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ATLANTA MOMS, SURVIVORS, TAKE ON NEW CAREERS AS DIRECTORS OF BREAST CANCER NETWORK OF STRENGTH AND ATLANTA WALK TO EMPOWER

Mother's Day Walk in Chastain Park to Provide Breast Cancer Support to Thousands

Atlanta, May 3, 2010— Exactly two years ago, 39-year-old Kelly McCluskey was a typical stressed out working mom of two young children, struggling to find a balance between her high powered job as a radio station sales executive and her family. Her days often ran into the evenings as sales meetings and client dinners prevented her from going to soccer games and Brownie meetings. All of that changed in an instant on August 4, 2008, when Kelly found a lump in her right breast while holding her young son, just three months to the day after her own mother finished her last round of chemotherapy. Several days after going in for the exam, her darkest fears were confirmed. "I couldn't believe it when the doctor called to tell me the news," she recalls. "My entire life stopped."

The situation was similar for Joya Delgado Harris, an executive at several Atlanta non-profit organizations. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007, at the advice of a friend, Joya contacted the Breast Cancer Network of Strength, a national non-profit organization providing immediate emotional relief to patients through outreach programs, breast health awareness workshops, and a 24-hour call center. She had no idea she would soon be working for the organization as Executive Director one year later.

With a huge support group of close family, friends, and the Network of Strength, both Kelly and Joya were forced to make some difficult decisions. Throughout their respective treatments, they met countless women, some of whom had to drive themselves to chemotherapy or didn't have enough money or insurance coverage to buy a wig. "It broke my heart, talking to these women without a network," says Kelly. Adds Harris, "Breast cancer doesn't happen just to a patient. It happens to a family, loved ones, co-workers and friends. Those affected can really depend on Network of Strength to provide breast cancer

support today.” For both women, Network of Strength provided the support and resources they needed to successfully navigate their paths to good health. The experience proved life changing for both.

Joya quit her job to become the director of Network of Strength. Kelly is now the Fundraising and Special Events Coordinator and in charge of the annual [Walk to Empower](#), taking place on **Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 9, 2010 at Chastain Park at 9:00 a.m.** The walk is a family friendly three-mile non-competitive walk. “This year, we’re expecting more than 1000 people to raise \$130,000 to help ensure that no one faces breast cancer alone,” said Harris. “This is a wonderful way to honor those who have battled the disease.” But mostly, “it’s a way for women to realize they’re not alone in their battle to fight breast cancer.”

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About the Walk to Empower

The Mother’s Day fundraiser for Breast Cancer Network of Strength will be held at Chastain Park at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 9, 2010. Find information and registration at <http://walk.networkofstrength.org> or 1-404-260-4746.

National Presenting Sponsor is McDonald’s. National Official Sponsors are Bumble Bee, Grant Thornton, Walgreens, Harley Davidson, Eisai and United Airlines. Media Sponsors are 94.9 The Bull and Atlanta’s Groove 105.7. Local Presenting Sponsor is Coca-Cola. Local Official Sponsor is Publix and Local Co-Sponsor is Georgia Natural Gas.

About Breast Cancer Network of Strength

Breast Cancer Network of Strength®, a 501 (c)(3), provides immediate emotional relief through the YourShoes™ 24/7 breast cancer support center staffed by breast cancer survivors, with interpreters in 150 languages. Call 1-800-221-2141 or visit www.networkofstrength.org/southeastregion.

