



*Press Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 20, 2010**

<http://www.FightColorectalCancer.org>

Contact: Catherine Knowles (202) 276-5682

## **Colorectal Cancer Coalition Announces 2010-2011 Grassroots Action Committee Members**

ALEXANDRIA, V.A. — The Colorectal Cancer Coalition is pleased to announce the 2010-2011 members of our Grassroots Action Committee. The Committee is a group of committed, engaged volunteer advocates who take action when asked. The Committee is the catalyst of our grassroots advocate community, and provides advice to help us achieve our strategic goals and objectives by empowering grassroots advocates across the country.

Carlea Bauman, President of the Colorectal Cancer Coalition released the following statement today following the announcement of the 2010-2011 Committee:

“The Colorectal Cancer Coalition is thrilled that LaRisha Baker, Rochelle Joseph, Carol Larson, Arlene Murphy, Doug Sharp, and Josh Wimberly will be joining our 2010-2011 Grassroots Action Committee. This distinguished group of survivors and caregivers will help us continue the push for research funding, awareness campaigns, access to screening, and treatment coverage. Colorectal cancer advocates who speak up and demand a change in current colorectal cancer policy will be the ones who make a difference in the fight against this disease.”

Members of the 2010-2011 Committee include:

### **LaRisha Baker, Chair**

A member of the 2009-2010 Grassroots Action Committee, Ms. Baker will chair the 2010-2011 Committee. Ms. Baker is a resident of Portland, Oregon and is the second of four daughters to Steve and Christy Baker. On June 10, 2008, Ms. Baker lost her father to colorectal cancer. He was diagnosed at stage IV and fought for 10 months before his passing. In 2009, Ms. Baker and her sisters formed a non-profit organization, the “Steve Baker Colorectal Cancer Alliance (SBCCA)” to honor their father. They focus on community advocacy, education and awareness.

### **Rochelle Joseph**

Ms. Joseph is a 10-year, stage III colon cancer survivor from Upper Marlboro, Maryland by way of Dallas, Texas. Ms. Joseph was diagnosed in 1999 just after completing graduate school at the age of 26. After six weeks of radiation and chemo, she underwent a colectomy to remove her tumor and proceeded with seven months of adjuvant therapy. Ms. Joseph attended the Colorectal Cancer Coalition annual lobby day for the first time in March 2010.

### **Carol Larson**

Ms. Larson is a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Eleven years ago she was diagnosed with stage III colorectal cancer. She spent the next year going through chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. Ms.



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Larson has written four books on cancer, the first of which “When the Trip Changes” chronicles her journey through treatment after her cancer diagnosis.

**Arlene Murphy**

A member of the 2009-2010 Grassroots Action Committee, Ms. Murphy lives in Cincinnati, Ohio with her husband, Ed. She is a metastatic colon cancer patient, diagnosed originally in Sept. 2004, and is currently in treatment. She has had two surgeries and been on many chemotherapies over the past five plus years. In July 2009, she retired from her job of 25 years as a secretary for a local school district.

**Doug Sharp**

A resident of Prairie Village, Kansas, Mr. Sharp is the chairman of the Tom O'Sullivan Memorial Golf Classic. Tom was a dear friend who died from colorectal cancer in June 2007. After losing his friend, Mr. Sharp worked with Tom's family to start a benefit tournament to raise money to help fight the disease. To date, the tournament has raised over \$50,000.

**Josh Wimberly**

Mr. Wimberly is a rectal cancer patient/survivor from Bessemer, Alabama where he lives with his wife Kimberly. He was diagnosed in August 2007 at 30 years old and has undergone six surgeries in two years, addressed one metastasis, undergone radiation, and undergone four separate rounds of chemotherapy. Mr. Wimberly has participated in the Colorectal Cancer Coalition annual lobby day for the last two years.

The Colorectal Cancer Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization seeking to eliminate suffering and death due to colorectal cancer. The Colorectal Cancer Coalition pushes for research to improve screening, diagnosis and treatment of colorectal cancer; advocates for policy decisions that make the most effective colorectal cancer prevention and treatment available to all; and works to increase awareness that colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable and beatable.

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