



Serving Isabella County in Patient Support, Education and Research

www.isbellacommunitycancer.org

April 2017

When All Else Fails, CCS PREVAILS

Hi. My name is Diane Lambart Fleming. A year ago, my husband Rich Fleming and I were invited, by Bill Sowle, to join the board of Community Cancer Services. My knowledge of the need for CCS, however, was a bit sketchy, to say the least. It wasn't until three years ago that I became acutely aware of the needs of one particular cancer patient. My daughter's best friend and house mate was diagnosed with acute multiple myeloma. Sandra soon became too ill to work and consequently lost her job, as well as her medical insurance. She applied for Social Security disability, but was told that she wouldn't be considered eligible until she was at the point where she could begin treatment for a stem cell transplant. In order to get to that stage, however, she needed to undergo extensive chemotherapy treatment. She lived in Tucson and treatment was in Phoenix – a distance of 232 miles roundtrip.

Now imagine a household where one of the main income earners no longer had any income or insurance. My daughter had to adjust her own work schedule to drive Sandra to Phoenix and to stay there until she could return home in Tucson. Money – or the lack thereof – became a crushing problem. Money was needed for prescriptions, hospitalization, food, lodging, and transportation. They needed an organization like CCS.

My father was diagnosed with terminal cancer in August 2016 and moved to Mt. Pleasant and lived with us under Hospice care until he passed away in December, 2016. While Dad did not need the services of CCS, our participation on the board of CCS made us acutely aware of the many, many residents of Isabella County who DO need the support that CCS provides. I was very surprised to learn that not only does CCS provide support to cancer patients, but that it also contributes to cancer research. I do not know of **any** family who has not been touched by cancer. Rich and I are grateful to be part of an organization that provides monetary assistance to both patients and to the research that one day – hopefully soon – will lead to the total cure and prevention of this horrible disease!

Amy Bourns Receives Prestigious Eagle Award
“Celebrating those who make Mt. Pleasant special”

CCS is extremely proud to announce that Amy Bourns received one of the Chamber of Commerce prestigious “Eagle Awards” for outstanding service and dedication to our community. Amy has been a valuable member of CCS for almost eight years.

THANK YOU Amy for your years of leadership and allegiance, and all the countless hours you have dedicated to our organization.

The Chamber of Commerce’s “Citizen of the Year Award Banquet was held March 4th at the Comfort Inn.



19TH ANNUAL
“INTO THE LIGHT WALK”
September 22, 2017
Isabella County Fair Grounds
Call Suzanne @ 644-2504 for more information

Protect the Skin You Are In
Free Skin Screenings

Wed., May 17 from 1 – 4pm

With Tom Mink, PA-C

Call 989-779-5606 to schedule an appointment

Why Join CCS?

By Amy Bourns

When others ask me what inspired me to join CCS's Board, this is what I tell them:

"It was eight years ago that my father was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer when our family was approached by a board member from CCS asking if we needed any assistance. This is how I first learned the services offered by this wonderful and special group of people who put their heart and soul into their work. We were fortunate in the sense that we had great insurance and jobs that allowed us to take time off work to be with our loved one. Not everyone is this lucky. It was then that I knew that I wanted to be a part of CCS and help make others aware that CCS exists. I wanted to make a difference in the lives of those going through the same situation that our family went through and make a positive impact for our community.

Every day we are bombarded with disheartening news that someone we know has been diagnosed with cancer. Volunteering for CCS is a proactive way of doing something that makes a huge impact on those inflicted 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 so grateful to be a part of this."

Thank You from a Client:

"Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough for all the help you have given us during my cancer journey. You helped in showing the concern and love for me to help in this hard time. With being on a limited retirement income you made a light at the end of the tunnel. Now I hope I can help encourage others going through their journey. If there is anyway we can volunteer to help your organizations please contact us."

"Our team was so touched by taking part in the "Into the Light Walk". I was also so emotional with this being my first year to take part. Our team was very touched by all of this."

"Thank you for all your support . My 6 month scans and mammograms came back clear."

CCS Makes a Difference in Isabella County

- We've 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 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 patients.
- In January 2017, CCS distributed \$10,395.00 to 23 clients for mileage reimbursements and special expenses.

"Live United" Award Winner

CCS is proud to announce that Deonna Kremsreiter will be receiving one of the coveted United Way's "Live United" awards at the United Way awards program on April 12th 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. Deonna has been a valued member of CCS for almost 10 years and has been instrumental in helping with fund raising and with the secretarial records for CCS. Congratulations Deonna.

Current CCS Board Members

President

Megan Wedge-Bair944-4843

Vice President

Suzanne Courser644-2504

Treasurer

Jack Goudreau.....773-6911

Service Coordinator

Vanda Barker.....772-2524

Acting Secretary

Deonna Kremsreiter772-4673

Publicity

Zora Walsh773-0346

Acting Memorials

Amy Bourns506-3443

Historian

Jane Clark.....773-3596

Board Members

Donna Parr772-3925

Don Bertsch772-1424

Mary Kay Price289-5374

Ruth Anne Sowle773-7648

Betty Campbell773-9639

Diane Fleming.....772-5556

Richard Fleming772-5556

Carolyn Baltazar Kaya...203-650-4814

Sheryl Sias565-0207

Bill Odykirk

Nancy Carey Support Group

Giesela Moffitt772-1602

Community Liaison Director

Bill Sowle.....773-3673

Educational Coordinator

Karen Williamson773-5478

Mastectomy Counselors

Betty Stiff644-2334

Ruth Anne Sowle773-7648

Newsletter Co-Editors

Zora Walsh773-0346

Ruth Anne Sowle773-7648

Professional Advisors

Somdev Roy, M.D.



New Officers Elected

Officers elected for a two year term are President Megan Bair, Vice President Suzanne Courser, Secretary Deonna Kremsreiter, Treasurer, Jack Goudreau. Congratulations.

Into the Light 18th Cancer Awareness Walk

Wow! And double wow! Our walk was a huge success both financially and as a tribute to Cancer Survivors. We grossed over \$46,000.00 and had almost 100 cancer survivors walk in our cancer survivor victory walk around our luminary lit pathway.

This was our first year having the walk at the Isabella County Fairgrounds and it was perfect. The Fair Board graciously allowed us to use the Merchant Building and the 4H Food Building. We had indoor space for our cancer celebration, survivor talks, entertainment and a great silent auction.

Thank you to everyone that helped make this walk so successful! Thank you Marcy Hosking for sharing your cancer journey, to 10 year old Cohen Adams for talking about his survivor experiences – what a trooper for 10 years old, for Dave Verwey for his inspirational songs, for Larry Fussman for the invocation.

Thanks to the 3rd grade Sacred Heart students for their musical entertainment, to the Red Hatters for their dance numbers, thank you to all the teams that participated and thank you also to CMU Baseball team for helping to clean up. It was an event made special by the help from each and all of you.

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

Thank You to Our Community

CCS want 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 6 or 7 years. A big thank you to all of you!

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.

CCS Board of Directors Meetings

CCS Board of Director Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Commission on Aging building on Lincoln road. 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 more information.

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:
E&S Graphics, Inc. - 989 875 2828

18th Annual “Into the Light Cancer Walk” *Cancer Survivor Celebration*

