



“She’s a Flier”

Note: When I stopped to pick up Elizabeth’s story from her mom, her mom was telling me that Elizabeth is now a “flier”! Just what is a “flier”? Elizabeth is on the cheer squad at her school and is the team member that is at the top of the pyramid and is then tossed in the air” All pretty exciting for a young middle school gal who just spend countless days in the hospital with a rare form of cancer.



My name is Elizabeth Herron and I’m 12 years old. When I was 11 I was diagnosed with Ganglioneuroblastoma. In September 2015, I started having severe stomach pains, diarrhea and vomiting. In just 21 days I went from 78 pounds to 52 pounds. My mom took me to the ER several times and they just kept saying I was dehydrated and had a virus. Finally on October 22, 2015, my mom told the ER doctors there really was something wrong and they needed to do something. They did a CT scan and found a mass in my right adrenal gland but said it was fatty or calcified and not to worry about it. They admitted me and ran more tests with still no real answers. After four days of being hospitalized, they did a second CT scan and saw that the mass had more than doubled. I was sent to the Pediatric Oncology Surgical Department of the UofM hospital where the specialist, Dr. Geiger, did an Ultrasound and more labs and decided I needed to get the mass removed.

On November 16, 2015, I had a right adrenalectomy that was supposed to be done laproscopically but the mass was too big to remove that way so they ended up having to make a much larger incision to remove it; it had grown to be golf ball size. I was in the hospital for five days. I then had monthly appointments with the Pediatric Oncologist, the Endocrinologist and a genetics doctor. Every month I had an ultrasound and more labs to check for new tumors.

On in March 2016, they found a mass on the posterior wall just under my invena cava (which is under my heart on the back side). They also said I had another on my Hepatic duct. At this time, my mom’s friend told her about a Neuroblastoma specialist at the Helen Devos center in Grand Rapids. This is the pediatric oncology Neuroblastoma specialist in the state of Michigan. My mom contacted Dr. Foley’s office and they requested that I get there as soon as possible. Dr. Foley did more testing and more labs and what is called a MIBG scan to “light up any masses in my body with radiation”. I then went back monthly for more MIBG scans with radiation. Finally on 9/6/2017, Dr. Foley told

CCS Makes a Difference in Isabella County

- We’ve been helping cancer patients in Isabella County since 1982 – 36 years.
- Run completely by volunteers and almost every penny goes directly to meet patient needs.
- Pays transportation costs in addition to some medical 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 \$57,075.50 of financial support in 2017 to local cancer patents.
- In January 2017, CCS distributed \$10,395.00 to 23 clients for mileage reimbursements and special expenses.
- In a special agreement with I-Ride, CCS pays for rides to cancer treatment within Isabella County. Call I-Ride at 772-9441 to schedule a ride.

us that the mass in the hepatic duct is not even showing up anymore and the one under my heart is as small as the top of a sewing needle. This is HUGE since it was the size of a pea when I started seeing her. She gave me my first 6 month clearance which means I don’t have to go back for any other treatments, tests or labs for 6 months.

We are glad to celebrate along with Elizabeth’s mom, Elizabeth being a FLYER!!!

A few about Ganglioneuroblastoma. It is an extremely rare childhood cancer. It develops from nerve cells; fewer than 5 out of 1 million children get it each year. Ganglioneuroblastoma is the most aggressive of childhood cancer. It relapses more than any other pediatric cancer.

Deonna Kreamsreiter Receives Coveted Eagle Award *“Celebrating those who make Mt. Pleasant special”*

CCS is extremely proud to announce that Deonna Kreamsreiter received one of the Chamber of Commerce prestigious “Eagle Awards” for outstanding service and dedication to our community. Deonna has been the recording secretary of CCS for over eight years. She is also very involved in fundraisers for CCS including one year sponsoring a “mud bog.” You will find her at the “Into the Light” registration desk from the start to the finish of the event. THANK YOU Deonna for your years of leadership and loyalty, and all the countless hours you have dedicated to CCS. The Chamber of Commerce’s “Citizen of the Year Award Banquet” was held March 3th at the Comfort Inn.



Thank You from a Client:

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

“My husband and I want to thank you for helping to make a positive impact on our community. Until something like cancer happens to us, we are not aware of the services and how CCS can help us. You have helped my family tremendously over the past year with funds for traveling and lodging out of town. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you.”

“Thank you for all your support. I just wanted to let you know that my latest tests came back okay.”

“This past year has been a struggle; however, CCS has helped to make it better. The reimbursement checks sure have helped.”

“Live United” Award Winner

CCS is proud to announce that Suzanne Courser will be receiving one of the exclusive United Way’s “Live United” awards on April 17th at the Soaring Eagle. These are awarded to those in our community that make a difference, that inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow through dedicated service. Suzanne more than meets all of these qualifications. She has been a valued member of CCS for over 15 years. Having survived cancer, she has made a commitment to helping others in our community in their time of need. She has been known to advance from her pocket gas money to a cancer patient so they could get to Ann Arbor for treatment and then hope to be reimbursed by CCS. She has been the chairman/co-chairman of the Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk for around twelve years, helping to raise funds for clients of CCS. She is also the president of CCS. Congratulations Suzanne!

Current CCS Board Members

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Zora Walsh 773-0346
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- Professional Advisors**
Somdev Roy, M.D.

20th Annual Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk

Mark your calendars for our 20th anniversary celebration on September 21, 2018 from 3:00 to 10:00 pm.

Isabella County Fairgrounds

Teams now forming

Bring your cancer survivor to the “Cancer Survivor Ceremony and Walk”

Luminaries lit the pathway during the entire event

Ccsintothelight.org for more information or call 989-773-0346



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 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, 2017, CCS provided almost \$57,000.00 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

New Meeting Location

The CCS Board of Directors meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 320 South Bradley. Note, this is a new meeting site. New prospective members are invited to attend. Come check us out. Call Suzanne Courser at 644-2504 for more information.

Thank You to Our Community

CCS wants to thank all the organizations and businesses in our community that are committed to helping us. We are so very fortunate to have the support of our local community including our schools. We especially want to thank the students of Mt. Pleasant schools including Sacred Heart for the “Miles for Miracle” campaign, Shepherd schools volleyball team and football team for fundraisers, and Chip Hills students for helping with the “Into the Light Walk” for the last 8 years. A big thank you to all of you! Thank you also to the CMU athletics including the baseball team and the CMU Lacrosse team.

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”

PO Box 36
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:
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“Into the Light 2017” Cancer Awareness Walk



We would like to thank the all of the individuals, teams, walkers, organizations, sponsors and businesses for helping to make our 19th annual cancer awareness walk held on September 22nd an outstanding success. Because of the continued support from our community over \$40,000 was raised for local cancer patient support, research and education

Special thanks to Pam Goudreau and Elizabeth Herron for sharing their cancer survivor journeys. Thanks also to Dr. Roy, to Dick Fish and Suzanne Courser for the heart warming and inspirational cancer survivor ceremony. It is always heartwarming to see all our fellow friends and neighbors celebrating another year, holding hands and singing our traditional celebration song: “This Little Light” and then walking together around our luminary lit pathway. It truly hits home that we are survivors and we are not alone in this journey!

Thanks also to the many generous sponsors and businesses in our community for their support in making this event so successful. Thanks for all the groups and individuals helping to put the event on including Nancy Carey Support Group, Lion's Club members, CMU Baseball players and CMU Lacrosse team members. Thank you to I-Ride for sponsoring free rides to and from the event.

Team totals were: Cowabunga Classic \$4,000; MKM \$2,710.00; Nancy Carey \$1,101.00; I-Ride \$790.00; Greens Towing \$735.00; Lion's Club \$705.00; Chip Hills FFA \$555.00; Mid Mich Hula Group \$515.00; ICU \$436.00; Do it for Jamie \$275.00; Team Elizabeth \$140.00; Pony Creed \$200.00 and Team Librarian \$125.00.



“Lighting the Way for Cancer Survivors”