



## Serving Isabella County in Patient Support, Education and Research

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

Winter 2022

### *“Making a Difference”*

*Suzanne Courser-Into the Light Chairperson, CCS board member and past President*

This year, the Into the Light cancer walk raised close to \$40,000. With that money we can help people of Isabella County with cancer related expenses. These expenses can become a financial burden and we are able to help ease that burden with the money we raise. There are other burdens that cancer causes that are not financial but emotional burdens.

This year, we were able to help with such a burden that made a significant difference in Alex's life. Alex is a sweet, kind young man who lost his dad to cancer in 2019. Alex was only in first grade when cancer took his hero....his dad. The past 4 years have only added to Alex's pain of losing his dad. He hasn't been able to express his feelings and feels lost.

Alex's Grandma donated to Into the Light (she is a dear friend of mine). Knowing Alex's situation, I suggested that maybe Alex, his Mom and siblings might benefit from attending our walk and creating individual luminaries for their Dad. Grandma thought that was a great idea! That night, they all showed up with beautiful luminaries that they each created with love for their dad. They placed their bags on the lighted pathway. They walked the path and were in amazement how many people had been affected by cancer as they had.

This year, we added a memorial walk for those who have lost loved ones to cancer. We also had two siblings as our speakers who had lost their mom just a year ago. Listening to them brought out emotions in Alex that he freely let go. He realized that he was not alone! He shed tears for his loss that have been held deep in his heart for a long time. That night, I was able to give a big hug to Alex and assured him that he wasn't alone. We were all there for him. I asked him if he would like to take home the luminary that he had made for his Dad. Through his pain and sorrow, I saw a smile on his face and I will never forget it. He went out to pick up his luminary, clutched it close to his heart and thanked me.

Upon talking to his Mom since the walk, she informed me that Alex turns his candle on and lights his Dad's luminary on a regular basis! It was placed on Alex's dresser where he could see it. Mom also informed me that our walk has opened Alex up and he is more willing to discuss his feelings with his counselors.

For Alex, our walk made a difference that money can't fix. For me, it was my sign that even though the walk is a lot of work and takes a great deal of time, we touch lives in so many ways not only financially, but emotionally as well and in ways we may never know. NO ONE FIGHTS ALONE!

As for me, I will continue to give all I can to make sure the Into the Light walk continues to make a difference.

Community Cancer Services,  
lighting the way for cancer patients  
in Isabella County.

### 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 client 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 over \$76,597 financial support in 2022 to cancer patients in Isabella County

Has an agreement with I-Ride for free transportation to local treatment

We are your local cancer organization



Check out our website:

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

or visit our Facebook page



[facebook.com/isbellacountyccs](https://facebook.com/isbellacountyccs)

Dear Friends of CCS:

As you reflect on helping CCS continue to provide assistance to cancer patients in Isabella County, I thought it would be useful to know what kinds of cancer many of our families, friends, and neighbors are currently battling and where many of these cancer victims have to go for treatment.

#### **TYPES AND NUMBER OF CANCERS**

Breast – 21; Prostate – 9; Colon – 7; Leukemia – 5; Uterus – 5, Lymphoma – 5; Lung – 5; Brain – 3; Nasal pharynx – 2; Multiple myeloma – 2; Thyroid, Voice box, Jaw, Melanoma, Esophageal, Pancreas, and Kidney – 1 each

#### **HOSPITALS AND NUMER OF PATIENTS IN 2022**

U of M – Ann Arbor – 10 clients; Gratiot Hospital – 4 clients; My Michigan Health – 3 clients; Saginaw Covenant and Henry Ford Detroit – 2 clients each

For the first 10 months of 2022, CCS has provided \$76,597 in mileage, medical transportation and client travel reimbursements. **WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOUR ASSISTANCE!!** Your support of the United Way of Gratiot and Isabella Counties Matching Challenge Grant, Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk, Central Michigan Area Concert Band Annual Veterans Concert, and memorials for loved ones have enabled us to meet the needs of 90 cancer victims in Isabella County. Some of these clients have recovered, some are in remission, and some have passed – however, CCS was there to help all of them.

In a challenging economy, I know that receiving yet another plea for monetary support is not the most welcomed message. However, cancer is not the most welcome diagnosis our clients have received. Please send your most generous year-end gift to:

Community Cancer Services  
P.O. Box 36  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0036

Best wishes for a peaceful and blessed New Year!

Diane Fleming  
CCS Community Liaison Director

#### **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 Kreamsreiter .... 989-330-1978

##### **Publicity/Newsletter Editor**

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

##### **Memorials Coordinator**

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

##### **Community Liaison Director**

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

##### **Public Education Coordinator**

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

##### **Historian**

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

##### **Board Members**

Donna Parr  
Pam Goudreau  
Don Bertsch  
Becky Trombley  
Sivaram Narayan  
Margaret Steslicki

##### **Honorary Board Members**

Ruth Ann Sowle  
Bill Odykirk  
Harold Cook - Past President

## **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

## Mileage and Lodging Reimbursement Program

Cancer can be overwhelming in many ways. Community Cancer Services (CCS) can help pay your mileage to and from cancer treatments as well as help with out of town lodging. Last year CCS provided almost \$72,000 in medical mileage and lodging. We are your local cancer organization and are here to help you during this stressful time. Our CCS Service Coordinator, Vanda Barker, can help guide you to services you need. Each case is considered individually to ensure that the most appropriate aid is given. Call Vanda at (989) 772-2524. All calls and clients are kept confidential.

*CCS is not affiliated with American Cancer Society*



# Support for local cancer patients

**Your cancer-related expenses should be the least of your worries.** *We can help.*

If you're an Isabella County resident who has been diagnosed with cancer, Community Cancer Services can help you with:

- \* **Financial reimbursement** for treatment-related transportation costs. Other needs considered on request.
- \* **Speakers and presentations**
- \* **Transportation coordination** and assistance for cancer treatments.
- \* **Referrals** to other agencies, when needed.
- \* **Support groups**

CCS is an independent, volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) organization that has provided more than \$1 million in assistance to cancer patients in Isabella County since 1982. Support is provided through grants and donations. Nearly 90 cents of every dollar goes to cancer patients in our county.



For assistance, to volunteer or to contribute, call Service Coordinator Vanda Barker at 989-772-2524 or visit [isabellacommunitycancer.org](http://isabellacommunitycancer.org).

Krapohl Ford & Lincoln is a proud partner of Community Cancer Services



*Thank you to several local businesses for their fund raising efforts on the behalf of Community Cancer Services this fall:*

Salon Blu

Shoe Sensations

Bras for a Cause-WCFX

Latitude Media-My1043/Buck92.3

## CCS Board of Directors Meetings

The CCS Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of the month at the Commission On Aging building, 2200 S. Lincoln in Mt. Pleasant. Prospective members are invited to call President Richard Fleming at 989-772-5556 for more information.

## Important Phone Numbers

Pardee Fund of Isabella County.....(989) 772-6895  
Community Cancer Services.....(989) 772-2524  
Nancy Carey Support Group for Women.....(989) 513-7827

## 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.



**Vanda Barker**  
Service Coordinator  
989-772-2524

[www.isabellacommunitycancer.org](http://www.isabellacommunitycancer.org)  
[facebook.com/isabellacountyccs](https://facebook.com/isabellacountyccs)



This year at Bras for A Cause, our fellow board member and Past President, Suzanne Courser, was honored to have an award created in her name, "The Love and Compassion" award. This inaugural award was presented to the family of Marcy Hosking. Suzanne is passionate about seeking out people needing assistance after a cancer diagnosis and she is one of our strongest "boots on the ground" members! Congratulations to Suzanne for this recognition.



# COMMUNITY CANCER SERVICES OF ISABELLA COUNTY

"Your Local Cancer Organization"

PO Box 36  
Mt. Pleasant MI 48804-0036

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



*"Your Local Cancer Organization"*

## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual "Into the Light"

### Cancer Awareness Walk

**Please  
Join  
Us!!**

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

*Isabella County Fairgrounds*

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



- Entertainment • Raffles • Food
- Survivor Celebration • Memorial Walk • Luminary Ceremony - Dusk

### HONORING CANCER SURVIVORS

*Honor • Encourage • Remember*

*We Walk in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones*

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



**For information contact:**

**CONTACT:** Suzanne Courser (989) 621-4096 / [tscourser@msn.com](mailto:tscourser@msn.com)  
Sue Courington (989) 621-3883  
Deonna Kremsreiter (989) 330- 1978 / Call or Text