



## Strength and Courage

By Zora Walsh

This is a true story of “strength and courage”. One of the biggest supporters of the Into the Light walk, someone that helped with registration year after year, passed on to her next life this fall. Over the years, all of her children and grandchildren, even those from Ohio, came to help anywhere they were needed at the walks. They also came year after year to help her celebrate being a cancer survivor and walk the survivors lap with her, some years pushing her in a wheelchair. She was from Clare County meaning she was not a recipient of any mileage reimbursements for all of those medical mileage trips made to the Morey Cancer Treatment Center in Mt. Pleasant or to Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit. For a while she participated in Nancy Carey Support group meetings to learn more about her Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma which she battled for almost 20 years. Over the years she received many different types of chemo drugs. Dr. Roy always had a new treatment and gave her hope for beating this cancer.

This past spring, things took a down-turn and her Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma morphed into Leukemia. Dr. Roy again worked with her for the latest cancer treatments. She with her husband spent a month at the Karmanos Cancer Treatment Center in Detroit undergoing a strenuous, horrific chemo regimen to hopefully put her cancer into remission so that she would be a candidate for a bone marrow transplant.

Unfortunately, the cancer did not go into remission and she was given two choices: another month's stay in the hospital while receiving still higher doses of chemo or to do nothing and let the cancer run its course.

She and her husband choose to do the later. During the next three months, she was able to spend time at their cottage with family and friends, work in her many flower gardens, watch another sunrise and sunset. She seemed to be at peace with life and was able to laugh and joke about everyday happenings. She was able to plan her own funeral services, readings from the Bible and songs to be sung. She was able to write her own obituary. She was able to hug and kiss and spend quality time with all of her little (and big) grandkids, she was able to plan for a new life.

This beautiful lady IS my sister Florence Kathryn Dean Scott. She will always be remembered for her strength, courage, generosity and love and her positive attitude to look for rainbows every day. Cancer did not win the battle with her. This cancer did not defeat her!

## CCS Makes a Difference in Isabella County

- Has been helping cancer patients in Isabella County since 1982.
- Is run completely by volunteers and almost every penny goes directly to meet patient's needs.
- Pays transportation costs in addition to medical expenses.
- Pays for mammograms during National Breast Cancer Month for those without adequate health insurance.
- Maintains at the public library a rack of current National Cancer Institute booklets on many kinds of cancer.
- Supports the Nancy Carey Support Group for women in Mt. Pleasant.
- Your tax-deductible donations, gifts, memorials stay here in Isabella County for research, patient support and education.

## March is Colorectal Cancer Prevention Month

Many people with colon cancer experience no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. When symptoms appear, they'll likely vary, depending on the cancer's size and location in the large intestine. If one notices any symptoms of colon cancer, such as blood in the stool or a persistent change in bowel habits, they are advised to make an appointment with their doctor as soon as possible.

Guidelines generally recommend colon cancer screenings begin at age 50. Your doctor may recommend more frequent or earlier screening if you have other risk factors, such as a family history of the disease.

For more information log on to <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-colon-cancer>

*CCS is not affiliated with American Cancer Services*

## Sue Richmond Nominated for Eagle Award

*“Celebrating those who make Mt. Pleasant special.”*

CCS is extremely proud to nominate Sue Richmond to receive a prestigious Chamber of Commerce “Eagle Award” for outstanding service and dedication to our community. Sue has been an important part of the Into the Light Cancer Awareness walks since the very beginning – almost 17 years ago. In addition her dedication to the Into the Light walk and Community Cancer Services, Sue is involved in many community events and fundraisers including the Summer Fest summer festival, and the Bird Red Cross auction. She has given endlessly to her community and well deserves recognition for her countless hours of community service.

The Chamber of Commerce’s “Citizen of the Year Award Banquet was February 28th at Bucks Run.

## Nancy Carey Support Group for Women

Zora Walsh

When I was first diagnosed with breast cancer so many years ago, I was desperate to talk with other people that had gone through what I was experiencing. I even went so far as to phone women I didn’t know but had heard they had had breast cancer just to ask questions: “what comes next? How does this work? Chemo? Where can I purchase a wig? What about reconstruction and implants? What about the new experimental drug Tamoxifen? What are the side effects?” This was a horrendously truly scary time full of “unknowns” and there were no cancer support groups or even internet web sites available to help me.

Help is now available for women in our community: the “Nancy Carey Support Group.” 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 at Oxford Row/Canterbury club house. Call Giesela Moffitt at 772-1602 for more information.



[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

Make your next purchase with “Amazon Smile” to donate a percentage of your purchase total to ICCS! It’s easy to designate to CCS – Under the pull down menu, select “Community Cancer Services of Isabella County” and your donation will be made.

[www.isbellacommunitycancer.org](http://www.isbellacommunitycancer.org)

Check out our website! Read past newsletters, latest news and involvements, photos and more!



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Ruth Anne Sowle ..... 773-7648

### Newsletter Co-Editors

Zora Walsh ..... 773-0346

Ruth Anne Sowle ..... 773-7648

### Professional Advisors

Sandra Howell, M.D.

Somdev Roy, M.D.



## CCS Board of Directors Meetings

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 Harold at 773-9781.

## Thank You from our Clients

CCS receives many thank you notes from clients throughout the year. At Christmas time, CCS distributes gas cards for the clients. Here are a few of the thank you notes. All of our clients are confidential so we can't print names.

- My husband was overwhelmed when he opened your Christmas card to find two gas cards. All that you have done for us, and you are still giving. Thank you so much and God bless all of you.
- "Just wanted to say 'Thank You' for the gas cards from CCS. I used it on my last trip to Ann Arbor. I don't have to go again until August. Thank you."
- "Thank you for all of your support during this past year."
- "Thank you for the gas cards. You always seem to know when I need the extra cash. My husband had a massive heart attack one night coming home from the hospital. I didn't know where I was going to get money for the rest of the week to go back and forth to the hospital. Your cards were in the mail that night. Thank for your caring."

### 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

## Veterans Concert

Almost 80 members of the Central Michigan Area Concert Band, under the direction of Claude Lemmer, presented a "Veteran's Day Concert" to a full house at Plachta Auditorium at Central Michigan University on November 9th 2014. Thank you band members for an enjoyable afternoon. Thanks also to Krapohl Ford – Lincoln for their continued sponsorship of this annual event.

## Mileage Program for Cancer Treatment Travel

\$52,264.00. This is a lot of money! It is the amount that CCS distributed to clients in 2014 for mileage to and from cancer treatments. If you are in need of financial help with your medical mileage CCS is here to help you. Call Vanda, the Patient Coordinator, at 772-2524, for more information.

## Election of Officers

The following individuals were elected to a two year term beginning on January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017: Vice President – Bill Sowle; Treasurer; Mary Ann McPherson; Historian, Jane Clark; Community Liaison Director, Bill Sowle; Memorials Coordinator, Amy Burns.

## Women Battling Cancer Can Look Good... Feel Better

Headliners Salon stylists will offer a hands on program on March 9th from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Morey Cancer Center. Their trained, licensed cosmetologists will give instructions on makeup, skin care, nail care and suggestions for using wigs, turbans and scarves. Contact the ACS @ 800-227-2345 to register for this free program.

### 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**

## Almost \$40,000 raised at “Into the Light 2014 Cancer Awareness Walk”

The 16th annual cancer walk was a huge success with almost \$40,000 raised for Community Cancer Services. This is the major fund raiser of the year for CCS and these funds are instrumental in helping cancer patients in Isabella County. CCS could not continue without the strong support from the community from individual walkers and workers (a list of corporate sponsors is included in this newsletter). Thank you everyone who participated for your time and donations to make this a heartwarming experience for our cancer survivors and their caregivers and families!

Thank you to the Into the Light committee: Zora Walsh, Suzanne Courser, Sue Richmond, Harold Cook, Traci Florian, Dick Fish and Margaret Steslicki.

We are already planning the 17th annual walk and are already looking for volunteers!

## 17th Annual “Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk September 25, 2015 – Island Park

Mark your calendars – We will again be looking for volunteers to help with this annual event. Call Harold at 773-9781 or Zora at 773-0346 to sign up. The first planning meeting will be held in April. This is a great way to meet new people in our community and help those in need.

## A sincere thank you to all of the 2014 “Into the Light” Sponsors

### Diamond Sponsors:

Isabella Bank, Morey Foundation, United Way, “Miles for Miracles”, MidMichigan Health, University Events, McCune Farms Cowabunga, Mt. Pleasant Summer Festival, Krapohl Ford Lincoln

### Emerald Sponsors:

Bandit Industries, Clark Family Funeral Chapel, Delfield, Isabella Community Credit Union, Isabella Corporation, McLaren Central Michigan, Mears Group, Morbark, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

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Ace of Diamonds, Animal Health Associates, Bird Bar, Blystone & Bailey CPAs, C&R Electric, Chip Hills FFA, Coyne Oil, Downtown Drugs, E&S Graphics, Endurance Fitness Center, Gordon Foods, Graff Chevrolet, Gray's Household Furniture, Greens Towing, Home Builders of Central Michigan, Howell Breast Surgical Services, Hubscher & Sons, Johnson Door, Kiwanis club of Mt. Pleasant, Konwinski Construction, Nimkee Clinic, Kopy Korner, Lake Trust Credit Union, Lunchin' Ladies, Meijer Inc., Members First Credit Union, MidMichigan Radiology, Mr. Electric, Norm's Flower Petal, Rent-Rite, Ponderosa, Premier Components, Quality Custom Screen Co., Rowley Funeral Home, Soaring Eagle Casino, WCFX Radio, WCZY Radio.