



Serving Isabella County in Patient Support, Education and Research

www.isbellacommunitycancer.org

Fall 2021

“What does the Into the Light Cancer Awareness walk mean to me?”

*Laurie Peters, Board Member,
Community Cancer Services of Isabella County*

The very first time I attended the ITL cancer walk was years ago.....I became aware of the organization through friends of mine who were very active in the group and they introduced it to me. My husband had lost his Mom to lung cancer early in our relationship; her death was hard and it impacted my then boyfriend so very profoundly. That was my first brush with this terrible disease. Years later, I lost my Dad to a very fast moving cancer. So fast that we hardly had time to grasp it. These were the two lost loves that Bob and I walked for during our first ITL walks. I decorated beautiful luminaries for each of our parents; I included pictures of them and sweet sentiments. The walking path was beautifully illuminated and we celebrated the memories of our Mom and Dad. I don't recall knowing at the time what exactly Community Cancer Services supported with the funds they raised....I only knew that they gave us a public platform where we could share our sorrow for our losses but also where we could celebrate the warriors that were fighting their battle and succeeding!!

Fast forward many, many years and I am now a very proud member of the Board of Directors for Community Cancer Services of Isabella County. The mission of our group is simple: to help pay some of the uncovered expenses that cancer patients face. Travel to appointments is expensive for many as they seek the specialized care that this disease warrants. CCS helps in that way by assisting with travel costs and out of town lodging.

I've attended Into the Light walks for many years so why, now, am I more directly involved? This Emperor of all maladies, cancer, entered my life once again, in a very profound and direct way. You see, in 2014, during the most amazing year of our life, my darling husband was diagnosed with Melanoma skin cancer. His cancer advanced so very quickly....moving from a mole on his shoulder to malignant lesions in his brain and other internal organs. He became a Stage 4 cancer patient and endured so much. He was immediately referred from his local physician to a melanoma specialist at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Can you imagine those trips.....54 of them his first year. Back and forth to Ann Arbor for the day....sometimes for the night.

This is where Community Cancer Services of Isabella County can step in to help. Easing the burden of those long trips.....the gas, the lodging.....the help that we can give allows our clients to have one less worry amongst all the worries that come with a cancer diagnosis. You see, no one fights alone. We seek to be a tool in your toolbox against cancer.

This year's Into the Light Cancer Awareness walk will be one of great celebration!! It's been far too long since we've all been able to gather as one, to gain strength from one another, to celebrate our survivors, to share the memories of our lost loves, to support those who are currently battling this terrible disease.

I hope that you will join us on September 24th.

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 patient 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 \$60,837 financial support in 2020 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

I know to some it looks like “just a blanket”...

But...

I remember a beautiful young man who was fighting cancer many years ago...

He made this for my wife...gave it to her through hugs and tears...

And that day it was dubbed “Our Birdy Blanket” and was put in the safest place in the house...used sparingly...

Well when the dog peed on my comforter the other day...?????... I saw it and smiled...

I grabbed it and tossed it on our bed, wrapping it around me...

And remembering...

His smile...his antics...his attitude...his drive...fighting every day for life and beating that damn disease...

I even remember going to Ann Arbor to see him...his mom telling the staff I was her ex husband to be able to get me in to see him...

His brother Henry Wiles was sitting next to him...immediately jumping up to hug me...

Birdy was so jaundiced...so thin...lying there sleeping...I was standing over him when he woke...

He looked at me and groaned...looked at Henry and said, “Hey...did I die? Did they send me to hell and Gross is waiting for me???”

I actually snorted and Henry and I cracked up...

I held his hand and talked for quite a while...so thankful for the short time I got to spend with him...

He passed soon after...

And I was so incredibly honored when his mom Lisa Kovac Wiles asked me to speak at his service...

Birdy, you were extra special. And this blanket comforted me so very much...

For you, yesterday, I went to teach class, jamming to “FreeBird” as loud as I could handle...singing without embarrassment...

And smiling...

Fly high my friend...I very much hope to see you again someday...

“If I touch their minds, I might be remembered.. But if I touch their hearts, I might embed in their souls”

Jay Gross



Current CCS Board Members

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



Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk – 2021

“HONOR - ENCOURAGE – REMEMBER”



This year's walk is scheduled for September 24th at the Isabella County Fairgrounds. This year we are going to focus our walk with more time “Honoring our Survivors. Encouraging our Fighters and Remembering those who lost their battle to CANCER.”

We're going to encourage the community to form teams and purchase luminaries for family and friends who are survivors, fighters, and loved ones who have lost the battle. For more information contact Suzanne Courser at 989-644-2504 or 989-621-4096. Thank you for your continued support.

Quotes...

“You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” – A.A. Milne, author of Winnie the Pooh

Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: You don’t give up. – Anne Lamott

Hope is the thing with feathers, that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all. – Emily Dickinson

Mileage Reimbursement Program

Did you know that CCS will help pay your mileage to and from cancer treatments and help with out of town lodging? Last year CCS provided almost \$61,000 in medical milage and lodging. We are your local cancer organization and are here to help you during this stressful time. For more information call Vanda, the Patient Coordinaoor at 989-772-2524. All call and clients are confidential.

CCS is not affiliated with American Cancer Services

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.

CCS Board of Directors Meetings

The CCS Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of the month. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the board has been meeting via Zoom. Prospective members are invited to call President Richard Fleming at 989-772-5556 for more information.

From our Clients....

I want every single person fighting this horrible disease to know this: you are not alone. There are so many of us who know what it’s like to be thrown the curve ball of cancer. Fight on, and never give up.

My own battle has taught me how to live life to the fullest. No matter the severity, anyone who has received a cancer diagnosis knows that life will never be the same. But that doesn’t mean life is over, and for me, it didn’t mean I couldn’t chase my dreams. Cancer taught me that life is so much more than what society deems important.

After my melanoma treatment, I am not just alive. I am a new person with a new gratitude for the people I love and a new outlook on life. I truly am blessed.

Important Phone Numbers

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

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 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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“Your Local Cancer Organization”

22nd Annual “Into the Light”

Cancer Awareness Walk

**Please
Join
Us!!**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

4pm - 10pm

Isabella County Fairgrounds

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



- Survivor Ceremony - 7:00 pm
- Team Competition
- Entertainment
- Luminary Ceremony - Dusk
- Raffles
- Food

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:

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