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Colorectal Cancer Caregiver Named March Star of the Month

TWC Commemorates Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month with Launch of Newest Cancer Resource

Washington, DC - The Wellness Community (TWC) announced today that Robert Miles, Director of Life Skills programs at the University of Georgia, is the featured *Star* for March. Robert joins nearly 250 family members, friends, medical professionals, counselors and others who have been honored through *The Star Campaign*, a web-based effort, www.starcampaign.org, which enables people with cancer to honor and reflect on the caregivers who support them. The campaign is made possible by a charitable donation from GlaxoSmithKline Oncology.

Robert is being honored by his wife Felecia, a colorectal cancer survivor. Parents to three sons, Felecia says that Robert has had to be mom, dad, taxi driver, cook, housekeeper and breadwinner since her diagnosis in February 2004. She admits that her sons now prefer his cooking to hers.

“Robert’s mom passed two months before I was diagnosed with cancer. I have told him on more than one occasion that his mother would be so proud of the husband and father he has become through this tumultuous, relentless, unforgiving illness,” says Felecia.

As a caregiver, Robert believes the most important way to cope with a loved one’s illness is to “be very attentive to all that is said and also those things not verbally expressed.”

Robert credits the staff at the University of Georgia’s Athletic department for being tremendously supportive throughout his wife’s cancer diagnosis.

“My number one priority as a caregiver has been making sure my entire family is taken care of and that all their needs are addressed. There is often very little room for anything else,” says Robert.

This month commemorates Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, an opportunity for medical professionals, activists and the media to shed light on the latest innovations in screening and treatment methods for the disease. On March 15th, The Wellness Community, in partnership with Colorectal Cancer Coalition, will be releasing *Frankly Speaking About Colorectal Cancer* a new, national patient education program that examines the most current colorectal treatments, symptom/side-effect management strategies, the social and emotional challenges of the diagnosis and survivorship issues specific to people with colorectal cancer. The program will include a workshop and a companion booklet. To learn more about *Frankly Speaking About Colorectal Cancer* and other colorectal cancer resources, visit www.thewellnesscommunity.org.

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On The *Star Campaign's* website, people living with and beyond cancer can honor their *Stars* by completing a simple form about themselves and the person they are choosing to honor. All *Stars* are listed on the "*Star Walk of Fame*," which serves as a place to share inspirational stories of cancer caregiving. Visitors may also purchase a *Star Campaign* lapel pin for \$5 in support of cancer caregivers, create *Star* certificates, access caregiving resources, and learn about free support and education available for patients and caregivers at TWC.

To read more about this month's *Star*, Robert Miles, the many other caregivers who are honored by The *Star Campaign*, or TWC's free support and education services please visit www.starcampaign.org.

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About The Wellness Community®

Founded in 1982, The Wellness Community is an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. Through participation in professionally-led support groups, educational workshops, nutrition and exercise programs, and stress-reduction classes, people affected by cancer learn vital skills that enable them to regain control, reduce isolation and restore hope regardless of the stage of their disease. The Wellness Community provides support, education and hope for people affected by cancer at over 100 locations worldwide including 24 U.S. based and 2 international centers with 73 satellite and off-site programs and online at www.thewellnesscommunity.org.