



March MIRACLE



By Marcia Gurche



It had been a long time since Marilyn or I had been in a middle school gym filled with sixth, seventh and eighth grade students cheering and chanting, but it was every bit as much fun this time as it was back in our day. For the last three years, Berkley's **Anderson Middle School** has hosted a wonderful event, **March Miracle Basketball Tournament**, which, with the help of some local business sponsors, has raised over \$36,000 for a very special charity called **Camp Casey**. Camp Casey pairs horseback riding activities with children with cancer and rare blood disorders.

One to One is devoted to the on-going support of those newly diagnosed, those in remission and those in recurrence.

100% of contributions directly benefit our group by providing activities and paying for expenses.

Donations are gratefully accepted and can be made by check payable to **One to One Ovarian Cancer Support Group** c/o Marilyn Brozovic 4793 Alton Dr. Troy, MI 48085

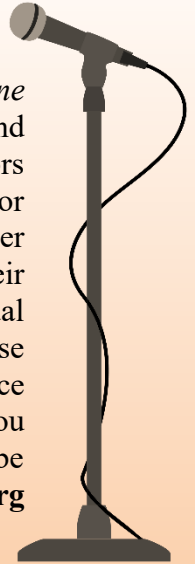
A receipt will be provided for tax purposes.

This year **Karen Saltzman**, the Anderson teacher who organizes this outstanding event, wanted to recognize a special colleague of hers, **Theresa Cabalum**, who is an invaluable asset to March Miracle. Theresa's mother, **Janice Stanichuk**, one of our special *One to One* members, passed away from ovarian cancer several years ago. Each year, Theresa sponsors a team of students to participate in March Miracle, named "Just Cure It." Her team is in memory of her mom and the team's shirts are always teal.

As a tribute to Theresa's dedication, a sizable donation from the March Miracle was given to our *One to One* support group in Janice Stanichuk's memory. Since Jan enjoyed our Girls' Getaway Weekend so much, the decision was made to use this generous donation as a scholarship for the weekend so that someone who might not otherwise be able to attend, will be able to come. We are so grateful to Karen, Theresa, and all the Anderson Middle School students, faculty, and friends who helped make this donation in Jan's memory a reality.



WE SPEAK



Through the **Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance's** SPEAK program, several of our *One to One* support group members are working to educate women in the general public about the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer. The SPEAK program, which is an acronym for Survivors Promoting Early Awareness and Knowledge, is a free program which is offered to any group or organization who is willing to host it. During this one-hour presentation, the ovarian cancer survivors discuss the myths, facts, symptoms, and risk factors of the disease as they recount their personal stories of their diagnosis and cancer journey. Hearing personal accounts from actual cancer survivors helps put a face and voice to the disease. The purpose of SPEAK is to raise awareness of the disease and increase the public's understanding so women seek medical advice sooner. Ultimately, the goal is to save lives through the early detection of ovarian cancer. If you belong to an organization such as a church group, book club, yoga group, etc., who might be interested in learning more about hosting a SPEAK presentation, please contact info@mioca.org or (734)800-6144 or Marcia Gurche at mgurche@gmail.com or (586) 506-0598.

God I'm sorry they can't see

by Rosie Bautista

Three words have changed my life
But not the way you think
You have cancer
But I am ok
Why is she different
Is what they'll say

Laying in my wilderness
Feeling astray
But knowing only You will have it this
way

They don't see my tears everyday
They don't see me pray
To take them away

I don't fulfill their
Expectations
Presumptions
Or visions of faith
So I'm sorry God
That they can't see
What true faith is supposed to be

I pray
And I praise
And I glorify
But they only wonder why
why is she ok

I don't memorize or rehearse
Any Bible verse
But I know your voice
And that your will comes first

I come from an immigrant, the hood, the trenches
From a place where survival is key
And even shoes are a luxury
Yet my mom always taught me
To bend my knees
For He and His grace will set us free

I see them at church
At work, the clinic and the street
Bibles in hand
Ready to preach

They study the Gospel
And have the degrees
Plus many many years in ministries
Yet they question and pry
And don't understand why
Oh can't they see?

But I'm praying
And fighting
And preaching away
The fears and the pain
And the demons astray
Because I know in my heart
That you lead the way
So I'm sorry God that they can't see
What true faith is supposed to be

They say that I'm strong
Yet I feel so weak
And only find my strength
When you carry my feet

I can't comprehend why they don't believe
That when you have faith
You will succeed

The doctors will tell me what to do
Even others who have gone through it too
Will always affirm that they know the truth
But I know in my heart
You are the truth
So I'm sorry God they can't see
What true faith is supposed to be

I know that many have gone through this
too
The sicknesses, the illness
The persecutions, oppressions
The difficulties and obsessions
The compulsions, addictions
The fights and the struggles
The highs and the lows
But oh through it all

I believe
And I hope
I wish and desire
I pray and I forecast
That God they will find ya
And one day they'll see
What true faith is supposed to be





PROFILE in

Courage



By Josalyn Billingsley and Marcia Gurche

When we hear the phrase “*It takes a village,*” we often think of raising children—but the truth is, it takes a village to endure life’s hardest battles too. For **Josalyn Billingsley**, that village stood tall when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in April 2023.

Josalyn has never been one to ignore her instincts. When she began experiencing persistent bloating, pain, and discomfort, she didn’t dismiss it—even after an initial misdiagnosis of diverticulitis. Trusting her body, she sought further evaluation. A CT scan revealed troubling signs. Her daughter, **Ameisha**, then a second-year medical student, read the radiology report and immediately recognized the potential gravity. With urgency and clarity, she advised her mother to go to the ER, where the road to diagnosis and treatment began.



What followed was a journey that would test every ounce of Josalyn’s strength. Ameisha put her life on hold—taking a leave from her dual medical and business degree program at the University of Toledo to advocate for and care for her mother full-time. But they were not alone. Friends, family, and even strangers rallied—sending chemo gear, vitamins, and messages of support. That collective kindness became a lifeline during the darkest hours.

Grandson Brian and Josalyn



The fight was grueling. After enduring three rounds of chemotherapy with Carboplatin and Taxol, Josalyn underwent a 13-hour HIPEC debulking surgery, followed by six weeks in a rehabilitation facility. She emerged from it all to finish three more rounds of chemo, only to face a recurrence just three months later. But her resilience, and her faith in medicine, remained unshaken. Josalyn sought out multiple opinions and tried to find research-based medical facilities. Because early genetic testing when she was initially diagnosed revealed high folate receptor expression, she qualified for a clinical immunotherapy trial. The side effects are real—but Josalyn embraces them, hopeful they’re a sign of something working.

A current resident of Canton, Michigan, Josalyn is now staying in her daughter’s home in Detroit to have access to closer care and more family support. She had returned to school when her oldest son was seven, becoming a registered nurse devoted to mental health care. From in-home services to inpatient psychiatry, she poured herself into the wellbeing of others—especially children. In her time as a nurse, she has worked at Sacred Heart, Oakland County Community Mental Health, and Doctor’s Hospital in Pontiac.

Today, Josalyn finds pride in her children and grandchildren. Her son **Brian**, an electrician journeyman, is the father of four, including college-bound **Brian Andre Billingsley II**, a soon to be graduate of the University of Michigan’s Wolverine Pathways. He is going to attend the University of Michigan -Dearborn and hopes to become an attorney. Her vibrant family also includes her beloved granddaughter **Karma**, 16, and younger grandsons **MyKel**, 8, and **Amir**, 18 months.

Ameisha, now in her final year of medical school, continues to be her mother’s closest advocate, supported by her fiancé, who has been a steadfast presence throughout this journey.


Son Brian and Ameisha



(Cont. 'd on next page)

Although Josalyn has endured the loss of her siblings **Keith** and **Arnitra**, she is surrounded by a circle of deep and unwavering love. Her half-sisters, **Vicki** and **Vanessa**, have remained steady companions through every chapter, offering encouragement, presence, and peace. Her niece **Kimberly** keeps her laughing, invites her on spontaneous adventures, and accompanies her to Tree of Life Bible Fellowship Church in Royal Oak, where Josalyn continues to find spiritual grounding and joy through service. Her dear friend **Sherri**, a fellow cancer warrior diagnosed just a year before Josalyn, shares in the journey with empathy and strength—each woman holding space for the other in moments of fear, hope, and triumph. Ameisha’s half-sister **Leslie**, a dedicated nurse practitioner, and Leslie’s mother **Elaine**, have become indispensable members of Josalyn’s village—offering not only transportation and care, but also a constant source of humor and friendship that lifts the spirit even on the hardest days. Even Josalyn’s former daughter-in-law, **Nicole**, continues to be a cherished part of her life—reminding us that family is defined not just by blood, but by devotion.

Adjusting to a new normal has not been easy for Joslyn. The fatigue, the mental fog, the physical toll—these have all reshaped daily life. But she finds pockets of joy and movement wherever she can: taking walks, going on bike rides, enjoying the open road, teaching at Vacation Bible School, or creating art with her hands. Each act is a quiet declaration of perseverance.

Ovarian cancer has been her greatest trial—but Josalyn meets it with courage, grace, and an unshakeable belief that God placed her on this path for a reason. She’s living proof of what it means to trust your body, lean on your people, and never lose hope. Because while it takes a village to endure the weight of illness, Josalyn has always been the kind of woman who helps carry others—one who built her village long before she ever needed it. 

August



July

Ginny Dimsa	19 yrs!
Judy Nitz	19
Debbie Zemmer	13
Mary Walosin	10
Carole Kabrin	8
Diane Callaghan	7

HAPPY SURVIVORSary

Bridget Smith	22 yrs!
Virginia Marrow	18
Irene Kearney	16
Joline Bowdich	15
Margaret Huang	12
Kim Belhorn	11
Gail DePodesta	10
Dana McCarius	6
Ruth Vrbensky	5
Katie Tolly	2
Anne Sullivan	1

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Group Meeting

Group meetings will be held at
4 pm on the 2nd Thursday
of the month at

Gilda's Club

3517 Rochester Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
(located north of 13 Mile Rd.)

July 10
August 14
September 11

Objectives of support group:

- ✦ Provide a forum for ovarian cancer patients to address concerns;
- ✦ Support each other through initial treatment phase, during potential recurrence, and with issues related to long term survival;
- ✦ Establish core group of survivors willing to visit newly diagnosed patients;
- ✦ Increase awareness of ovarian cancer, including its symptoms and risk factors, in the hope of achieving earlier detection and treatment.

Newsletter information is presented in summary form, is general in nature and provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended in any way to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

This educational newsletter is supported through philanthropic donations to the *One to One* ovarian cancer support group through Corewell Health Foundation Southeast Michigan (formerly the Beaumont Health Foundation).

