

# 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



September 2017

(269) 429-3281

VOLUME XXIV

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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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## It's September

It's September, and the orchards are afire with Red and Gold,  
And the nights with dew are heavy, and the morning's sharp and cold;  
Now the garden's at its gayest with the salvia blazing red  
And the good old-fashioned asters laughing at us from their bed;  
Once again in shoes and stockings are the children's little feet,  
And the dog now does his snoozing on the bright side of the street.

It's September, and the cornstalks are as high as they will go,  
And the red cheeks of the apples everywhere begin to show;  
Now the supper's scarcely over ere the darkness settles down  
And the moon looms big and yellow at the edges of the town;  
Oh, it's good to see the children, when their little prayers are said,  
Duck beneath the patchwork covers when they tumble into bed.



*Edgar A. Guest*



United Way  
of Southwest Michigan

# BCCS Bulletin Board

## Open House

**STOP ON BY!** Join us for our annual Open House on **Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** We will have a table full of refreshments (and you know we always have delicious food!), so stop by for lunch or on your way home. We will be having tours and giving away prizes. Bring a friend and enjoy the fun!



## “TEAM UP AGAINST CANCER”

**Grab your pom poms and join the fun at the St. Joseph High School varsity football game in Dickinson Stadium on Friday, October 6.** This will be a particularly exciting game for the St. Joe Bears vs. the Niles Vikings. The gates open at 5:00 p.m. with the game starting at 7:00 p.m. Food vendors, a survivor walk, memory ribbon on field formed post-game, cancer resource information tables and a pink football jersey exchange to the sponsors will highlight the evening festivities. **To find out how you can order an event T-shirt or Hoodie, please go to the Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc. Facebook page or the website: [www.bit.ly/TUAC2017](http://www.bit.ly/TUAC2017).** “Team Up Against Cancer” is a community fundraising and educational event dedicated to helping those fighting cancer, provide education regarding the prevention of cancer, and to celebrate cancer survivors. All proceeds will go to assist local cancer patients in SW Michigan and will be distributed to the following organizations: 1) Marie Yeager Cancer Center that cares for over 83% of our cancer patients in Berrien County and provides oncology/hematology services for our local cancer patients, education, supportive resources; 2) BCCS that provides local cancer patients skilled oncology nursing services, medical equipment, nutrition, comfort care items, emotional support through adult support groups and “Art Play” workshops for children and their families impacted by cancer...all at no cost to Berrien County residents.



## ART FESTIVAL

**On Tuesday, November 14 from 5:30 – 7:30pm 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 children and their families that have benefitted from this program about their experiences and art pieces along with our talented artists, volunteers, and staff. There will also be interactive art projects, appetizers, and music to make your evening memorable. “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). 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. You may call us for more information at 269-429-3281 or on our website at: <http://www.bccancerservice.org/events/art-festival>.



If you would like to volunteer or be a sponsor for the Art Festival, please contact Nancy at 269-429-3281.

# Cheryl's Story

**I learned about Berrien County Cancer Service** from my oncologist. He mentioned to me that nurses from there would be able to come to my house to draw blood if I needed them. At the time, I was able to get out yet for chemotherapy and tests and appointments and I presumed it would stay that way. I was in for a rather rude awaking!

The entire set of sequences set the stage for my own surprise at the needs I would have. My brother had colon cancer – in fact, by the time it was discovered, it had already metastasized to his liver and lungs. He was 56 when he passed away but he had distinct disadvantages he was a quadriplegic and he did not have early testing to discover the fact that he had cancer. I had signs of it but I thought – “I’m okay” yet I had symptoms, followed by a colonoscopy and I learned that very day it looked like cancer, colon cancer. I did then prepare for the time when test results were confirmed I did not want to tell my daughter and grandson with whom I lived until I knew the results. It seemed a long time to keep the secret. Soon it was not necessary as colon cancer was confirmed, Stage II colon cancer. A surgery date was set and it was then discovered that it was Stage III. Recovering at home it became obvious that none of what happened was not going to be as easy as I had hoped it would be. I suffered a TIA, or mini stroke, and had to spend a few days in the hospital and then come home to resume my recovery. Up to that point I continued to go to Sunday School, Church, and Bible Study and chemotherapy,

but it was becoming more difficult to get out. I had a reaction to the chemo and again I presumed I would just be put on another but was told that would not be happening but I continued to take oral medication for the cancer but gave up getting out because of pain and fatigue. It was then I requested help from Berrien County Cancer Services. Soon, a nurse was stopping by to draw blood for my blood tests and check to see if I had any need for service items, such as wheelchair, shower chair, etc.

To me they were a beacon of light when things got a bit tough. And, let’s be honest, Cancer is TOUGH. There are days – or merely moments that you are transported to BC – (Before Cancer) at the onset, I told the Nurses I’d rather laugh than cry – and I still feel that way. But, there is no shame in emotions overcoming our journey. The Nurses have afforded me the privilege to do either. I can share a story, a laugh or even a few tears and know that they care enough about my physical and emotional well-being that they allowed me those moments and possibly even join in!

I thank them for all they have been and done for me and I am pleased to say that they have given me a gift. The gift of care. A genuine and very appreciated gift of caring and I don’t know what I would have done without their expert care and guidance on the journey of my colon cancer. Thank you All for being Special Care Givers!

Cheryl A. Ponder

## Thought For The Day

Accustom yourself continually to  
Make many acts of love,  
For they enkindle and melt the soul.

*Teresa of Avila*



# *In Loving Memory*

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

**In Memory Gail C. Cheeseman**

Bonnie Behm, Niles  
Shannan Kuntz, South Bend IN  
Carolee Dalrymple, Galien  
Kathy Holderread, Sawyer

**In Memory of Lucille M. Everett**

Jim & Thelma Simpson, Peoria AZ

**In Memory of Marlene Kugle**

Susan Engler, St. Joseph

**In Memory of John Allen Martin**

Victoria Woodward

**In Memory of Richard Lee Sandel**

Daniel Sandel, Lawrenceville, GA

**In Memory of Beverly Ulrath**

Anita Kincaid  
James & Nancy Kirk, Bridgman  
Donna Hogan, Plant City, FL

**In Memory of William Vorel**

Otis Watkins, Sawyer  
Wendy Lozear, Bridgman

**In Memory of James Albert Wishart**

Gerald & Anita Oglesby, Covert  
Blaine Brown, Sun City Center, FL  
Jane Sullivan, Rochester, NH  
Carolyn Harmon, Ellenton, FL  
Sherry Vonk, 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.

# *In Honor of*

**The Marriage of Curt Vander Waal and Rebecca Wright**

Doug and Janell Jones, Berrien Springs  
Raquel Degroot

## Looking Ahead

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

September 5 – 1:30 pm

October 3 – 1:30 pm

### **BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles**

September 19 – 1:30 pm

October 17 – 1:30 pm

### **RAINBOWS OF HOPE– St. Joseph**

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

September 14 – 5:30 pm

October 12 – 5:30 pm

### **Ostomy Support Group**

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

September 14 – 6:00 pm

October 12 – 6:00 pm

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER 2017**

September 1 – National Lazy Mom’s Day

September 4 – LABOR DAY

September 7 – National Attention Deficit Disorder Day

September 8 – Stand Up to Cancer Day

September 10 – Grandparents Day

September 13 – Scooby-Doo Day

September 15 – Constitution Day/Pledge Across America

September 17 – Wife Appreciation Day

September 20 – National Rehabilitation Day

September 22 – National White Chocolate Day

September 24 – Bluebird of Happiness Day

September 26 – National Dumpling Day

September 28 National Good Neighbor Day

September 30 – Nickelodeon’s Worldwide Day of Play

#### **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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Mantissa Schuler (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