



30TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY From a Dream to a Reality

Thirty years ago several people gathered around to discuss a need. There seemed to be very little support for those who were facing cancer and their caregivers. What started as a "what if" dream has truly become a reality. The Baltimore Cancer Support Group put that dream into reality with Kristen Severson being the first Director, passing the baton onto Gail Hart, and now to Geri Booker.

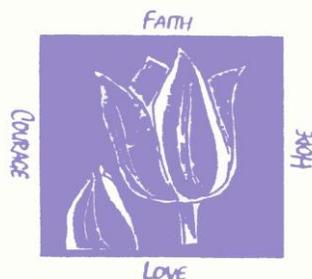
We grew to 3 centers and never had a fee to anyone we ministered to. To the patients; to the family's of the patient; to the caregivers; to the specialized cancer patients; to grief support we have been blessed with dedicated board members and coordinators.

The whole approach of BCSG was to offer a caring, listening, healing environment. As we are about to observe our 28th Gala to show appreciation to the clients and staff, we remain solvent through proceeds, grants, and generous memorials.

It has been my privilege to serve on the board for twenty seven years. It has truly been a blessing.

As we begin a new decade, help us keep the dream alive with your commitment and generosity. Francis of Assisi put it so well, 'It is in giving that we receive and in loving that we are loved.'

Pastor Donald Beutel



28th Annual Fund-raiser



**Saturday, October 27,
2018**

7:00 pm. until Midnight
Columbus Gardens
4301 Klosterman Ave
Baltimore, MD 21236

Mark your calendar and celebrate Halloween Bash Costume Party. Join us for an evening of fun, dining and dancing.

**BULL & SHRIMP ROAST
OPEN BAR
SILENT & LIVE AUCTION
BEER & PLANT WHEEL
RAFFLES**

Music by:

DAN "DYNAMO" JAHN

All proceeds benefit the Baltimore Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Tickets are \$50 per person.

**For more information, or
to reserve tickets, please
call 410-671-6828.**

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 17, 2018 - Holiday Group Celebration - 7:00 pm.
Westminster United Methodist Church,
162 East Main Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157

December 20, 2018 - Holiday Feast - 7:00 pm.
St. Peter's, 7910 Belair Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21236

October 28, 2018 – Twenty Eighth Annual Charitable Fundraiser
7:00pm– Midnight
Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman Ave, Balt., MD 21236

Groups will not meet on Nov.22 (Thanksgiving holiday), and Dec. 24, through Jan. 3, 2018 (Christmas and New Year's holidays.)



A Note from Karen Haughey

It is hard to believe that 30 years ago, a cancer support group was born. It's been my pleasure and honor to be a part of Baltimore Cancer Support Group. A little over 20 years ago I was invited by Dr. Stephen Cohen to come and sit in on his cancer

support group. After about 30 minutes I was hooked. I met the most amazing woman who was about to change my life, Gail Hart. I watched this woman in absolute awe, as she enabled people to share their deepest fears, concerns, hopes and dreams with ease. As I was leaving that night, I told her "I want to do what you do". She smiled her special smile and became my mentor and so much more.

Well, 20 + years later, I have been one of the facilitators in Carroll County and Baltimore County. We have had some groups fold for one reason or another, but these two groups of patients, caregivers and bereaved have touched my life in so many ways.

Our Carroll county group began in 2001, and continues every Monday night. Over the years we have had Basket Bingo, our team Hart's Hope at Relay For Life, pot luck dinners and amazing friendships

Our Belair Rd. group is 30 years old. What an amazing feat for a small "mom & pop" group to still be here giving back to the community. When you come to our group, whether it be Monday or Thursday, you become part of an amazing family. We have celebrated many successes, cried over losses, watched group members fall in love and marry, had picnics, pot luck dinners, and just unconditional, non-judgmental, complete support and validation for each other.

To be a small "mom & pop" group and survive 30 years is a testament of the commitment to give back to the community. We are an open ended group which means you can come whenever you want. You don't have to register, all you have to do is stop by and become part of the most amazing family you will ever meet.

BCSG MEETINGS

- **Patient Groups** – Focus is on dealing with the physical and emotional challenges facing patients coping with cancer.

Westminster United Methodist Church
Monday evenings, 7:00-8:30

St. Peter's Church
Thursday evenings, 7:00- 8:30

- **Caregiver Groups** – The stresses experienced by caregivers in meeting patient's needs, as well as their own, are addressed.

Westminster United Methodist Church
Monday evenings, 7:00-8:30

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30

- **Bereavement Groups** – Supports those working through the grieving process.

Westminster United Methodist Church
Monday evenings, 7:00-8:30

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30



BCSG MEETING LOCATIONS

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
7910 Belair Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21236

Westminster United Methodist Church,
162 East Main Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157



FOR INFORMATION CALL:
410-668-1762

WEB PAGE

WWW.BALTIMORECANCER
SUPPORTGROUP.ORG

Care, Concern, Compassion & Comfort Through Candid Communication Defines The Baltimore Cancer Support Group

What is the Baltimore Cancer Support Group (BCSG) and why do we support it?

I only became familiar with BCSG because of my mother, Gail Hart, who put her heart and soul into the organization for many years. I can remember my Mom going to "group" weekly. She spent countless hours on the telephone as she talked with individuals from the various support groups on a nearly daily basis or attended other, less formal, gatherings with the individual members as needed. I knew my mother was quite active with BCSG, first as a group facilitator and eventually as the executive director; but, I had no idea why she was dedicating so much time to it. Whatever was drawing her, I could tell it was a "calling" because she eagerly greeted every opportunity to lend assistance to "the group," by any means necessary, with never-ending energy, enthusiasm and passion. It was obvious that, whatever my mother was doing, it was making a significant difference in someone's life as it positively impacted her own as well. It was understood that my entire family would attend or support the BCSG Annual Fundraiser-- just ask my Dad! It was expected that everyone, family or not, was to get "onboard" and contribute to that event in one way or another. So, that was my informal introduction to BCSG.

Nearly two years ago, I was somehow wrangled into the mix with BCSG and landed a position on the board of directors. This has allowed me to interact with responsible, committed and good-hearted people entrusted with maintaining the integrity of the organization from a managerial perspective. Topics of discussion focus on sustainability, marketing and funding. As a non-profit, BCSG is always seeking ways to garner support through charitable contributions from business leaders, private organizations and individuals within the community. After attending several board meetings, I thought to myself, "when people make donations to BCSC, what, exactly, are they supporting?" For me, there was only one way to find out...get in the trenches and see what actually occurs at a cancer support group on Thursday evenings.

I attended a weekly support group as someone who has experienced significant losses of family members and friends due to cancer, not as a board member. I was welcomed by those in the room and somehow didn't feel like an "outsider" due their welcoming words and actions. Once those in the room started sharing their various experiences with cancer (patient, survivor, caregiver, grieving a loss, etc.), I was touched by what was being communicated verbally, as well as by non-verbal means. I witnessed a range of emotions that included sadness, fear, anger, confusion and frustration.... to share just a few. On the other hand, hope, encouragement, understanding, smiles and laughter were also present. More importantly, I witnessed *Care, Concern, Compassion & Comfort* being projected through words and physical embrace. I saw the release of pent-up frustration, anger and anxiety greeted with acceptance without judgment. Thoughts and emotions were validated, personal experiences were conveyed and coping methods were discussed. It had such a powerful influence on me that I voluntarily shared some of my own experiences, which I was not accustomed to doing, especially in a group setting. I immediately felt a sigh of relief after releasing feelings that were obviously suppressed for years. It was as though I was removing "cinder blocks" from a weighted "backpack" that I had been carrying around for a long time. In fact, it felt so good, I now attend the group sessions on a regular basis, for a multitude of reasons, and I look forward to it. I finally understand why my mother put so much energy toward "the group" and was always so excited about it. It makes a huge difference!

Why does BCSG ask for your monetary support?

It is because this group subscribes to the very fundamentals our nation was founded upon - caring for one another and community. BCSG remains committed to *Care, Concern, Compassion and Comfort* for those confronting cancer-related challenges and situations. It provides a confidential safe haven that allows for personal thoughts, emotions and experiences to be shared, insight to be gained, and development of healthy ways to cope. Your support permits BCSG to function independently, remain community-based, and not be influenced by larger institutions or organizations. The foundation and principles upon which BCSG was formed remains intact, strong and free-standing.... able to support those in need.

**"What is important is family, friends; giving back to your community and finding meaning in life." ~
Adrian Grenier**



2018 Fifth Annual BCSG Car Show

July 8, 2018 was the Fifth Annual BCSG Car Show that was held at Joppatowne Plaza, Joppa, Maryland. With the support of Sponsors such as Napa Auto of Harford County, Pep Boys of Middle River, Jones Junction, and Timonium Auto Parts. There were over 225 entries and awards were presented for the Antiques (1920-1949), Classics (1950-1970), Muscle Cars (1965-1975), Mid Classics (1976-1996), Late Model (1997 -present), Motorcycles, Street Rods, Trucks (Pre 1978), Trucks (1979- Present), Jeeps, Imports, and Custom. With the help of many volunteers and our proud sponsors, this event was another complete success!

Special thanks to Brad, Larry and Linda Delbridge, the staff of the Towne Pub & Grill, and the Joppatowne Farmer's Market for all their support, as well as, Danny Jahn for his DJ services. They went above and beyond to help make this event a complete success.

This year the event will be bigger and better!! The sixth Annual Car Show is scheduled for Sunday, July 7, 2019. The rain date will be on Sunday, July 21, 2019.



Baltimore Cancer Support Group, Inc

Conference Center
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
7910 Belair Rd.
Baltimore, Maryland 21236
410-668-1762

BCSG Board of Directors

Karen Haughey, RN, OCN, Chairperson
Dawn Beeghley
Rich Bennett
Yousuf Gaffar, M.D.
Jennifer Kohan Gaffar
Chuck Hart
Yvonne L. Ottaviano, M.D.

BCSG Staff

Geraldene Booker, Director
Barbara Campeggi
Jean Marks, RN, OCN
Suzanne Long, Accounting
Karen Haughey, RN, OCN

I would like to say many thanks to all our board members, patients, caregivers, and facilitators. Without them the Baltimore Cancer Support Group could not exist. As the Director, I get the great pleasure in being a part of such a wonderful group. There are so many giving people who have touched my life through the years. It is good to be able to give back to our community and help those who are in need of support.

Geraldene Booker, Executive Director, Baltimore Cancer Support Group, Inc.