



Serving Isabella County in Patient Support, Education and Research

www.isbellacommunitycancer.org

Spring 2021

## “Silver Linings”

Suzanne Courser

My niece Marcy was diagnosed with breast cancer in January of 2016. Surprised by this, her first thought was for her young children. She knew she had to win her battle for her children as well as herself.

Fight she did! She faced it full force and with a positive attitude. Cancer didn't stand a chance! Marcy had a whole army on her side including her children, parents, siblings, aunts and uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and a large group of friends to help her in this battle. Her chemo treatments were called her cocktails. She had a head shaving party. She rocked the many hats she received as gifts.

Marcy found a “silver lining” in every treatment. She had family and friends that would take her to and from treatments. She took a selfie with each and everyone of those who attended her “cocktail parties.” Her family celebrated her last cocktail party with balloons, food and faith that Marcy had beaten “CANCER.”

Marcy was so grateful for all the support that she received that she became co-chair of the “Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk” - the cancer walk that helped to support Marcy and many other cancer patients of Isabella County. Marcy and her family raised money for CCS, their way of saying “thank you.”

Cancer decided in September of 2020 that it wanted to challenge Marcy again! This time Marcy was diagnosed with triple negative metastatic breast CANCER.

Marcy armed herself, her army behind her, her fight began once again! Marcy has tried two different treatment plans with no positive results. She is now trying plan #3. She returned to Ann Arbor on May 6th to continue her fight.

Marcy is more than just a cancer fighter. Even though cancer is spreading in her body, Marcy is not about feeling sorry for herself. Every Facebook post Marcy lets you know what “silver lining” she has found. Here are just a few: “wow! I'm losing my hair, I don't have to worry how my hair looks”, “I have two wigs to wear”, “let your faith be bigger than your fears”, “I am happier because I've learned what matters”, “my cocktails have become my new happy hour.”

Marcy has such a positive attitude, and she is such a fighter. I feel it is a great honor to be called Aunt Suzanne. To know Marcy is to love her!

Love you Marcy! Aunt Suzanne

## Mileage Reimbursement Program

Did you know that CCS will help pay your mileage to and from cancer treatments and help with out of town lodging? Last year CCS provided almost \$61,000 in medical milage and lodging. We are your local cancer organization and are here to help you during this stressful time. For more information call Vanda, the Patient Coordinator at 989-772-2425. All calls and clients are confidential.

*CCS is not affiliated with American Cancer Services*

## CCS Makes a Difference in Isabella County

- Helping Isabella County cancer patients since 1982.
- An all volunteer organization
- Almost every penny earned goes to meet patient needs.
- Pays transportation and some out of town lodging and expenses.
- Supports the Nancy Carey Support Group.
- Your tax deductible donations, gifts, and memorials stay in Isabella County for patient support, education and research.
- Provided \$60,837 financial support in 2020 to cancer patients in Isabella County.
- Has an agreement with I-Ride for free transportation to local treatment.
- We are your local cancer organization.



*“Suzanne Courser and Tina Powell receiving check from Annie Sanders President of Gratiot Isabella County United Way”*

## **It Takes A Community – Redux!!**

In the September 2019 CCS Newsletter, I wrote an article about the incredible support that CCS received from United Way of Gratiot and Isabella Counties via a \$10,000 Matching Challenge Grant. I was totally unprepared for the support that United Way AND the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation extended to CCS in 2020 and 2021 during a pandemic not experienced by the world since 1918.

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## It Takes A Community – Redux!! *continued from pg. 1*

In 2020, United Way once again offered a \$10,000 Matching Challenge Grant for CCS. CCS was able to raise and surpass the matching dollar amount, thus guaranteeing a \$10,000 donation from United Way. However, United Way continued to reach out to CCS to apply for – and receive – two additional grants – the United Way Covid 19 Grant for \$2500 and the United Way Community Grant for \$5000! In a year in which CCS could not hold its two major fundraisers – Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk and the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Band Veterans Concert – receiving these grants helped us to provide support to ongoing and new cancer patients.

CCS extends heartfelt thanks to the generous support of corporate, foundation and private individuals in Isabella County. We want to give special thanks to Isabella Bank, the Morey Foundation, Rick McGuirk, the Bill Sowle family, and so many other members of the Mt. Pleasant community for enabling CCS to raise the \$10,000 necessary to receive the matching challenge grant.

In addition to the United Way grants, we were approached to apply for a grant from the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation (MPACF). CCS is incredibly thankful for the assistance from MPACF in completing the grant application process – and even more thankful that CCS was awarded a \$20,000 grant – the largest that MPACF awarded in 2020!! CCS will use these funds to assist needy residents of Isabella County with cancer-related expenses not covered by insurance, such as mileage and lodging for cancer treatment.

And now it is 2021 and our community is still in the throes of the Covid 19 pandemic. Once again United Way has offered CCS a \$10,000 Matching Challenge Grant. If you would like to assist CCS in raising the matching \$10,000 – it's easy!! During the month of June simply make a check payable to United Way of Gratiot and Isabella Counties, designating Community Cancer Services (CCS) in the memo line, and send it to United Way, 524 East Mosher Street, Suite 400, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Your assistance will help ease the burden of cancer patients and earn their grateful thanks!

Diane Lambart Fleming

CCS Community Liaison Coordinator

### Current CCS Board Members

#### **President**

Richard Fleming .....989-772-5556

#### **Vice President**

Betty Campbell .....989-773-9639

#### **Immediate Past President**

Suzanne Courser..... 989-644-2504

#### **Treasurer**

Tina Powell..... 989-772-1209

#### **Service Coordinator**

Vanda Barker.....989-772-2524

#### **Secretary**

Deonna Kremsreiter .... 989-330-1978

#### **Publicity**

Laurie Peters.....989-560-4834

#### **Memorials Coordinator**

Zora Walsh .....989-506-3461

#### **Historian**

Jane Clark .....989-773-3596

#### **Board Members**

Donna Parr .....989-772-3925

Ruth Anne Sowle .....989-773-7648

Don Bertsch .....989-772-1424

Norm Eifler .....989-773-7789

Pam Goudreau .....989-330-4504

#### **Honorary Member**

Harold Cook.....989-944-1610

#### **Community Liaison Director**

Diane Fleming.....989-775-5556

#### **Public Education Coordinator**

Pam St. John .....989-400-1832

#### **Mastectomy Counselors**

Ruth Anne Sowle .....989-773-7648

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Laurie Peters.....989-560-4834

## Thank You: Memorial Contribution from Paulette Schieber

CCS would like to thank the family of Paulette Schieber for her very generous memorial contribution to CCS at the time of her passing. Paulette was on the board of CCS for over ten years and was a strong organizer and cheerleader for the Into the Light cancer walks. She was an almost one-woman publicity team recruiting new members for CCS and also many workers, followers and participants for the Into the Light walk. This was one of her passions – to help family, friends and neighbors with their fight against cancer. Thank you, Paulette.

## Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk – 2021

*“HONOR - ENCOURAGE – REMEMBER”*

*This year's walk is scheduled for September 24th at the Isabella County Fairgrounds. This year we are going to focus our walk with more time “Honoring our Survivors. Encouraging our Fighters and Remembering those who lost their battle to CANCER.”*

*We're going to encourage the community to form teams and purchase luminaries for family and friends who are survivors, fighters, and loved ones who have lost the battle. For more information contact Suzanne Courser at 989-644-2504 or 989-621-4096. Thank you for your continued support.*



## Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce

### Eagle Award

CCS is proud to announce that Pam Goudreau will be receiving one of the Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce's prestigious Eagle awards for her contributions to the community. Pam says that she joined CCS because "she wanted to give back to a wonderful organization that reached out to her when she was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia." She loved the kind words that Vanda said to her, 'cancer is tough enough, we want to help people with the financial burden that is associated with cancer.' She also said that CCS helps people in so many ways and is an amazing group of volunteers. The awards program will be June 26th. Congratulations Pam.

### I Need Someone to Talk With

*"I've just been given the devastating news that I have cancer and I need to talk to someone. Where can I go? Is there a local support group?"*

We have the best support group in the Central Michigan area – The Nancy Carey Support Group. These amazing women have had a multitude of different kinds of cancer and are here to help with kindness, love and understanding. Women at any stage or diagnosis are invited to attend the monthly meetings.

Due to the Covid restrictions, the support group is not meeting in-person for the time being. For information and support, please call Pam Pfau (989-828-5476), Chris Fowler (989-773-7990) or Gisela Moffit (989-772-1602).

### Pardee Cancer Fund of Isabella County

Isabella County residents are fortunate to have the Pardee Cancer Foundation available to help with the expenses of cancer. Pardee provides financial support for cancer treatment expenses not covered by insurance. Call 989-772-6895 for more information.

## CCS Board of Directors Meetings

The CCS Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of the month. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the board has been meeting via Zoom. Prospective members are invited to call President Richard Fleming at 989-772-5556 for more information.

Former board member Amy Bourns has this to say about CCS:

"CCS is a proactive way of doing something that makes a huge impact on those inflected with this relentless disease. It has been an awesome experience connecting with new friends over a shared passion for a cause while helping others and I am grateful to have been a part of this."

### From our Clients....

At Christmas time CCS mailed Christmas cards along with a gas card to our clients. Here are a few thank you's:

"Thank you will never be enough to tell you how appreciative I am for all you have done for me this past year. I never thought I would need your services and asking for help has never been easy for me but what you have done for myself and my family has allowed us to keep on every day. Many many thanks that I pray someday I can return even a little."

"Thank you so much for the gas card. It is so much appreciated. What an awful year. Merry Christmas to you."

"Thank you so much for all the help . We wish you a healthy and safe holiday. Merry Christmas"

"Thank you for all you do."

### Important Phone Numbers

Pardee Fund of Isabella County.....(989) 772-6895  
Community Cancer Service.....(989) 772-2524

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

### Help us help those with cancer in our community

Yes, I would like to make a tax deductible donation to Community Cancer Services.

Please accept this contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ or in Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Community Cancer Services of Isabella County, PO Box 36, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0036

An acknowledgement will be sent to the person or family you choose. Your gift will help fight cancer in a concrete way.



\*Please make a luminary in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
for the "Into the Light" cancer awareness walk this fall.

# COMMUNITY CANCER SERVICES OF ISABELLA COUNTY

“Your Local Cancer Organization”

PO Box 36  
Mt. Pleasant MI 48804-0036

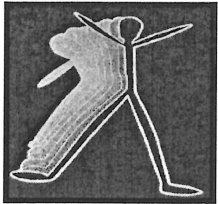
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*“Your Local Cancer Organization”*

## 22nd Annual “Into the Light”

*Cancer Awareness Walk*



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**

**4pm - 10pm**

**Isabella County Fairgrounds**

**500 N. Mission Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858**



- Survivor Ceremony - 7:00 pm
- Entertainment
- Luminary Ceremony - Dusk
- Food

### HONORING CANCER SURVIVORS

*Honor • Encourage • Remember*

*We Walk in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones*

*Walk as a Survivors • Walk for a Survivors • Walk because you CAN*

**For information contact:**

**CONTACT:** Suzanne Courser (989) 621-4096 / [scourser@msn.com](mailto:scourser@msn.com)  
Sue Corrington (989) 621-3883  
Deonna Kremsreiter (989) 330- 1978