



CANCER FAMILY  
NETWORK of  
MONTANA

PO Box 6446  
Bozeman, MT 59771  
(406) 587-8080

Non-profit  
organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Bozeman, MT  
Permit NO. 94

**You can help CFN  
help so many others!**

**eNewsletter...**

**For every eNewsletter we send, \$1.25  
can be reinvest into family programs!**  
**To update your contact and email in-  
formation, please complete & return  
the form on pg. 7 or visit  
[www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org](http://www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org).**

**"See" you online...**

# Connections



Spring 2009



Summer Family Camp 2008



~ Families Healing Together® ~

A publication of Cancer Family Network of Montana

Times may feel a bit stressful at the moment as we all face economic challenges and uncertainties at some level. Rest assured, CFN is here for you and your family during both challenging and good times. We're professionals at bringing a little bit-o-fun to the 'not so fun' times of life. Remember, rather than retreating into ourselves, we need to reach out to each other, as we're all in this together.

Thanks to the support of dedicated volunteers, donors, sponsors, and presenters, **CFN shared some fun & hope with over 350 survivors, caregivers and family members & provided over 10,000 hours of FREE programs and services in 2008.** CFN programs help build priceless community, support and hope within and between families across Montana.

We invite you to join and/or support CFN this Spring for one of our NEW program offerings nearest you: a fun Movie Night, an expressive water-color workshop, trainings to set up caregiver websites and new Forum topics. Our eNewsletter will also be packed with additional on-line resources!

**With your support and participation, CFN can help you, your family and 100's of others thrive even in the most unlikely times.** We need your help to raise \$40,000 in five months to continue to offer our outstanding Camp and Fall Fest to an increasing number of families in need. We hope you will join & support this growing community any way you can. We invite you to *make a gift* today, volunteer, ask your employer to consider being a sponsor, or take time to serve as a Board of Director. We look forward to your participation in 2009!

*To your health,  
Bobbi j Geise, Executive Director*

**Board of Directors and Staff:**

Mary Carlson, Board President (McAllister)  
Pat Busby (Bozeman) Sandy Harris (Billings)  
Sue Bedell (Bozeman) Mary Olson (Helena)

**Advisory Board:** Dr. Paul Kelker ♦ Jeffery King

**Staff:** Bobbi j Geise, Executive Director  
Marise Rowell, Program Director  
Jenny Slaats, Administrative Intern

CFN PO Box 6446 Bozeman, MT 59771  
Ph 406.587.8080 ~ Fx 406.556.1050



**Montana Shares Update**

**For the price of about 3 coffee's a week you could sponsor a camper at CFN Family Camp!** Employee's across Montana thoughtfully donated \$7,328 to CFN during the 2006/07 workplace giving campaign, helping to ensure we continue to offer free programs to families across Montana. By participating in a workplace giving campaign- you & your employer have the opportunity to support over 30 organizations across MT- every pay period.

**We couldn't do it without you- THANK YOU!**

Please call MT Shares (1-800-823-2625) or CFN if you'd like to learn more about participating in workplace giving at your place of employment.

**Yes! I'd like to help CFN save some \$, please update my contact information and send me your eNewsletter**

**Family Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I'd also like to give a gift that keeps on giving.** Please accept my contribution to Cancer Family Network of Montana. My support enables CFN to continue offering cost-free support programs and lifetime opportunities to diagnosed Montana families.

- \$850 Family Sponsor *Please indicate if you would like to make a gift in honor or memory of someone special in your life*
- \$300 Camper Sponsor
- \$225 1 Meal at Camp
- \$150 Camp Activity/Outing In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- \$30 Neighborly Gift In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

**Short on Ca\$h?** No worries, log onto [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) & choose 'Cancer Family Network of Montana- CFN' as your recipient charity. Every time you 'surf the net' CFN will earn 1¢. Since we started counting 'clicks', we've earned over \$60!

**Shopping on- line? Log on to [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) OR [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com),** choose CFN as your recipient charity and up to 15% of your purchase of electronics, clothing, housewares, tools, office supplies, etc at major retailers will be donated to CFNt! **Families can benefit from your purchases and you are not out a ¢... THANK YOU!**

**To register for any FREE CFN programs,** call us at 406-587-8080, visit [www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org](http://www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org) or complete the information below and mail in your request today for more information or to register!

- Free Movie Night featuring 'Jonna's Body, please hold'**
- Summer Family Camp, July 15-19, 2009**
- Fall Fest, November 7-8, 2009**
- Cancer Connections ~ Online Monthly Forum**
- Volunteer opportunities (events, programs, Board of Dir. )**

The following is a great story from a 2008 camp volunteer. She was truly shocked when she was...

## ...Interrupted by a Moose!

By Beverly Hughes, RN, CNS

Edited from its original printing in *Methodist Nurse*, a newsletter for The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas

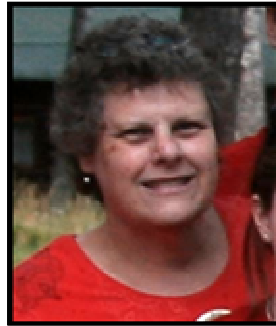
Have you ever actually seen a moose? If you were born and raised in Texas, you probably have not. Just for the record, Montana is very different than Texas.

On the last evening of camp, a special party was planned with the evening's attire being "camp dressy." To help the ladies get ready, I facilitated an American Cancer Society "Look Good, Feel Better" (LGFB) program for survivors, as well as a Mary Kay party for family members. Everyone was looking through their make-up and beginning to clean their skin and apply foundation when, all of a sudden, one of the participants yelled, "There's a moose!" I thought she was kidding, but she was not. My entire room of women, from 14 years through their 60s, jumped up and ran outside to view the moose. I should tell you that all these campers actually live in Montana and had seen a moose before, but were still very excited. Of course, I went outside to look at the moose, too. Someone said "oh, it's just a calf." Well, a moose calf is still very big, so cameras still came out and many pictures were taken.

After our exciting wildlife viewing, I was finally able to encourage all the LGFB and Mary Kay participants back inside to finish their make-up application. The women enjoyed themselves inside and outside our classroom, but I don't think I will look at the LGFB program the same way in the future. I have facilitated LGFB several times since CFN's Summer Family Camp, but there have been no interruptions by a moose!

Please encourage cancer survivors to attend LGFB to learn about the effects of surgery, chemotherapy, or radiotherapy on the skin and face. And, just in case you ever get interrupted by a moose, don't forget to keep your distance!

*Beverly is an oncology nurse at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, and volunteered at camp 08 with her sister, Patty Harlan, and two teenage daughters, Katie and Caroline. Thank you Beverly!*



## Going Bald at Family Camp '08



What started out as one friend's gesture of support turned into a "family affair" at Camp 2008! Marjy Sheehy decided to shave her head in support of Nade Haines, and before we knew it sparked interest from several other CFN and Camp on the Boulder folks to join in! All total, 8 guys and Marjy shaved their heads in an effort to say "we love you and YOU ARE NOT ALONE!" The enthusiasm spread like wildfire, and soon campers, staff and volunteers challenged each other with financial pledges of support. All totaled, Marjy and her 8 bald



buddies helped raised \$2,864.28 to support CFN's free family camp!

THANK YOU to everyone for your leadership, courage and loving support in SO many ways!

## More Camp & Fall Fest Highlights

One never knows what excitement awaits at Summer Family Camp & Fall Fest! Thanks to sponsors & donors, CFN Summer Camp hosted 73 campers and volunteers ages 1 - 72, representing eleven communities across MT. Volunteers joined us from 4 states. Enjoy our family memories at <http://.cfnfamilycamp2008.shutterstock.com>! Fifty-one participants from 10 Montana communities gathered at Fall Fest in Helena and enjoyed a host of activities including dancing to Little Elmo & the Mambo Kings and a riveting performance by national speaker Lois McElravy. Thanks to our invaluable sponsors, donors and volunteers, Family Camp and Fall Fest were filled with loving support, hope, education, healthy food and fun activities for all ages.

**Register today for Camp and see what fun is in store for you and your family OR give a gift that keeps giving by sponsoring a camper, family or camp meal (see pg 7).**

**Thank you to everyone who generously donated funds, services and goods to CFN's family-based programs in 2008.**

**CAMP:** W. Bruce & Mary Louise Cook Foundation, Dorothy Refling, KOA Camp Cares, The Payden Memorial Foundation, Billings Optimist Club, L.P. & Teresa Anderson Family Foundation, Gallatin Canyon Women's Club, The Heymann Family Foundation, LigoCyte Pharmaceuticals, Great Harvest Bread Co- Bozeman, Darigold, MacKenzie River Pizza Co, Yellowstone Coffee, U-Haul Bozeman, Internet Montana, Wilcoxson's Ice Cream, Wild West Shirt Co, Joann Weissman, Karen Grigry LCPC, Alaina Lammer Knight LCPC, Philip & Lela Zemke, Dan Carter ND, American Cancer Society- Billings, Larry Jones, FW&P.

**FALL FEST:** Lois McElravy, Valeria & Aaron Cundall, Little Elmo & the Mambo Kings band, Dorothy Refling, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Lewis & Clark County Community Foundation, Pat Trafton LCPC, Michael Bergkamp ND, Terry John, Dr. Beth Ammons, Jerry Olson. *Thank you!*

## COURAGE

By Connie Miller, CFN family participant and volunteer  
Connie shared this touching poem at Summer Family Camp 2008

When the word courage is mentioned, most people conjure up thoughts of daring feats! But for me courage has a whole different meaning.

Courage is coming to cancer camp with a feeding tube and feeling sick, because others will understand it.

Courage is a lady with a smile on her face saying "The Doctor says it will come back, so I have accepted it. But for now it is gone." The people around her cheer.

Facing cancer head on, learning, living, surviving- *THAT* is courage.

## Upcoming CFN Programs & Opportunities

All programs are FREE. To register call 587-8080,  
visit [www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org](http://www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org) email [Programs@CancerFamilyNetwork.org](mailto:Programs@CancerFamilyNetwork.org)

### Free Movie Night– ‘Jonna’s Body, please hold’ ...coming to a town near you!

Thanks to Jonna Tomases, CFN is privileged to have the opportunity to show the DVD movie version of her famous, inspiring show CFN brought to Montana last spring. Free movie & popcorn 6:30pm at the Public Library the following locations & dates: **Billings 4/23, Livingston 4/28, Missoula 4/30, Great Falls 5/12, Bozeman 5/26, Helena 6/2, Belgrade & Kalispell TBA**

### Coordinating Helping Hands

This is a BIG job, everyone can use a helping hand! Join CFN to learn about the resources available for setting up websites and calendars to keep family and friends updated and keep your already full plate under control! June 9 & 11th 6:30-8:30pm in Bozeman. Call to register.

### ‘A Fine Line’ Non-Event Benefit

This year we are happy to announce you can spend a night doing whatever you want in the comfort of your own home and still support CFN through our Non-Event Benefit. Invitations will be in your box early May and bids will be accepted during the month of May. A special viewing and artist reception will be held June 5th at Indian Uprising Gallery in Bozeman. Come view the pieces in person and meet featured artist DG House and other esteemed artists.

### Summer Family Camp

July 15 - 19, 2009 Camp on the Boulder, McLeod, MT  
Camp provides fun, support and activities for the whole family including: friends, entertainment, professionally facilitated seminars, arts and crafts, nature explorations, endless children’s activities, teen time, river time, Talent Night, Family Olympics, special evening entertainment, and more...all in a casual therapeutic wilderness setting on the Boulder River. Priority given to families w/in 2 years post treatment. Medical staff on-site. Register by July 1st. *“Camp far exceeded our expectations...it will make our journey easier!” - ‘08 participant*

### Fall Fest Family Retreat

November 7-8, 2009 Holiday Inn, Bozeman  
Join us for hands-on workshops, support, seminars, crafts, swimming, games and phenomenal evening entertainment! Fun for all ages, Fall Fest is a memorable weekend retreat that will energize your family and connect you with friends, survivors and families who understand the trails and triumphs of your cancer experience. Register by Oct. 15th.

### Cancer Connections On-line Monthly Forum

Ongoing Monthly Information & Communication  
Each month, CFN hosts an oncology professional, counselor or survivor who shares the latest cancer related information and resources via email. Presenters also make themselves available to answer questions and participate in group discussions. Learn tips, gain info, share and receive advice, stay involved with your new CFN family, make new “Connections”. **The 2009 schedule, along with archived presentations, is posted on the CFN website.**  
For information call 587-8080 or visit [www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org/connections](http://www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org/connections).

### VOLUNTEER and Make a Difference

*“I cherish my volunteer experience with CFN families and friends”* Volunteer to help at one of the above programs, events, in the office, or serve as a CFN ambassador in your community. Your participation as a volunteer helps assure the vital ‘family’ feel to our programs and reach out to new families and providers across Montana. We are also seeking Board Members from around Montana to help move CFN into its next 20 years! Do you have one or more of the following skills? marketing, business planning, oncology, social work, community relations. If so, give Bobbi jo a call 587-8080 or view the Volunteer Application [www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org/volunteer](http://www.CancerFamilyNetwork.org/volunteer).

In memory of Steve Ley who passed away June 2008, the **Gift of Living Fund (G.O.L.F.)** was developed to provide financial assistance to families in Gallatin Valley battling cancer. Thanks to family and friends, over \$11,000 was raised! This one-time fund was a blessing to 21 families who received a holiday ‘gift’ in the mail December 2008. A heartfelt thank you to all the GOLF donors and a health-filled 2009 to all GOLF recipients!



### Congratulations to ...

Newlyweds Mike & Lisa Burgard  
Marianne (Wickline) & Josh Stockho– Welcome baby Stasia  
Josh and Mandy Miller- Welcome daughter Kennedy Grace  
Nade Haines– Welcome grandson Dominic  
The Mussetter Family- Welcome daughter Charlie (a little girl!)  
KT Gianoulis for completing her treatments!  
New Highschool Graduates: Kirk Visser ‘08 , Adam Colvin ‘08,  
KT Gianoulis ‘08

**A very special thank you to Christopher Spogis, Taylor Lonsdale and Teri Knutson** for helping to raise funds for CFN programs and families through their brave hair cut donations at our Spring ‘Fine Line’ Benefit and Vigilante Theatre performance! A total of \$6,100 was raised thanks to their long hair, heroic action and to the generous support of participating audiences!!! Their pony tails were donated to Locks for Love. Thanks also to Susie at **Susie’s Salon** in Belgrade for donating their ‘clean-up’ clip and new stylish doo!

**We would like to express our sincere sympathy and well wishes to the families of the following loved ones who have passed away and will be truly missed: Dave Meier, Mark Meyer, Dee Criner, Steve Ley, Bill Ripley, Betty Joe Bruce** (sister of former Board member Carol Sims).

**Field Notes... Bill & Faye Ripley** They called in 2005 with some concern that they may be too “old” for ‘Camp’ (in their 80’s). It would be their first time being ‘campers’. Little did they know that their age and spirit were a gift to all. Their presence, participation and love for life provided inspiration for all aged campers and volunteers, even to this day. The children campers thoroughly enjoyed their ‘new’ grandparents. The adults anxiously awaited Bill & Faye’s wonderful stories. The love Bill and Faye expressed for one another brought smiles to everyone they met. In 2006, Bill was our personal guide and interpreter at the Natural Bridge along the Boulder River, beaming with pride as he shared tales of his stomping grounds as a young adult. Thank you Bill & Faye for blessing all of us with your caring friendship, love and smiles over the last few years!