

Cancer Services of Grant County to hold virtual Walk of Hope

By Sean Douglas

On May 7, the first Friday of the month, Cancer Services of Grant County (CSGC) will have its annual Walk of Hope in a virtual setting, raising money for the organization and giving the people of Grant County the opportunity to show their support for those who have, and are, battling cancer.

After a tumultuous 2020, which saw the Marion and surrounding areas deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Executive Director Jennifer Lane-Riefler revealed the theme for 2021—“HOPE for a better tomorrow.”

“This was my choice,” Lane-Riefler said. “It was based on the 2020 COVID impact on all of us as well as a daily hope for cancer fighters.”

The 2021 event, while being virtual, will mark CSGC’s 21st walk since Lane-Riefler became executive director and also will mark the organization’s 62nd year helping Marion and the Grant County community diagnose, fight, and in many cases, beat cancer.

The organization was established in 1959 as the Grant County Cancer Society, and its original main purpose was to provide support for families after their loved ones were diagnosed with the disease. But with all the technological advances in the medical field over the past 60 years, CSGC now provides multiple services, including home healthcare equipment like wigs, hats, scarves, wheelchairs, and walkers. Along with that, CSGC offers a post-mastectomy fitting clinic, patient navigation to help guide people throughout their journey, and financial assistance to help cover the cost of medications, medical bills, and transportation.

“Cancer services have changed in my 20 years,” Lane-Riefler stated at the last live Walk of Hope event two summers ago. “We continually evolve based on the needs of the community and those people who are diagnosed with cancer. It just depends on what people need. There’s no black and white line that says we do this or we don’t do that. We do whatever we can to help folks during that journey.”

Lane-Riefler has been involved with Cancer



Walk of Hope Shirt

Services of Grant County for 22 of those 62 years. A California native, Lane-Riefler moved to Marion in September 1999, and after seeing an ad for the executive director position, she knew that God was calling her to serve in that capacity. After learning more about the community and what their needs were, she wasted no time. She quickly established an outreach program to help educate people on the early warning signs of the disease, along with a free mammogram program for women in the area. Today, Cancer Services of Grant County serves 600 people locally and provides 200 free mammograms each year.

The Walk of Hope is the Cancer Services of Grant County’s biggest fundraiser event of the year. In years past, before the pandemic, upwards of 4,000 people would gather at the Riverside Community Federal Credit Union in downtown Marion and proceed to walk around the downtown Marion, walking in solidarity with those who have suffered and who are continuing to suffer from cancer.

With just over three weeks until the event, and with less than 500 people currently registered, Cancer Services of Grant County is looking for the Marion community to show in support as they have done, faithfully, over the last 60 plus years. Each year, the Walk of Hope is CSGC’s most important event, as the funds raised allow the organization to provide its many services to those in need throughout the community.

The cost to participate is \$5 per walker, and there

are a plethora of sponsorship opportunities ranging from the \$250 to the \$5,000 level for businesses and organizations. Any business that pledges \$5,000 or more will be recognized as a corporate sponsor on all printed material, along with radio and news ads. The pledging business’s logo will be printed on the event shirts and placed on a banner on the Cancer Services of Grant County website. Any business that sponsors at the \$2,500 level will be promoted as a sponsor in radio and news adds. At the \$1,000 level, sponsoring businesses will be given the choice to have their logo printed on event shirts and on survivor bibs. Additionally, sponsoring businesses at the \$1000 level may be chosen as the biggest team award sponsor, the spirit award sponsor, and be featured on the website banner.

Each participant will receive a free T-shirt, featuring the Hope for a better tomorrow” theme printed across the front and ranging from sizes youth small to quadruple XL.

Everyone is encouraged to register and can do so up until the day of the event. CGSC also encourages every team to register, dress up, and make videos of themselves walking, socially distanced, in honor, in support, and in memory of their loved ones. Videos posted before noon on May 6 will have a chance to win the Spirit Award. The largest team will also be awarded.

For more information, or to register, visit GrantCountyCancer.org, visit their office at 305 South Norton Avenue, or call 765-664-6815.

Marion Lions Club to hold 15th “Rose Day” event

The Marion Lions Club will be having its 15th annual “Rose Day” on Wednesday, April 21.

Fresh-cut, long stem roses are shipped overnight from California via FedEx so they can deliver them the next day to your Grant County business or residence on “Administrative Professionals Day” (Secretaries Day). These are top quality roses which are wrapped in see through paper, with each one dozen single colored bouquet containing a rose care packet of preservatives. The Roses per dozen come in red, yellow, pink, white, etc. The cost is only \$18.00 per



dozen delivered to your Administrative Professional employee(s), spouse, or anyone (Covid-19 survivor / care giver) to which you wish to show your appreciation.

Absolutely no orders will be taken after noon on April 16. Profits will benefit local preschool vision

screening, provide dictionaries for all third-grade public & private school students in Marion, Gas City & Jonesboro, Marion Lions Old Folk’s Day, youth sports teams, Services for the Visually and/or hearing impaired in Grant County and many other local community organizations.

Orders may be placed by contacting Lions Sandra at 765-661-1356 or sunshine4u@indy.rr.com, Carol at 765-661-6188 or hammy59@gmail.com, Dave at 765-660-1469 dbates@datapitstop.com or any other Marion Lion member you know, before noon April 16.

Ontario man dies in single vehicle crash

On Tuesday, April 6, at approximately 11:26 a.m., officers from the Indiana State Police and the Grant County Sheriff’s Department responded to a single vehicle crash on I-69 near the 261.5-mile marker, in which a Canadian man died.

The preliminary crash investigation by Senior Trooper A.J. Coffee revealed that William Wilcox, 65, Ontario, Canada was driving a 2020 Freightliner semi-tractor, pulling a box trailer, southbound on I-69 near the 261.5-mile marker. For an undetermined reason, the Freightliner traveled off the westside of the road, down an embankment, before crashing into multiple trees in a wood line.

Wilcox, who was not wearing a seat belt, was pronounced deceased at the crash scene.

The crash caused a traffic backup on southbound I-69. Officers were positioned at the rear of the backup, with emergency lights activated, to warn and slow down traffic. Near the 264 mile marker, a 2020 Freightliner, driven by Charles Wagner, 71, Springfield, IL rear-ended a flatbed trailer that was being pulled by a 2006 Volvo semi-tractor. The preliminary crash investigation by Senior Trooper Weston Shanks revealed that the Volvo, which was driven by Oumar Muhamed, 49, Indianapolis, was slowing down due to the traffic backup.

The Freightliner caught on fire which was extinguished

by personnel from the Marion Fire Department. Wagner escaped with a minor injury to one of his hands. Muhamed was not injured.

Both crashes are still under investigation.

Multiple Indiana State Police troopers assisted at the crash scenes. Also assisting were the Grant County Sheriff’s Department, the Marion Fire Department, the Jefferson Township Fire Department, The Upland Fire Department, the Gas City Fire Department, the Indiana Department of Transportation, Grant County Emergency Management, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Indiana History Answers

1. Wabash 2. Hay

3. Sycamores

4. Wabash

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