



My Story

Marcy Hosking

They say when significant things happen you never forget where you were. I can tell you where I was January 28, 1986 when the NASA Space Shuttle Orbiter broke apart 73 seconds into its' flight.. August 31, 1997, the day Princess Diana died. I was driving to work September 11, 2011 when I heard about the planes crashing into the World Trade Center.

I can also tell you where I was when I received "that" phone call and was told I had breast cancer...I was sitting at my desk at work. It was January 8, 2016. Let's rewind 3 years. I had the recommended mammogram at the age of 40 and everything was fine. A year later, I went through a divorce, relocated back to my hometown of Mt. Pleasant with my then almost 8 year old daughter and almost 3 year old son, my children started a new school and I started a new job. The last thing on my mind was my health, besides no one in my immediate family had had breast cancer and cancer itself didn't run in my family so I wasn't worried about skipping my annual mammograms. Fast forward to November, 2015, I decided it was time to set up an appointment for my yearly physical, which included a mammogram. I had the mammogram and received a letter in the mail, stating that the results weren't "normal", which I failed to open. I then received a phone call and was informed that I needed to come back for a follow-up mammogram and a possible ultrasound. I still wasn't too worried. I went back in December for a second mammogram and they recommended an ultrasound which showed two spots on my right breast that didn't look "normal" and told me they could do a biopsy if I wanted. All of a sudden it got real! I was by myself and didn't know what to do. My emotions were all over the board. I decided to consult with my family physician before making any decisions. He referred me to a general surgeon. The surgeon performed an ultrasound and didn't seem real concerned with the spot - he told me that it looked like a lymph node but he wanted a biopsy just in case. I decided before scheduling a biopsy, I would get a second opinion with a breast surgeon. She also recommended a biopsy. January 6, 2016 I had the biopsy and was called January 8 with the results. That's when my "normal" life changed.

The hardest thing I had to do was tell my 10 year old daughter. Two years prior she had a friend whose mother passed away from breast cancer and just two months after she passed away. All she knew was that people died from breast cancer. The first thing she asked was if I was going to die like Angel's mommy did. Fighting back the tears I told her that I was going to be fine and that I was not going to leave her or her brother.

I was diagnosed with Stage 1A breast cancer. I had a lumpectomy followed by chemotherapy and radiation. I chose to have chemotherapy once a week for 12 weeks. My oncologist told me there would be fewer side effects with weekly chemotherapy treatments. Being a single mom and working full time, I had to "be on my game" at all times. I decided I was going to face this head on and that I was going to beat it and it was NOT going to beat me! I also decided that I was not going to use the term chemotherapy or chemo but instead "happy hour". Every week I invited someone new, I called them my chemosabe's, to go with me to "happy hour" and have "cocktails".

After my 3rd treatment that one thing happened that I dreaded the most...my hair started falling out. Before it fell out too much, I had a "shave that hair" party. My mom, sisters, nieces, aunts and close friends came to my house and we enjoyed wine and cut my hair very short. Everyone took a turn. I decided that I would wear hats and not a wig. A wig just wasn't me. The Monday after I shaved my head, I went to work and was greeted with several hats. Every one of my co-workers bought me a hat to wear! I had a whole new wardrobe!

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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.

My Story (continued from page 1)

My last “happy hour” my entire family came to celebrate with me. At one time, there were 11 people crammed in that little “happy hour” room taking pictures and toasting with sparkling grape juice! After 12 weeks of “happy hours”, I then had radiation every day for 4 weeks. I referred to that as my “tanning sessions”. God kept giving me signs that everything was going to be ok. I tell people that this was just “another bump in the road” and that I will be fine....no I will be great! I also told myself that the divorce I went through was preparing me for this very time in my life. If it weren’t for my divorce, I would never have moved back to Mt. Pleasant and would never have had the support of my family and friends...and new friends. I truly believe that a positive attitude will get you through most anything.

I will always remember where I was the day I received the news...“you have breast cancer”. It was a day that I will never forget. Not because my life was ending but because my life was just beginning! That day threw me another curve ball...but batter up and bring it on because someday soon I’m going to hit a home run!

I thank Community Cancer Services for their support and financial assistance and for giving me the opportunity to share my story.

Editor’s note: Due to space limitations, Marcy’s story has been cut. See www.isabellacommunitycancer.org for complete story.

Volunteers helping Volunteers

Board members of CCS were met with a new challenge this summer. In past years, Summerfest shared some of their office and storage space at Island Park with CCS. Unfortunately, with the demise of Summerfest, that storage space was lost. This was when we found out how caring our community of Isabella County, including CMU, can be.

As a temporary solution, Gary DeShano let us use two units in his Mission Mini Storage. In January, Bill Odykirk found several CMU football players who donated their time and cleared out our stuff from the Island Park facility and moved it to the Mini Storage for a temporary home. The next big question was: where could we find permanent, more convenient storage?

Rod Dent of the Isabella County Fair Board had approached CCS about having the 2016 walk at the fairgrounds and the Fair Board offered space for a new building on site. With CCS Board member Bill Odykirk at the helm, the new building was built, with VOLUNTEERS, at the Fair Grounds!

DeWitt Lumber helped supply the materials. Several extraordinary men volunteered to help with the actual building. Clift Moss, of Moss Construction, Matt Moss and Tom Courser made up the nucleus of the team, with the able assistance of retirees Dr. Paul Snyder, veterinarian, Attorney Tom Therman, Professors Rich Fleming, and John Krull, being pushed by John Black, retired Alma High School building trades teacher.

During the hottest weeks in July, with the temperatures in the 90’s, this group, with a few other volunteers from time to time, completed the building in 6 weeks! Mercifully, several businesses volunteered to help the group survive the temperatures: Ric’s Food Center donated water; Robaire’s Bakery supplied generous amounts of coffee and baked goods, and McDonald’s gave coffee and cold drinks. Bill Sowle, CCS Board President, was on hand frequently to see that the troops had plenty of water for keeping hydrated.

Upon its completion, Sowle Mayflower moved all of the materials out of their temporary storage into their new - and permanent - home at the Mt. Pleasant Fairgrounds. The new building is a 12’ x 18’ structure with vinyl siding and a steel hip roof. It will be used for the first time at CCS’s annual Into The Light Cancer Survivor Walk on September 23, 2016.

What a wonderful example of a caring community.

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In Memoriam to Clarence Tuma

The CCS Board of Directors wishes to express their deepest sympathy to the family of Clarence Tuma. Clarence was a valued member of the CCS team and he will be missed.

Research Support at CMU

Exciting news! CCS is offering financial support in the amount of \$3,000 for basic cancer research in the laboratory of Dr. Linlin Zhao, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at CMU. The focus of the research is understanding how alterations in human genetic material leads to cancer. Newer knowledge learnt from the research can ultimately inform in the development of more effective cancer drugs. Dr. Zhao remarks that this grant from CCS “will help us advance the fundamental understanding of cancer. At the same time, the support will help attract and train motivated students who are on their way to becoming next-generation medical doctors/researchers. This support will have long-lasting impact on our community, state of Michigan and our nation.”

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.

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.

Veterans Day Concert

Presented by the Central Michigan Community Band
Sponsored by Kraphol Ford
Sunday, November 13, 2016 – 3:00 pm – Plactha Auditorium, CMU

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

Mileage Program for Cancer Treatment Travel

Did you know that CCS will help pay your mileage to and from cancer treatment? Last year, 2015, 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”

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In Memory of *Julia Sias*
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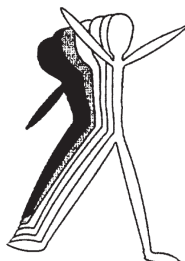
“Into the Light Cancer Walk”

Cancer Survivor Celebration
September 23rd, 7:00 pm
Isabella County Fair Grounds

Bring your cancer survivor to our survivor celebration and celebrate being a “CANCER SURVIVOR”.

Inspirational speakers will be Marcy Hosking a recent breast cancer survivor along with Cohen Adams, an eleven year old young man who was diagnosed April 2007 with stage 4 Neuroblastoma at 2.5 years old.

This is truly a celebration with clowns, food donated by local merchants, games for the kids, a live auction and a bucket raffle.



New Location

Isabella County Fairgrounds

It is with great appreciation and excitement that we are pleased to announce that this year's “Into the Light Walk” will be held at the Isabella County Fair Grounds and we will be using real candles in our luminaries vs the LED battery operated tea lights or glow sticks as used for the past few years. The track will be glowing. The Fair Board has approved the use of the 4-H food stand for all of our food needs and the Merchant Building for our Survivor Ceremony, entertainment, bucket drawing, registration, live auction, and kids' games. The Fair Board has also allowed us to build a storage building on site. The lighting is perfect and the walkway is paved. We will have better parking available and I-Ride has volunteered to have two pickup spots in town for those in need of transportation to the Fair Grounds.

Come celebrate with us
at the Isabella County Fair Grounds.