



## “My Son Joe”

By Zora Walsh

Sometimes it’s difficult to find someone to write “THEIR” cancer story to include in the newsletter. Therefore, here I am again. This is my journey with my son Joe. Joe was 44 years old, 6’3”, 190 lbs., tall and lanky; a workaholic; great sense of humor, loved by all his nieces and nephews, well respected in his community and the Ohio oilfield community. Joe was the technician in the doghouse with \$2,000,000 of seismic equipment for his company. He worked seismic in the oilfields in Ohio, Michigan, PA and New York. He and his wife Tammy owned a horse farm and he love riding his quarter horse Jake. His special companion was his Chow dog ACE. He had one daughter and one special little grandson nine months old. I’m a mom and I’m preduce. To me he was great!

And then bam! I received the call in the middle of the night on November 11th that Joe was in an ambulance on his way to a hospital in Columbus, Ohio, as he had just been diagnosed with Stage Four Colorectal cancer. My sister and I made the midnight trip to meet Joe and his wife. I was shocked to see that his weight was down to around 130 pounds. Then the testing begin, the bioscopy, the surgery, the colostomy, chemo, the blood clots, the incredible pain as it had spread to his bones, the second opinions, the weight loss, and all the trips back and forth to Columbus, to Cleveland Clinic and then to Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Illinois. The doctors were saying six months.

There were many, many times I wished Joe lived in Isabella County so that he had the strong financial support that CCS and the Pardee Foundation offers. CCS offers mileage reimbursement and lodging. Joe had to make biweekly trips to Columbus, Ohio for treatment, chemotherapy, doctor visits, a trip of 80 miles one way. This adds up to a lot of gas money when driving a pickup. Joe could no longer work and all these trips were hitting hard in the wallet. We all pitched in to help. Many times his wife was sleeping on a couch in the hospital room or on the extra bed. I myself spent time sleeping in his room on a couch.

In addition to this, the oncologist would not start chemo without the co-pay on his insurance being paid in advance – around \$3,500.00. Thank goodness his boss helped with this. Here in Isabella County, we are lucky to have the Pardee Foundation that helps with medical

## CCS Makes a Difference in Isabella County

- Has been helping cancer patients in Isabella County since 1982.
- Run completely by volunteers and almost every penny goes directly to meet patient needs.
- Pays transportation costs in addition to some medical and lodging expenses.
- Helps with payment of mammograms during National Breast Cancer Month for those without adequate health insurance.
- Supports the Nancy Carey Support Group for women in Isabella County.
- Your tax deductible donations, gifts, memorials stay in Isabella County for research, patient support and education.
- Provided over \$50,000 financial support in 2016 to local cancer patents.
- From January to July 2017, was able to distribute \$37,500.00 to clients in Isabella County for mileage reimbursements and special expenses.

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expenses and COBRA payments for health insurance.

Sadly to say, Joe’s colorectal cancer was Stage Four when diagnosed. He passed on May 3rd 6 months after diagnosis and 12 days after his 45th birthday.

Little did we know that colorectal cancer can be hereditary? His grandfather had it, and then his father died of it last year. His brothers and sister are having yearly tests and frequent colonoscopies to ensure they are not afflicted.

Now, my journey with Joe is not complete until I help to inform others about the warning signs of colorectal cancer. Joe waited too long.

## My Son Joe (continued from page 1)

He ignored the changes bowel movements, blood in the stools, the fatigue, the diarrhea, the abdominal pain. Don't delay, see your doctor if you have any of these symptoms. (Check out the internet for a complete list of symptoms.)

I also would like to invite all moms and dads who have lost a child to this horrendous disease of cancer to come walk with me at the ITTL walk, to light a luminary in the honor of their lost one. My luminary will say "MY SON JOE" with a big red heart. Won't you join me? See you there.

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### Thank You from a Client:

*Editor's Note: All of our clients are confidential; therefore no names are printed with their comments.*

"Thank you CCS for all the help you have given my family. I'm now in remission and need to see the doctor for checkups once a year. CCS has helped to make this journey just a little easier."

"I have recently joined the Nancy Carey Support Group and want to thank CCS for helping to sponsor this valuable resource. They have helped me so much."

"CCS, thank you for all your help. You have helped tremendously."

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### I-Ride Partners with CCS for Free Transportation to Treatment

We have fantastic news. CCS is partnering with I-Ride to offer free transportation to cancer patients and a caretaker to and from cancer treatment in Isabella County.

It's not always easy for someone going through cancer treatment to find weekly/daily rides to treatment for testing, chemo, doctor visits, and/or radiation therapy. I-Ride has come up with the perfect solution to help those with transportation needs. This is an answer to our wishes and one more way for CCS to help those in need in Isabella County. CCS will be reimbursing I-Ride for any costs.

To schedule a ride, just call I-Ride at 772-9441. Let them know that CCS is sponsoring you.

I-Ride is also offering free rides to and from the Isabella County Fair Grounds for the Into the Light Walk on September 22nd. Just call them a day in advance to schedule your ride.

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### 4H CLUBS of Isabella County

The ITTL committee would like to thank the 4H members from the different clubs for making Into the Light one of their service projects. Not only are they helping to raise funds for CCS and cancer patients but they are also becoming aware of how they can help others. Thank you.

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### Breast Cancer Awareness Month

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, CCS will help with mammograms for those individuals without adequate health insurance. Call Vanda at 772-2524 and she will help schedule an appointment. If we can save just one life from breast cancer, CCS has met one of their goals.

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## Nancy Carey Support Group for Women

This amazing group of compassionate women meets the last Wednesday of each month to provide friendship, information and comfort to those who have had a cancer diagnosis recently or in the past. Women at any stage of diagnosis or treatment are welcome to attend. The meetings are informal, upbeat and informational and begin at 7:00 pm and are held the last Wednesday of each month at Oxford Row/Canterbury club house. Call Giesela Moffitt at 772-1602 for more information.

## Mileage Program for Cancer Treatment Travel

Did you know that CCS will help pay your mileage to and from cancer treatment? Last year, 2016, CCS provided almost \$60,000.00 in medical mileage to their clients. Call Vanda, Patient Coordinator, at 772-2524, for more information.

### Important Phone Numbers

Pardee Fund of Isabella County ..... 772-6896  
Community Cancer Service ..... 772-2524  
NCI (up-to-date information)..... 1 800-4CANCER  
Y-ME: (24 hour breast cancer hotline) ..... 1 800-221-2141

## CCS Board of Directors Meetings

CCS Board of Director Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the McLaren Central Michigan Hospital Conference Room. New members are always welcome. If you are looking for a tangible way to give back to your community, consider CCS. For more information call Vanda at 772-2524.

## 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 expenses not covered by insurance to Isabella County residents undergoing cancer treatment. Call 989-772-6895 for

## Isabella County Fair Grounds

CCS would like to extend a huge thank you to the Isabella County Fair Grounds for allowing us to host our Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk at your beautiful facilities. Especially, thank you Rod Dent for all of your help! This year's Into the Light Walk is September 22nd.

## Need a Tax Deduction – CCS is a good Choice

When donating to CCS, you know that your money will be spent to help local people with their struggle with cancer. CCS is a 501-c-3 fully tax deductible organization so all of your donations count.

### Memorials / Luminary Request Form

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”

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Mt. Pleasant MI 48804-0036

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In Memory of *Julia Sias*  
5/7/93 - 8/19/98

Dx: Brainstem Glioma 12/1/97

Newsletter Donated in part by Julia's family at:  
E&S Graphics, Inc. - 989 875 2828

## 19th Annual “Into the Light” Cancer Awareness Walking Event Community Cancer Services of Isabella County

“Your Local Cancer Organization”

Friday, September 22, 2017

4:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Isabella County Fair Grounds, Mt. Pleasant

- Survivors Candle Light Ceremony,  
*Celebration and Walk – 7:00 pm*
- Luminaries line the pathway for the event
- Walk as a survivor, family, friend or volunteer
- Team Competition, Entertainment, Food, Live Auction,  
Silent Auction, Family Activities
- I-Ride is sponsoring free rides to and from the event for those needing a ride.  
Call I-Ride to schedule



“Lighting the Way for Cancer Survivors”