CARE & SHARE NEWSLETTER

January - February 2024

Local Services • Local Support



Cindy Feist Executive Director

Happy New Year!

January, the month of new beginnings and cherished memories. Outside the temperature drops and the days seem so long, giving us the time to sit quietly and reflect. It allows us the time to remember those most dear to us, near and far. Looking at 2023, we can breathe a sigh of relief for making it through the tough times and pat ourselves on the back for all the accomplishments that we made. This is the month to dream, to look forward to the year ahead and our journey within.

Wherever your journey may take you in 2024, the staff at Women Supporting Women wish you and your family a very Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year.

> "And now let us welcome the New Year Full of things that have never been." -Rainer Maria Rilke



WSW Newsletter Announcement:

Due to cost, all WSW 2024 Newsletters will be converted to online format <u>only</u>. WSW will be sending out "Save The Date" and "Upcoming WSW Events" Postcards instead of physical newsletters. We apologize for any inconveniences this change causes. To read the online version of our full newsletters, go to our website, click on the "Newsletter" option in pink at the top bar of the home page.

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WSW Staff Members

<u>Cindy Feist</u> Executive Director

Amaris Ward Administrative Assistant

Jocelyn Feist Mentoring Coordinator

> <u>Andie Hess</u> Event Coordinator

Raven Cook PR Marketing Coordinator

Nutritional Information

Sweet Potato Chili

The ideal chili recipe for cancer patients who have difficulty swallowing and/or mouth sores from treatment and/or who are sensitive to acidity.

Ingredients:

1/2 tsp. Garlic powder
1/2 tsp. Salt
3 Sweet Potatoes, diced
3 cups Chicken broth
1 can Kidney beans, drained



Directions:

- 1. Heat olive oil over medium heat in heavy bottomed pot
- 2. Add onions to pan and cook for 5 minutes, until translucent
- 3. Add ground turkey, spices, and salt and cook in the pot. Remove from pot and set aside
- 4. Add sweet potatoes and broth to the pot. Bring to a boil, simmer and cook for 10 minutes or until soft
- 5. Once soft, puree sweet potatoes with blender until desired consistency (optional)
- 6. Place pot back over medium heat, add turkey mixture and beans and mix into chili.
- 7. If too thick, add 1 cup of water or broth to thin the chili

https://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/recipe/sweet-potato-chili

Support Groups

WSW January - February 2024 Support Groups Watch for Weather Updates/Cancelations

Salisbury: Thursday, February 1st Time: 6:30 P.M. Location: WSW office 1320 Belmont Ave Suite 402 Salisbury, MD Facilitator: Jocelyn Feist

Pocomoke: Mentor available by phone 410-548-7880 Facilitator: Jocelyn Feist

Cambridge: Contact WSW Office Support/Mentor available by phone Berlin: Wednesday, January 17 & February 21st Time: 1:00 P.M. Location: Regional Care Center 9707 Healthway Dr. Berlin, MD Facilitator: Jocelyn Feist

Onancock, VA: Mentor available by phone 757.894.4389 Facilitator: Nicole Ayres

Crisfield: Mentor available by phone 410.726.9060 Facilitator: Monique Welch

Questions, please contact the office 410-548-7880

WSW Upcoming Events



Community Support



Captain's Cove held a breast cancer awareness walk on October 24th, 2023. They raised a total of \$1,005 in support of WSW. The funds raised for WSW will help provide the much needed items and support for those in our community going through breast cancer. Thank you to Captain's Cove for your continued support!

Community Support - Continued

Peninsula Imaging raised \$410 during the month of October. Thank you to Peninsula Imaging for all your support of WSW and for those in our community who are diagnosed with breast cancer.





Delmarva Power raised \$669.89 From selling t-shirts and hoodies. The proceeds of this fundraiser went to support WSW. The funds raised for WSW will help provide the much needed items and support for those in our community going through breast cancer. Thank you to Delmarva Power for all your support.

Pictured: Cindy Feist, Nicole Bruno

Peninsula Dressage hosted the 15th annual Dressage Schooling Show on October 7th, 2023. The total raised from this event was \$6,000. Thank you to Peninsula Dressage for your continued support.

Pictured: Cindy Feist, Jocelyn Feist, Jessica Briles, Emma Briles, Matt Penrose, Frankie Zurla, Shawn McEntee, Amaris Ward



Community Support - Continued



Thank you to everyone who helped raised funds during The Shore Gives More event on Tuesday November 28th 2023. The total raised for WSW was \$3,158.95. Thank you to Shore United Bank, Community Foundation and 24abc for sponsoring the event. A special thank you to Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore for all the hard work that went into this event.

Mentoring Minute

DIEP FLAP update for 2024

Last year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services decided to eliminate a trio of medical billing codes for breast reconstructive surgery that enabled doctors to collect much more money for DIEP flap operations than for simpler types of breast reconstruction.

This caused an uproar in the breast cancer community among survivors, physicians, and supporters. If you're not familiar with what a DIEP flap procedure is, this is a reconstruction surgery in which skin, fat, and blood vessels are used from a women's abdomen to create a new breast instead of having to have implants. "The DIEP flap procedure has potential benefits over implants and operations that take muscle from the abdomen. For example, although implants are less costly and less time-intensive to perform, they generally need to be replaced every 10 years or so. But DIEP flap surgery is also more expensive. If patients go outside an insurance network for the operation, it can cost more than \$50,000.

In an Aug. 22 memo, "The majority of the commenters feel their accessibility will be, or has already been, impacted by the decision to eliminate the S codes," the agency wrote in reversing its earlier plan. The agency's announcement came after it convened a public hearing in June, during which several patients, physicians and representatives of breast cancer advocacy organizations implored CMS officials to scrap their original plan. Otherwise, they said, access to DIEP flap surgery would diminish.

CMS' initial plan would have made it "impossible to continue doing high-volume, high-quality complex breast microsurgery for breast cancer patients," Dhivya Srinivasa, a plastic surgeon in California who specializes in breast reconstruction, said during CMS' June 1 hearing.

After receiving those types of comments, CMS wrote in its final decision that it is canceling its plan. "We recognize the importance of the patient-provider relationship and the practice of medicine in determining the most appropriate breast reconstruction procedure for each patient," the agency wrote.

Article: cbsnews.com/news/breast-cancer-reconstruction-diep-flap-federal-coding-change-backlash/

Save The Date!





WSW Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

For wig and bra fittings please call for an appointment

Joke of the Month

Why should you not trust a pastry chef on Valentine's Day?

Because they will Dessert you!



DONOR THANKS

Business:

Wicomico Department of Social Services Farmers Bank of Willards Worcester Count Board of Ed. Rommel Harley-Davidson of Delmarva Captain's Cove Seaside Plumbing Peninsula Imaging Delmarva Power Office of the County Commissioners Mason Branch Construction Mirror Salon Landmark Insurance Hamilton Fox Farm Peninsula Dressage Bay point Winaway Farm Atlantic Hotel Squidnation Inc. Farmers & Platers too

<u>Civic:</u> Wicomico Day School Parkside Highschool Field Hockey Wednesday Night Ladies Bowling League Princess Anne Elementary School



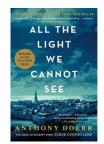
See what WSW staff members are reading and recommending!

Individual:

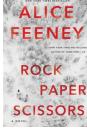
Trudy Collins **Constance Blades** Marlene & Wallace Dorsev Patricia Goslee Molly Raneri Joanna Anderson Amy Schine David & Terry Barrett Susan Purnell Katherine Demarco Robert & Dorothy Burke Allison Turner Donna Holden Ulla Parker Scott & Marcia Ryan Debra Eskra

> In Honor: Anne Beach <u>Anne Maner</u> Edith Hayhurst Penny Bradford

In Memory: Troy & Lisa Doyle Christine Whaley



"All the Light We Cannot See" By Anthony Doerr



"Rock Paper Scissors" By Alice Feeney



CHARIS ED

"All The Love You Carry" By Charis Ed



SPONSORS Journey \$10,000+ Preston Automotive Group

Courage

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Pink Ribbon

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WomenSupportingWomen.org

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Please contact the office if you are not reading or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter. Thank you.

410-548-7880 or wicomico@womensupportingwomen.org

Women Supporting Women 2023 Board of Directors

Penny Bradford, President Donna Altvater, Treasurer Billye Sarbanes, Historian Cindy Feist, Executive Director Colleen Brewington Crystal Heiser Rachel Manning Beverly Meadows Cathy Nickels Kimberly Purvis Lisa Twilley All donations stay 100% local - WSW is not affiliated with any national organizations.

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