

# The Benevolent Voice

Reporting how your help makes a critical difference to the health of our community

**BORGESS**  
Foundation



Spring 2011

## Inside this Issue

*Camp Hug Needs You*

*Borgess Tree of Love:  
Save a life for \$80*

*5th annual "Friends  
of Borgess Nursing"  
fundraiser*

*Borgess Caring Hearts  
& Hands pin*

*The Community Thanks  
You: Borgess Donors  
Raise 94% of Project*

The Benevolent Voice is a regular publication of the Borgess Foundation, the philanthropic organization dedicated to supporting Borgess Health. We welcome your opinions and input regarding this publication. Please address all correspondence to:

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Kalamazoo, MI 49048

If you prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail, please visit [foundation.borgess.com](http://foundation.borgess.com) or call (269) 226.8100.

## Funds desperately needed for diabetes treatment at Borgess for the region's poor and uninsured

Diabetes is our 6th biggest premature killer. But afflicted who can't afford care often let treatment lapse, leading to grave disorders like kidney failure.

- **Borgess Diabetes Center is the region's only full-service provider for the uninsured**
- **Cole Automotive Group organizes major annual fundraising event to underwrite Borgess diabetes care**
- **The Kalamazoo Marathon at the Borgess Run for the Health of It! (May 6-8) supports our young diabetic patients**

From physician visits to self-management education to lab testing, the Borgess Diabetes Center offers an array of comprehensive services. Diabetes is a challenging disease. Without careful medical supervision, it can lead to life-changing complications: vision loss, foot amputation, kidney failure, stroke and cardiovascular disease.



Michael Valitutto, DO, Borgess Diabetes Center Medical Director, talks with patients during Shared Medical Appointments

And for diabetic patients without insurance, coordinating complex care and medication on a restricted budget poses an even greater challenge. For many, the costs are too great, and they lapse in their medication and treatments.

But with gifts from supporters like the Cole Automotive Group, Borgess Diabetes Center can continue to care for all diabetics

*(continued on next page)*



Join us for the next fund raising event: the Kalamazoo Marathon at the Borgess Run for the Health of It! With more than 5,000 participants, all proceeds will go to local children's charities – including juvenile diabetes at the Borgess Diabetes Center. Whether you choose to run, walk or ask for sponsors, please help us to support these Borgess patients. Go to [borgessrun.com](http://borgessrun.com) for more information.



# Insurance won't cover this remedy. Your help is needed to mend a broken heart.

## For more information contact us:

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## Camp Hug offers free, professional art therapy to family members struggling with death of a loved one.

- **Camp Hug costs just \$150 per person**
- **Widows and widowers find comfort and support**
- **Grief therapy for kids can strengthen their coping skills**

Can a mark of an oil pastel and the rhythm of bongo drum relieve grief and loss? Ask Kathleen Buday, director of the Camp Hug (Honoring Unique Grief) program, who would say, "Yes, especially if you provide guidance and support."

Offered through Borgess VNA Home Health & Hospice, Camp Hug presents a safe environment for people who are grieving for their loved ones.

"When a person undergoes a traumatic event such as the loss of a loved one, she or he may have difficulty expressing the experience directly or effectively in words," said Kathleen. "A creative process can be a non-threatening way to express oneself."

Using the language of art – line, shape, form – and music, Camp Hug participants create work that symbolize their loss and mourning. For many, this symbolic self-examination offers an outlet for their grief and a path to discovery and healing. "From 8-year-olds and 80-year-olds, some with months of grief and some with years of grief, all have benefitted," said Kathleen.

Would you sponsor a camper at Camp Hug? While Camp Hug charges only \$10 per person and often waives the fee if it prohibits attendance. The actual cost of the Camp Hug experience is \$150 per person. Any gift, no matter the amount, would help to make a lasting impact on these participants.

**If you would like to donate, please call (269) 226-8100.**

If you or someone you know would benefit from the Camp Hug experience, please contact Kathleen Buday, Expressive Arts Coordinator at (269) 343.1396.



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## DATES TO NOTE

**Friends of Borgess Nursing Endowment Awards Dinner**  
May 10, 2011

**20th Annual Borgess Golf for Health**  
July 18, 2011

**Touchdown for Diabetes**  
September 8, 2011

**Borgess Tree of Love**  
September-December 2011

## Diabetes continued

in our community, regardless of their ability to pay. At its second successful Touchdown for Diabetes event, the Cole Automotive Group raised more than \$54,000 for the center.

You, too, can make a significant impact on the underinsured and uninsured in our community.

With your support, our diabetic patients – from the very young to the very old – can access life-saving diabetic care.

## Cost to save a life via early detection? *A gift of just \$80.*

The 25th anniversary breast cancer campaign, *Borgess Tree of Love*, donors raised enough to furnish free life-saving mammograms for more than 500 uninsured Southwest Michigan women.

**Will 500 free mammograms be enough to defeat this deadly disease locally? Your gift to this cause is always welcome.**

When Marie, a Kalamazoo resident and waitress, found a lump in her breast, she began her search for help.

“As a single mom with young children, I knew that I shouldn’t put my health on the line,” she said. “But when you have few resources and no insurance, you start weighing your options.”

While annual mammograms help to catch breast cancer in its early stages – when treatment is most successful – too many women in our community delay for financial reasons. With support from the *Tree of Love* program, Borgess can offer free mammograms to uninsured, low-income women. Just \$80 can give one woman a clean bill of health or an early start on the road to diagnosis and treatment.

“I had to delay getting this lump checked out. I was worried that this lump could be very serious, but I knew I couldn’t

pay the bill,” Marie said. “So when Borgess offered to pay for my mammogram with a gift from the *Tree of Love*, I was so thankful, so incredibly thankful.”

In 2010, *Tree of Love* donors raised more than \$42,000 to fund mammograms for more than 500 women. Donors could recognize an honoree that was represented by a light on a tree and mailed a special acknowledgment card.

Because of this incredible generosity, Borgess will continue to offer access to life-saving mammogram services to women in need.

*Dr. Janice Werbinski, Borgess Women’s Health, speaks with Patti Vesey at Borgess Tree of Love ceremony in December.*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: *May 10 awards dinner to benefit advanced training for nurses*

**Please join us for a night of feasting and awards, as we honor the truly amazing nurses of Borgess.**

- 5th annual “Friends of Borgess Nursing” fundraiser to be held downtown at Cityscape Events Center
- Goal for nurses’ training endowment: \$250,000; almost halfway there

From the operating room to the hospital bedside to the in-home care, nurses are central to every patient and their health care experience. At Borgess Health, we want to tell our whole community about our exceptional nurses and the compassionate, professional care they give to each patient.

Part fund raiser, part awards ceremony, the 5th Annual Friends of Borgess Nursing Endowment dinner honors these exemplary caregivers on Tuesday, May 10 at Cityscape Events Center in downtown Kalamazoo.

The evening’s ceremonies will recognize nursing scholarship and

*Friends of Borgess Nursing awards dinner attendees having fun before dinner (left to right) Kelley Pattison, Maggie Paynich, Susan Kavanaugh, and Julie Maleitzke.*

award recipients, and all proceeds from the event’s sponsorships, silent auction items, and dinner reservations will support the Borgess Nursing Endowment Fund.

With more than \$120,000 raised, will you help us meet our goal of \$250,000? Your contribution will create opportunities and scholarships for nurses to advance in their professional practice and enhance their clinical skills.

Please join us as we recognize the nurses who have made a healing experience for our community – for our friends, our family, our neighbors, ourselves. To RSVP, call (269) 226.8100 or register online at [borgessfoundation.org/events](http://borgessfoundation.org/events).





# Almost there! Thanks to you...

**Borgess donors raise 94% of project cost to expand and enhance the ER AND build a “stunning” new rehabilitation and nursing village**

## “I love my pin,” the doctor said.

A gold Borgess Caring Hearts & Hands pin offers delighted patients a glittering way to show their appreciation to an outstanding physician, employee, or volunteer at Borgess who made a memorable difference during treatment.

### **Have you or your loved one encountered a compassionate Borgess caregiver?**

Please help us recognize that special person by nominating him or her through the Borgess Caring Hearts & Hands program.

### **Complete the enclosed reply envelope and return it to the Borgess Foundation.**

Your gift will help to ensure that our patients and staff members have access to important resources, educational opportunities, and updated facilities.

### **If you need help remembering the name of your caregiver, the Borgess Foundation is happy to assist at (269) 226.8100.**

Your caregiver will be recognized with an appreciation card and/or lapel pin. With your thoughtful encouragement, the Borgess Caring Hearts & Hands program can remind our staff of the meaningful impact they make every day.



13 new ER treatment suites guarantee “doctor will see you within 30 minutes” despite record rise in ER patients, many of them unemployed and uninsured



*Donors, thank you:* New nursing and rehab campus raises the quality bar for care of Kalamazoo’s elderly, frail, and healing

**“Can you help us raise the last 6%?”  
Borgess makes last plea to its donor family:  
please help close remaining \$600,000 gap**