By Dianne May

When your best friend, family member or favorite coworker tells you that they have cancer, it creates an awful feeling of helplessness. You want to help. But the best ways to help are not always clear. My hope is that one of the first things you tell them is to call Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

Cancer Services provides innovative programs, effective solutions, and unending compassion to families in our community that are impacted by cancer. Sometimes it seems like magic. It’s not. It happens because of a lot of hard work and dedication from hundreds of volunteers, a small staff, and many donors.

Providing financial assistance, equipment, supplies, nutrition consultations, mental health counseling and support groups, etc. to more than 4,000 families every year requires a lot of financial support from the community. It will require more than $1.8 million in 2022.

A significant portion of the resources needed comes from businesses, school groups, civic organizations and individuals who hold fundraisers benefiting Cancer Services. In 2020, people organized and held community-based events that raised nearly $60,000.

These events are always a fun and innovative way to show support for people with cancer. They include golf outings, concerts, auctions, motorcycle rides, bake sales and lemonade stands.

Unfortunately, many of the groups that hold annual fundraisers for Cancer Services have not been able to because of COVID-19. I’m hopeful that as COVID numbers decline in our community, groups will once again be able to hold these events supporting people with cancer.

If you are a member of a group that is interested in helping Cancer Services, please reach out to Haley Strickler, Cancer Services’ Outreach Coordinator, at hstrickler@cancer-services.org. She can share a Fundraisers Toolkit with you to help with the planning. Our team also is available to provide advice, promote the event and celebrate the results.

All these fundraisers, no matter the amount raised, not only provide both practical and emotional resources to local people affected by cancer, but these events also build awareness of the assistance that is available at Cancer Services. These events act as proof of the community’s support for people with cancer. They demonstrate that no one goes through cancer alone.
The Fort Wayne Branch of the AAUW Trust generously provided a $700 grant to Cancer Services. The funding was used to pay for specially designed memorial cards expressing sympathy and support to grieving families served by Cancer Services.

We are grateful for this partnership with the AAUW Trust and appreciate the many ways the local branch of the American Association of University Women improves our community.
**GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Thanks to all who gave to Cancer Services between November 16 - February 15, 2022

**MEMORIALS & HONORARIES**

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50th Wedding Anni of Ronald and Rhonda Gecker

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Questions: Contact Natalie Spain at 260-484-9560
or nspain@cancer-services.org

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Help support local people with cancer and join the Ribbon Walk! All the money raised stays in our community to help people with cancer.

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