28th Annual PENNIES FOR PATIENTS DAY!**

Calling all BCCS Volunteers!



National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate people doing extraordinary things through service. This year it will be celebrated April 10-15, 2016. **Our 4th annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception will be held Thursday, April 7, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** We know that this is a week early, but we know that volunteer week is a very busy week for many of you since you volunteer at multiple places! **Come and join us for food and fun – and take a break, we will supply the food!**

ART PLAY WORKSHOPS

Our new schedule and the registration for the 2017 Art Play Workshops are on our website at www.bccancerservice.org. These art workshops are for children who are impacted by cancer and are designed to encourage expression of feelings. 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 the family call 269-429-328. Our March workshops dates: March 9 at the Marie Yeager Cancer Center and March 13 at Buchanan Art Center.



Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, don’t forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®. Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don’t let designated Choice Dollars expire! Eligible Thrivent

Financial members who have been designated Choice Dollars have until March 31, 2017 to direct any remaining 2016 Choice Dollars. The Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc. is an approved to receive Choice Dollars.

Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt.



Stevensville 4 Corners

She’s done it again! Ashley Weber, our extraordinary teen volunteer has set up to collect contributions for Pennies for Patients Day at Stevensville’s 4 Corners. Come by John Beers Road and Stevensville Baroda intersection on Friday, April 21st between 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. to give your donation to the BCCS volunteer at the intersection. Over the past several years, Ashley has collected over \$10,000.00 for BCCS!!! What an amazing volunteer!

My Mother's Story

My parents had their colonoscopies performed on August 18, 2009. It was during this routine colonoscopy that a mass was found in my mother's colon. On Wednesday, August 26, 2009, the Thomas family lives would change forever. It was confirmed the mass found in my mother's colon was not only cancerous but it had metastasized to her other organs. And before you ask, yes, she did have her regular colonoscopies as scheduled. But in her case, she had a rare and aggressive form of colon cancer. This came as a shock to our family as the matriarch was struck with this devastating and life threatening illness.

My mother was not one to feel sorry for herself or ask "why me." She started with the help of Lakeland Medical Center looking into area resources and Berrien County Cancer Services was highly recommended. They were like an oasis in the middle of a desert to our family. We wanted mama to be comfortable and treated with dignity, not pity, and that is what she received from the nurses who came to care for her. The nurses were not only skilled but compassionate and engaging professionals. They didn't talk *at* my mother but *to* her. The nurses got to know my mother as well as the rest of the family. They answered questions and assisted my mother with any discomfort that came up due to the treatment and illness.

What most impressed me about the home visits is the nurses didn't rush in and rush out, but took their time with my mother and were very thorough, supportive and patient. Whenever my mother or anyone from the family called with questions we never felt like we were an inconvenience. With each visit we became more and more relaxed while my mother was being attended to because we knew she was in good hands. The Berrien County Cancer Services is a wonderful agency in our community. While we were faced with the most painful dilemma, as a family, we were not left to deal with it alone. My mother, before she passed, expressed her gratefulness to the nurses from Berrien County Cancer Services and we, her family, echo her sentiments. Thank you!

Ruby Thomas

Irish Blessing

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.



In Loving Memory

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

In Memory of Craig Burandt

Denita Demler, Kalamazoo
Joyce Both, Stevensville
Lucy Hinder

In Memory of Joyce Butler

Lesten Alston, Benton Harbor

In Memory of Ann & Ellwin Coulston

Ellwin & Rucilla Coulston Fund

In Memory Lois Fisher

Rae Brandonisio, St. Joseph
John Gearhiser, St. Joseph

In Memory of Johnny Gorman

Eva Gorman, Berrien Springs

In Memory of Winifred Hatfield

Alexis Hager, Three Oaks

In Memory of Kim Hocker

Pat Coons, Niles

In Memory of Frank Hoffman

Shelle & Richard Dragomer, Stevensville
Donald & Diana Kamp, Stevensville
Curly Karsten & Tom Weber, St. Joseph
Loren & Margaret Gerber, Stevensville
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Coffey, Stevensville
David Marks, Kalamazoo
Todd & Kathleen Adams, St. Joseph
Jennifer Kitchens, St. Joseph

In Memory of Helen “Kay” Kuball

Jeanette Fester, Benton Harbor

In Memory of Jared Schuck

Francis Wright Trust, Galien

In Memory of Betty Swanson

Greg & Susan Lyman, Traverse City

In Memory of Adam Tilly

Rebecca Eichler

In Memory of Lally Ulery

Ruth Stanton, 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.

Thought For The Day

An Irish Blessing

May the “Leprechauns be near you,
To spread Luck along your way,
And may all the Irish Angels,
Smile on your St. Patrick’s Day”.

Looking Ahead

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville

March 7 – 1:30 p.m.

April 4 – 1:30 p.m.

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles

March 21 – 1:30 p.m.

April 18 – 1:30 p.m.

RAINBOWS OF HOPE– St. Joseph

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

March 9 – 5:50 p.m.

April 13 - 5:30 p.m.

Ostomy Support Group

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

March 9 – 6:00 p.m.

April 13 – 6:00 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH 2017

March 1 – Pig Day

March 3 – Employee Appreciation Day

March 6 – Oreo Cookie Day

March 9 – World Kidney Day

March 12 - Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 13 – Napping Day

March 15 – Buzzard Day

March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day

March 19 – National Certified Nurses Day

March 20 - First Day of Spring

March 21 – National Agriculture Day

March 24 – World Tuberculosis Day

March 27 – Mule Day

March 30 - Doctor’s Day

March 31 – National Prom Day

Newsletters available online

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.

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.
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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OFFICE STAFF:

Claudia Brister (Office Manager)
Mantissa Schuler (Admin. Assistant)
Henrietta Hein (Office Clerk)

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