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Media Contact:
Danielle Ripley-Burgess
Danielle@SemiColonComm.com
(816) 729-7760



Colorectal Cancer Models Release Calendar at Soccer Marathon

Kansas City, Mo. – Oct. 3, 2013 – The 2014 Colondar, the 10th calendar by nonprofit The Colon Club featuring young colorectal cancer survivors, will be released Oct. 4 at the New Jersey soccer marathon hosted by AliveAndKickn. The 24-hour soccer marathon will take place at Overpeck Park in Ridgefield Park, NJ. The event will unveil the 2014 Colondar and include a meet-and-greet by current and former models. The public is welcome to attend.

“Since AliveAndKickn founder David Dubin is a former Colondar model and board member, his soccer marathon or ‘kickathon,’ is a perfect outlet for our two organizations to link arms and promote our dual mission of colorectal cancer awareness,” said Krista Wilson, president of The Colon Club.

The AliveAndKickn 24-hour soccer marathon lasts from Friday, Oct. 4 through Oct. 5. To sign up or for more information about the calendar release event, please visit www.AliveAndKickn.org.

About The 2014 Colondar

The 2014 Colondar is a calendar featuring 12 men and women survivors all diagnosed with colorectal cancer under age 50, a rarity for the disease. Models reveal abdominal scars and tell their stories to offer hope and tell others to get screened and not dismiss colorectal cancer signs and symptoms.

“I feel an instant connection to anyone else facing cancer and wanted to be in The Colondar to give back and help others through it,” said Marty Andrews, a survivor from Seal Beach, CA diagnosed at age 33.

According to the National Institutes of Health, 10 percent of colorectal cancer cases occur in those under age 50. Although occurrence rates of colorectal cancer decreased within the past several years, colorectal cancer cases among those under 50 increased. Survivor stories in The Colondar show that symptoms CAN indicate colorectal cancer, even in young patients.

“Doctors suspected everything from hemorrhoids to ulcerative colitis caused my bleeding before a colonoscopy identified my rectal cancer,” said Ashley Havlena, a stage III survivor diagnosed at age 24 from Kansas City, Mo.

Models featured tell the story that colorectal cancer does not discriminate, regardless of race, sex and age.

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The 2014 Models

Jose Baez	Rockaway, N.J.	Diagnosed stage IV colon cancer at age 47
Kasey Mattison	Glen Allen, Va.	Diagnosed stage II rectal cancer at age 26
Tonya Floyd	Lithonia, Ga.	Diagnosed stage III colon cancer at age 43
Rose Dopsovic	Bethlehem, Pa.	Diagnosed stage IIIb colorectal cancer at age 34
Rick Rausch	Evansville, Ind.	Diagnosed stage I colon cancer at age 39
Ashley Havlena	Kansas City, Mo.	Diagnosed stage III rectal cancer at age 24
Rene Saenz	Houston, Texas	Diagnosed stage IV rectal cancer at age 40
Mason Moore	Pearland, Texas	Diagnosed stage III colon cancer at age 27
Laura McClinton	Liberty Lake, Wash.	Diagnosed stage IV colon cancer at age 23
Marty Andrews	Seal Beach, Calif.	Diagnosed stage III rectal cancer at age 33
Emily Mazzetti	Mission Viejo, Calif.	Diagnosed stage IIa rectal cancer at age 36
Brittany Sliter	Smithtown, N.Y.	Diagnosed stage III colon cancer at age 23

The 2014 Sponsors

Many nonprofits, businesses and organizations committed to raising awareness of colorectal cancer and the importance of screening sponsored the project including: AliveAndKickn; Get Your Rear in Gear; Colon Cancer Challenge Foundation; da Vinci System; Meredith’s Miracles Colon Cancer Foundation; Colon Cancer Alliance; Chris4Life; Michael’s Mission; Fight Colorectal Cancer; Given Imaging; and Genentech.

A Decade of Awareness

Dedicated to stage IV survivor Erika Bilger diagnosed at age 22 and Molly McMaster Morgosolov, co-founder of The Colon Club diagnosed with stage II colon cancer at age 23, The 2014 Colondar furthers the mission to connect young colorectal cancer survivors. Since 2004, staff of The Colon Club and a new group of models have spent a week at Lake George in upstate New York to produce the calendar each year.

The Colondar, known for the reveal of jaw-dropping abdominal scars and unbelievable survivor stories, has won several design awards and is respected throughout the colorectal cancer community and beyond. In 10 years, 135 young survivors have been featured in The Colondar.

The 2014 Colondar is available for \$10 and will be available Oct. 4 at the New Jersey AliveAndKickathon and online at ColonClub.com.

About the Colon Club

The Colon Club is a New York State nonprofit founded in 2003 by two women impacted by colon cancer before age 30. The Colon Club serves to educate as many people as possible, as early as possible, about colorectal cancer in interesting and out-of-the-box ways and to encourage people to be screened when it’s appropriate for them. The Colon Club manages The Colossal Colon (CrawlTheColon.com) and produces The Colondar, a yearly calendar featuring men and women diagnosed with colorectal cancer under age 50. (Colondar.com) Please visit ColonClub.com for more information.