



# Carelines

December 2011

CANCER SERVICES OF NORTHEAST INDIANA • *Compassion, Knowledge, Support*

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## Unexpected Blessings

**A**pril 1, 2009, is the day that life changed for Kara McKinney and her family. She received the news that all women dread: “You have breast cancer.”

“I don’t remember much after hearing those words,” Kara says. “All I could think about was my children—three and one at the time. I was afraid they would never know their mother.”

Kara knew she had to fight. “I strapped on my seatbelt and started on this wild roller coaster ride. I cycled through all of the emotions...denial, fear, anger, sadness and finally acceptance,” she says. “And then, I found the biggest change in my journey. I gave it over to God and my inner soul started breathing again.”

Kara had a lumpectomy and fortunately, the cancer had not spread; however, she had to undergo chemotherapy. “I lost all of my hair and had side effects that I can’t even mention,” she explains. “It was hard.”

But Kara also had good days. She was able to bake a cake for both of her children’s birthdays during her treatment. And because of her husband’s strength and resolve to carry his family through this difficult time, Kara and her children were given a refuge in the backyard during her treatment, which he transformed for them into a playground.

“I am so grateful for Brad. I cannot begin to tell you how much he means to me,” Kara says. “He is my soul mate, through sickness and health.”

Kara is also grateful for the help she and her family received from Cancer Services. “My Client Advocate, Maureen, is an angel sent from God,” she says. “Not only did she provide emotional support and two wigs, she also helped me secure insurance for me and my children through Medicaid. She was relentless in her pursuit to open doors for me.”

Shortly after Kara was diagnosed with cancer, her husband’s company changed their policy and discontinued insurance coverage for dependents. “There’s no way we would have been able to pay for my treatment and regular doctor’s visits for my children,” she explains. “Maureen saved our lives.”

Today, Kara is done with the surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy and is starting to feel normal again. “I still have struggles,” she admits. “Sometimes I look at myself in the mirror and wonder ‘who is that woman?’ I often joke with my husband that he has a new wife. But in all seriousness, cancer has changed me, mentally and physically, and that takes some getting used to.”

With each day Kara gets stronger. “Cancer provides unexpected blessings,” she says. “I have a new appreciation for faith, family and life. I am blessed.”



Kara McKinney with her husband Brad and their children.

clientstory

## SAVE THE DATE



**SATURDAY,**  
May 19, 2012  
**Lapper 2012**

Next year marks the 10th year for our Lapper event and we have some big plans. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 19, 2012. You won’t want to miss it.

Contact Amber Recker at (260) 484-9560 or arecker@cancer-services.org for more information.

## SAVE THE DATE



### **SATURDAY** February 25, 2012 **Design on Life**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 25, 2012 and plan to join us for our annual Design on Life event at a NEW location! This year's event will be held in the Diamond Room at Ceruti's, 6601 Innovation Boulevard.

In addition to the silent and live auctions, this year's event, "Journey Around the World," will offer guests an opportunity to sample international cuisine and bid on exciting auction items all in support of those affected by cancer in our community.

To learn more about the event or to order tickets, contact Amber Recker at (260) 484-9560, toll free at 866-484-9560 or [arecker@cancer-services.org](mailto:arecker@cancer-services.org). Auction items will be available for viewing on our website, [www.cancer-services.org](http://www.cancer-services.org).

We also need auction items for the silent auction. Please get in touch with us if you'd like to donate a product or service.

#### **You are invited to attend...**

Annual Auction, fundraiser for Cancer Services  
Diamond Room, Ceruti's  
Saturday, February 25, 2012, 6:30 PM  
\$50 per ticket before February 5, \$75 after

Complimentary tickets to the Home & Garden Show will be mailed with your event ticket.  
Please RSVP before February 12, 2012 to Amber Recker at [arecker@cancer-services.org](mailto:arecker@cancer-services.org).

#### **2012 Event Sponsors:**

Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show,  
Parkview Comprehensive Cancer Center, Kroger,  
Vera Bradley, Comcast, Aesthetic Plant Specialists,  
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## Welcome New Staff Member!



Beth Koenemann

We are pleased to welcome Beth Koenemann as a part-time Children's Advocate. She will work with children who have been diagnosed with cancer and their families in Northeast Indiana. Our programs for children with cancer are so important and we look forward to continuing to develop them with Beth on board.

## agency staff

**Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana Inc.**

6316 Mutual Drive • Fort Wayne, IN 46825

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## Cancer Services Nominates Dave Fee for *Carl D. Rolfsen Stewardship Award*

by Kristin Neubauer

Yvonne and Dave Fee

Each year, the Foellinger Foundation asks for nominees from the non-profit community for its Carl D. Rolfsen Stewardship Award, which recognizes outstanding board members. In order to qualify for the Award, one must demonstrate at least three of the “Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards,” such as protecting assets and providing financial oversight, ensuring adequate financial resources, and ensuring effective planning.

This year, we nominated board member Dave Fee because of his strong leadership, active support and service as a dedicated volunteer. Dave is a bridge builder, whether it means serving on the Executive Committee, Friends Committee, Finance Committee or on the Board, he is a critical and pragmatic thinker who expresses his opinions with a mission focus and in a manner that encourage others to be just as engaged. He serves as a standard for all board members. As a member of the Friends Committee, Dave actively invites friends and acquaintances alike to visit Cancer Services and learn about our mission and programs, while his broad skills support giving initiatives with individuals and foundations.

Dave is infectious. In his leadership of finance, fund development and strategic planning, he has performed the fiduciary and governance responsibilities incumbent to an exemplary board member. His unyielding focus on the mission, dedicated service as a community ambassador and financial oversight leadership, have produced sustained and healthy growth for Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana. His leadership has been utilized in the development of an expanded plan to include individual and corporate giving in the surrounding counties and the creation of a strategic plan with measurable targets for the next 5 years.

We could not do what we do without dedicated volunteers like Dave, and it is our great pleasure to honor him with this nomination. Thank you, Dave!



## Oncology Massage Training Opportunity

In 2010, we hosted nationally renowned oncology massage trainer, Tracy Walton, MS, LMT, for a three-day intensive training session with twenty-three local massage therapists. As part of that training, each therapist agreed to provide volunteer time to our organization to help us launch our oncology massage program, Caring Touch. Beginning in July last year, 30-minute massage appointments became available to clients and caregivers. The program has been so well received that we are bringing Tracy back in 2012 to train more massage therapists.

March 5 through 8, 2012, we will host an intensive massage training: Caring for Clients with Cancer: Simple Steps to Safe, Effective Massage Therapy. Participants will earn 32 hours of NCBTMB-approved instruction, as well as the benefits of oncology massage for cancer patients, which include reduced pain, anxiety, nausea, depression and fatigue.

Certified massage therapists interested in learning more about oncology massage are encouraged to register. The cost to attend is \$200 and all participants must be willing to provide 16 hours of volunteer service to our Caring Touch massage program. Applicants must have completed a recognized professional training program in massage therapy and be certified by the state of Indiana. Registration is limited to 24 and there are only a few spots remaining.

We are also looking for clients to assist with the training sessions by being willing to receive massages from the students the last day of the training. If interested, contact Cheryl Dafforn at (260) 484-9560 or [cdafforn@cancer-services.org](mailto:cdafforn@cancer-services.org).

## Join Our Community

### Tai Chi

Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

*Open to the community*

Tai Chi helps de-stress your life and diminish pain through slow, deliberate, body movements and breathing.

### re-Energize!

Tuesday & Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

*Open to the community*

Put some zip in your step by putting your body into motion with light exercise.

If you plan to attend either class, please call (260) 484-9560 or 1-866-484-9560.



Participants in re-Energize! hosted a Halloween party, complete with costumes during a session in October. Class facilitator Courtney Berger's magnetic personality has drawn the group together like family. They'd love for you to join them in the fun!

## Support Groups

Coping with a cancer diagnosis can be quite challenging and it may be helpful to talk with others who have walked a similar journey. Support groups offer the chance for people to talk about their experiences, connect with survivors and increase coping skills. We offer a variety of support groups and a full list is available on our website, [www.cancer-services.org](http://www.cancer-services.org).

## Pancreas, Gallbladder, Bile Duct Cancer Support Group

*Facilitated by Peggy Jones*

3rd Wednesday monthly 6:30pm-8:00pm  
*-Caregivers are welcome to attend-*

Above programs are held at  
Cancer Services' Healing Arts Center,  
6316 Mutual Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Call to reserve your spot:  
(260) 484-9560 or  
(866) 484-9560



## 7th Annual Tribute Dinner: *A Huge Success!*

On Thursday, October 13, guests joined us for our 7th Annual Tribute Dinner in the Marquis Ballroom at the Fort Wayne Marriott. This year's event, "Navigating Life's Detours", offered our

community an opportunity to pause, treasure the memories of people who have been touched by cancer, and pay tribute to them, whether a cancer survivor, caregiver, physician, or lost loved one. In addition to quality time spent with family and friends, guests were entertained and inspired by guest speaker Regina Brett, best-selling author and cancer survivor. Regina shared the story of her own cancer journey through her 50 Life Lessons, which appear in her book "God Never Blinks: 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours." She made us laugh and she made us cry, but most of all she instilled in us the hope that the best is yet to come, no matter where we are on life's journey.

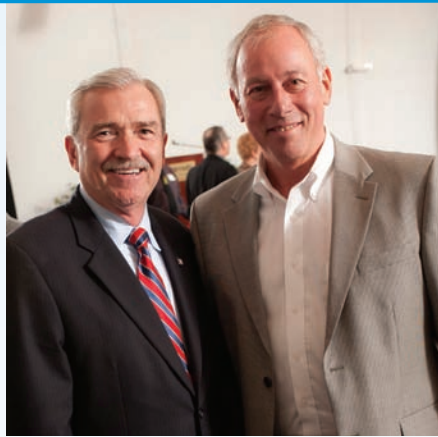
Last year, at our Annual Tribute Dinner, we un-veiled the William A. Kunkel III Champion of Hope award, which was created to recognize an individual, family or business that embodies the mission of Cancer Services through a lifelong commitment to enhancing the quality of life of those affected by cancer in Northeast Indiana. The recipient of the Champion of Hope Award demonstrates an unparalleled devotion to the organization as a volunteer, advocate, friend and companion, leading by example and exhibiting unwavering compassion. Last year's award went to its namesake, Bill Kunkel.



Adda Jane and Jim Wiegman

We were pleased to announce the selection of Jim and Adda Jane Wiegman as the recipients of this year's Champion of Hope award and we honored them at the dinner. Jim and Adda Jane have made significant contributions to our community as volunteers and co founders of the Us TOO

support group for men with prostate cancer and their partners. Since its debut in 1992, Us TOO has held more than 200 monthly meetings at Cancer Services providing men and their partners a safe place to talk about their health and well-being. Jim and Adda Jane have dedicated much of their time to Us TOO, and in return they have become a source of comfort and information for hundreds of men and women throughout our community. Jim and Adda Jane served many years as volunteers with the Scotts/Kroger Cancer Day, bagging groceries and helping at the golf outing. They have given financial support to Cancer Services and been a foundation for inspiration to staff and volunteers alike, always offering their help. These two Champions of Hope have had positive impacts on the quality of life of so many friends and neighbors through their very own message of hope.



Mayor Tom Henry and John Lefever



Bill Kunkel, Dianne May and Jeanne Schouweiler



Todd and Janet Stephenson



Lynda and Tom Horton with Gayle and John Bloom

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