



“I Made it Through the Rain”

By Zora Walsh

*“We dreamers have our ways
Of facin’ rainy days
And somehow we survive
We keep the feelings warm
Protect them from the storm
Until our time arrives
Then one day the sun appears...
I made it through the rain....
Got rained on too
And made it through”
.....lyrics by Barry Manilow*

These lyrics describe being a cancer survivor. How do we survive this thing called “Cancer”? I always thought “cancer” was a disease for “old” people and never imagined it could happen to me at 45 but it did. At forty-five, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was scary, frightening, petrifying, bloodcurdling. It was September 1986 when I started on a survivorship journey that I, twenty-seven years later can say that I “made it through the rain”. First was the mammogram and diagnosis, then the lumpectomy, then the mastectomy, then the chemotherapy when all my hair fell out (sometimes we women are so vain). I was working in Midland at the time and remember telling the oncologist that my chances of getting creamed on my daily drive to work on M-20 were greater than the 50% chance that chemo would give me to survive more than five years. When my six months of treatment were completed, Dr. Valecoop asked: “How is M-20?” During this whole time, I was able to continue working – and yes, I did eat

...*Rain* Continued on Page 3...

Nancy Carey Support Group for Women

This amazing group of compassionate women meet 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 at Oxford Row/Canterbury club house. Call Giesela Moffitt at 772-1602 for more information.

CCS is not affiliated with American Cancer Services

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.



15th Annual “Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk”

We would like to invite cancer survivors, caregivers, friends and families to come celebrate cancer survivorship at our 15th annual “Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk” on September 27th at Island Park from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm. A cancer survivor’s celebration is at 7:00 pm with a cancer survivor walk to immediately follow. Luminaries in honor of the cancer survivor or those who have passed from cancer light the pathway the entire event and can be purchased in advance. Come help us “light the way for cancer survivors”.

Look Good...Feel Better

Look Good...Feel Better provides information and cosmetic advice to women battling cancer. This training includes hands on instruction on make up, skin care, and options related to hair loss such as wigs, turbans and scarves. It also includes tips on nails are while undergoing treatment. The next session is November 11th at the Norval K. Morey Cancer Center, Mt. Pleasant from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Call ACS at 1.800.227.2345 to register.

Mileage Program for Cancer Treatment Travel

Did you know that CCS will help pay your mileage to and from cancer treatment? With gas at over \$3.50 per gallon, this will help fill up the tank. Last year, 2012, CCS was able to provide \$59,966.00 in medical mileage to their clients. Call Vanda, the 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 Offices 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.

Veterans Concert

The Central Michigan Area Concert Band, under the direction of Claude Lemmer, Conductor, will present a "Veteran's Concert" at Plachta Auditorium at Central Michigan University on Sunday, November 10th 2013. This program is sponsored by Kraphol Ford and is free and open to the public.

Mammogram Program

For the last nine years, CCS has been offering mammograms to individuals without adequate health insurance during October, "Breast Cancer Awareness Month". Early detection is the key to breast cancer survivorship and if we helped just one man or woman with an early detection, we will have met our goals. To schedule an appointment call Vanda at 772-2524.

Thank you for your support....

- ♦ Thank you to the students at Mt. Pleasant's West Immediate and High School for donating \$8,885 to Community Cancer Services in their 2013 annual "Miles for Miracles" cancer campaign and fund raiser. Amazing and very much appreciated.
- ♦ Thank you to the Mt. Pleasant Kiwanis Club for their donation.
- ♦ CCS is grateful for all of the help from our local organizations. All these donations go to help cancer patients here in our community.

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a lot of soda crackers at work while on chemo. I was also put on the experimental hormone therapy drug Tamoxifen which had lots of side effects but acts like an added insurance policy to survivorship.

Next was the plastic surgeon and reconstructive surgery. Scary, darn right it was. I had lots of support from my children, my family, friends and co-workers – but wish there had been a Nancy Carey support group back then.

I have since learned that breast cancer affects one out of every eight women. While in a crowd, I often look around and think “there are other women here who have had breast cancer”. My good friend Mary Abler always called us her “bosom buddies”.

I recently had the BRAC1 genetic testing and it came back negative meaning it is very doubtful that my daughter or beautiful granddaughters will inherit this horrendous disease from me.

With lots of love, support and humor I celebrated FIVE years of being a survivor!!! And then I celebrated being a TEN year survivor!!!

I remember going to my first cancer survivor walk with my children and seeing tears run down my adult son’s face as he stood beside and supported me. I am now a 27 year cancer survivor and will be at the “Into the Light Cancer Survivor Ceremony” when Dave Verwey, by special request, sings, “I Made it Through the Rain”. I will be walking the luminary lit candlelight pathway and will be celebrating with over a hundred other cancer survivors “making it through the rain”, celebrating life, survivorship, family, friendship and love.

Thank you from our clients:

Here are just a few of the thank you notes from our clients. No names are listed as all clients are confidential.

- ◆ “We never knew there was such a caring organization in our community until my husband got cancer. Thank you Community Cancer Services for all of your help.”
- ◆ “We are very grateful to Community Cancer Services for the gas money to travel for treatments. This has been a long ordeal, but hopefully we are seeing remission.”
- ◆ “This has been a hard struggle and CCS has helped to make it easier.”

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 503-c-3 fully tax deductible organization so all of your donations count. CCS also has an Endowment Fund with the Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation and you can claim a partial income tax credit when you donate to this fund.

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

Memorials / Luminary Request Form

In the past year, many contributions to honor the memory of friends or family members who have died of cancer have been received by Community Cancer Services. These donations and memorials are a positive, meaningful way to remember loved ones and to provide continuing support for those still struggling with this relentless disease. CCS memorial envelopes are at all local funeral homes. Memorial contributions in honor of living or deceased cancer patients may also be sent to CCS at the address below. Even if you or your loved ones have been fortunate enough not to have been personally touched by cancer, **a tax deductible donation of any amount is desperately needed to help those who are fighting cancer.**

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Mt. Pleasant, MI
PERMIT NO. 82



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:

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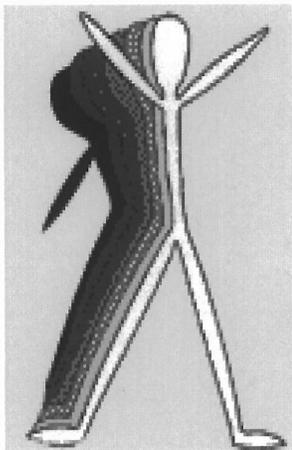
15th Annual

“Into the Light”

Cancer Awareness Walking Event

**Community Cancer Services
of Isabella County**

“Your Local Cancer Organization”



**September 27, 2013
3:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Island Park, Mt. Pleasant**

- Survivors Candle Light Ceremony
Celebration and Walk - 7:00 pm
Sponsored by Isabella Bank
- Luminaries line the pathway for the entire event
- Walk as a survivor, family, friend or volunteer
- Silent Auction, Team Competition

For more information call:

Suzanne 644-2504 or 621-4096

Margaret 772-0900

Shary 773-3875

Zora 773-0346

Forms available at www.ccsintothelight.org

“Lighting the Way for Cancer Survivors”