

## Alleviating workplace woes for cancer patients



**Liz Karst, client advocate**

We often encounter clients who are struggling with work issues during cancer treatment. Consider the mother who must hold on to her job in order to keep health insurance for herself and her family. Many people have no idea what they are required to tell their employer or what they should share with coworkers. Clients also need answers about how they can use Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) benefits.

Likewise, local employers need dependable information about how to best support employees who have cancer without jeopardizing the success of their business.

Fortunately, the client advocates at Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana

have specialized training in this area and readily offer their knowledge and guidance to both employees and employers before, during and after treatment.

### If you are an employee, advocates can help:

- **Facilitate open communication with an employer.** Conversations with an employer can lead to better results for the employee such as a reduced work schedule during treatment weeks. Employees may also benefit from a flex-schedule or telecommuting to better accommodate work demands and treatment schedules.

- **Provide reasonable solutions.** A quieter environment might help an employee who is struggling with chemo-fog. Employees undergoing or recovering from treatment may also need an increased number of bathroom breaks, or more opportunities to sit because of neuropathy in their feet.

- **Explain FMLA and other benefits.** Employees may be unsure of the best way to share their diagnosis at the workplace, or even if they must disclose it to their employer. They may need direction on how and when to apply for FMLA, Short or Long-term Disability, or Social Security Disability benefits. We can provide that direction as well as help people understand the differences between these programs.

### If you are an employer, client advocates can help:

- **Balance the needs of the employee with the needs of the business.** We can help employers who are seeking the best way to balance the legal rights of their employees with the needs of the business. Human Resource managers might be unsure of how to navigate the concern of other employees who might perceive an employee with cancer as receiving "favoritism." They also may be worried about the cost of providing an employee with "reasonable accommodations."

- **Prepare a strategy.** Cancer Services can help businesses that currently do not have any employees with cancer, but would like a plan in place should the need present itself.

Advocates can assist in providing education and support, developing a plan for working during treatment, and providing outside resources and referrals to both employees and employers to navigate through all of these concerns.

We know that employment and careers are vital aspects of the quality of life and we are here to help. For more information, give us a call at 260-484-9560.

## SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 21

### Summit City Barbershop Chorus will support Cancer Services in upcoming concert



All ticket proceeds will be donated to Cancer Services, so let's show the Summit City Barbershop Chorus the same support by giving this awesome concert a wonderful turnout!

#### EVENT INFORMATION

**Who:** The Summit City Barbershop Chorus and The Towns of Harmony featuring Instant Classic, the 2015 International Barbershop Quartet Champions

**What:** "I Believe in Music"

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 21; doors open at 7 p.m.

**Where:** Concordia Lutheran High School Auditorium, 1601 St Joe River Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46805

**Admission:** \$10 at each door, or purchased in advance at Cancer Services, 6316 Mutual Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46825. Please visit [www.summitcitychorus.org](http://www.summitcitychorus.org) to purchase tickets online.



**Judy Hass**

## Judy Hass – Champion of Hope

Judy Hass, a resident of Noble County and passionate volunteer for Cancer Services, received Cancer Services' 2017 Champion of Hope award at the 13th annual Tribute Dinner on September 6, 2017.

Cancer Services created the Champion of Hope award in 2010 in honor of Dr. William A. Kunkel, a longtime board member who devoted more than 50 years of service to Cancer Services. The award recognizes individuals who embody Cancer Services' mission and demonstrate compassionate service to the community.

Judy volunteers her time by transporting clients to and from treatment, participating in health fairs and mailings. Judy and her family also organized the Beat BC 5K run/walk, which raised more than \$56,000 over ten years.

As a breast cancer survivor, Judy believes that it is important to share her story of survivorship. Her journey with cancer makes her an exceptional volunteer driver. Judy never wears perfume or brings coffee when she transports clients, because she remembers how sensitive she was to different scents during treatment.

During the award presentation, president and CEO Dianne May thanked Judy for being one of the very first volunteers from Noble County to "raise her hand and say, 'I want to help,'" when Cancer Services extended its services to all of Northeast Indiana 11 years ago. "Her empathy is deep and heartfelt," May said.

## Join our community!

Unless otherwise noted, programs are free, open to the public and held at our Healing Arts Center 6316 Mutual Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Please call (260) 484-9560 or toll free at 866-484-9560 for more information or to reserve a seat.

### OCTOBER

#### Grocery Store Tour

**Thursday, October 5, 2017 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

Kroger Store, 601 E. Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne, IN  
(Please meet at front entrance to the store)  
Join Sue Delagrang, MS, RD for an aisle by aisle tour to help you make better food choices, learn how to read labels and choose healthy on-the-go options.

#### Hand in Hand/Fiber Friends

**Monday, October 9, 2017 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

and

**Monday, October 23, 2017 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

Paula Cassaday, Coordinator

Join either session but please reserve a space. Treat yourself to good conversation and enjoy a great stress reducer. Beginners will receive knitting instruction but always feel free to bring your own project.

#### What are we really eating?

**Wednesday, October 11, 2017 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

or

**Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Presented by Sue Delagrang, MS, RD and Diane Calinski, Ph.D., Manchester University. It's time to take a serious look at what we are actually eating. Learn about chemical preservatives, artificial flavoring and colorings, pesticides, antibiotics, hormones and more that are found in foods we enjoy.

#### Art Side By Side

**Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Sarah Creason and other local artists will coach participants in various art mediums and using art for self-expression.  
Bring your own materials. Reservations required.

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*Side by side.* Every step of the way.

## Tribute Dinner Recap



Mayor SuzAnne Handshoe

The 13th annual Tribute Dinner welcomed more than 300 guests to honor and support local people touched by cancer on September 6, 2017. To those who were able to attend, or sent in donation or a touching tribute, we thank you for your support.

It was such an inspiring night with Cancer Services awarding longtime volunteer Judy Hass as the 2017 Champion of Hope, and Mayor SuzAnne Handshoe of Kendallville sharing her story as the featured speaker.

Born and raised in Detroit, Mayor Handshoe has shown tenacity from her career in the Marine Corps to being the first woman to serve as mayor in Kendallville to going through treatment for multiple myeloma, a bone marrow cancer, last year. She shared how her doctor had suggested she go to Cancer Services, and that she was able to take home a wig after her visit.

As Mayor Handshoe presented guests with a slideshow of pictures, she joked that the neon green wig she wore in a Halloween photo was not the wig she had picked out from Cancer Services.

Mayor Handshoe told her life story with such honesty, humor and encouragement that she touched every guest in the room.



Dr. Prasad and Meena Mantravadi



The Cobblestone Ladies Golf Association from left to right: Pat Smoots, Kara Warrenner, Phyllis Weber, Jodie Speheger, Helen Cochard, Lin Swogger, Brenda Rummell

*Cancer Services extends a very special thank you to all of our sponsors.*



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# Thank you

Thanks to all who gave to Cancer Services between June 1, 2017 and September 25, 2017.

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## Leave a lasting legacy



**Cory Swagger**

### Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana – 2017 Write A Will Week

Yes, you do have an estate!

Too often, images of mansions, luxury cars and yachts come to mind when someone mentions the term estate planning. The truth is nearly everyone – including you – has an estate. If you own a home, a car or have a retirement account or insurance policy of any size, you have an estate.

Another even more wonderful truth is that being philanthropic and leaving a lasting legacy are not the exclusive territory of the super wealthy either.

Everyone – including you – has the ability to make a meaningful gift that will change lives and inspire the future.

The easiest and best place to start is by including a charitable donation in your will (something everyone should have). A will determines how your

assets are distributed. It protects your family as well as providing an excellent way to leave a lasting gift to your community.

A great way to support Cancer Services is to participate in the upcoming Write a Will Week.

We are fortunate to have local attorney Cory Swagger of Swagger Law offering his expert services on October 26, 2017 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, 6316 Mutual Dr. He will meet with you and create a simple will for you. With a Juris Doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Indiana University, Swagger is a well-connected advisor in business, corporate, and contract law as well as real estate transactions and litigation.

The beauty of the Leave a Legacy program is that you will receive this expert advice at no cost. The only requirement is that you include a charitable gift in your will. While we hope you will consider making a gift to Cancer Services, you may give to any charitable cause that speaks to your heart. Please call 484-9560 or toll free 866-484-9560 to schedule your appointment to make a will.

## GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks to all who gave to Cancer Services between June 1, 2017 and September 25, 2017.

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*If we have misspelled your name or inadvertently left it off our list, please call 484-9560 so we can make a correction.*



## Kroger's 39th Annual Fight Cancer Day

Angie Netterville is a superhero.

She has Hairy Cell Leukemia, which is a rare cancer of the blood that is a chronic condition requiring ongoing treatment. She is also a tireless source of inspiration and comfort to others who are fighting cancer.

Netterville's day job is helping others as a physical therapist assistant. Since 2015 she has taught the Stretching Class at Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana. This popular class teaches students numerous techniques to reduce pain and relieve stress. The class helps Cancer Services' clients maintain their physical activity and stamina during and after treatment.

Cancer Services is proud to have Angie

as our representative for Kroger's 39th Annual Fight Cancer Day – the community-wide effort to raise money to fight cancer.

Kroger is donating 3% of its sales from October 4th to Cancer Services, Francine's Friends and The American Cancer Society. Over the years, local Kroger stores have raised more than \$4 million for local cancer organizations.

You can join Angie and become a superhero in fighting cancer.

**Kroger customers have the opportunity to contribute to the local cancer organizations by donating cash in increments of \$1, \$3 or \$5 at check-out until Tuesday, October 31st.**



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