

Don't put off screening!

Kirk Breen - Assaria, Kansas

I'm like a lot of guys. I usually wait until I am sick before going to see the doctor. But that changed after a friend was diagnosed with colon cancer after a colonoscopy. That and a special incentive through my employer to get a colonoscopy made me decide to be screened. My colonoscopy revealed that I had stage III colon cancer. At age 52 I couldn't believe it. My cancer was found in the nick of time. After surgery and chemotherapy I am happy to say that today I'm cancer-free! I'm extremely fortunate I got the colonoscopy when I did. The truth is, colon cancer can strike any one of us.

Beginning at age 50, everyone should have a colonoscopy to screen for the disease. Between colonoscopies, experts recommend annual fecal occult blood testing or another type of stool test. Don't put off being screened; it could save your life!

Update: At the time of Kansas Cancer Plan 2017-2021 publication, Kirk had a recurrence and was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer. He is undergoing treatment and doing well.

Free colon cancer screening kits available in March

A test like this can help detect colon cancer early and save your life

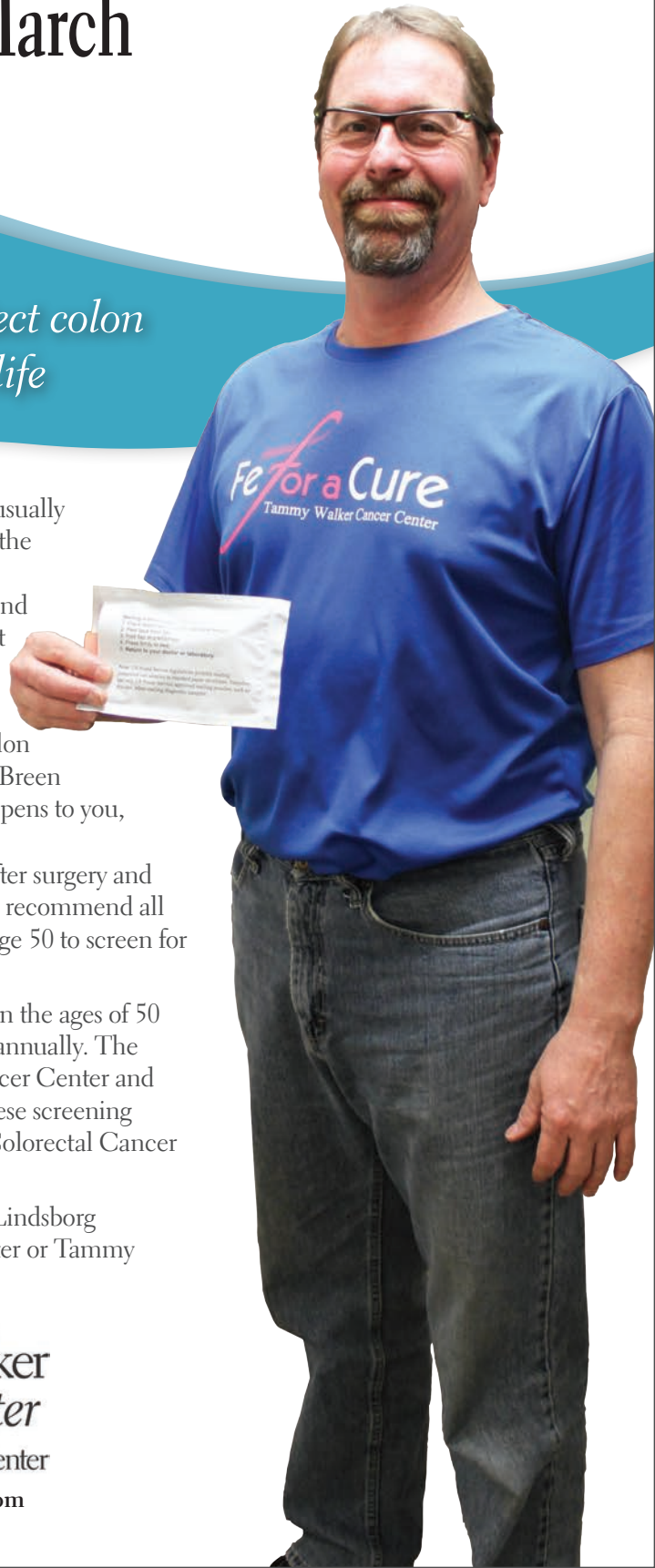
Kirk Breen, Assaria, is like a lot of guys. He usually waited until he was sick before he went to see the doctor. But, a friend had recently found colon cancer after a colonoscopy. That occurrence and a special incentive through his employer to get a colonoscopy made the 52 year-old decide he couldn't avoid getting tested any longer.

Breen's colonoscopy revealed he too had colon cancer. "You see it on Facebook all the time," Breen said. "Pray for this... pray for that. When it happens to you, you look at life differently."

His cancer was found in the nick of time. After surgery and chemotherapy he is today cancer free. Experts recommend all men and women undergo colonoscopy after age 50 to screen for colon cancer.

If you're between colonoscopies and between the ages of 50 to 75, you should get a fecal occult blood test annually. The Salina Charities League, Tammy Walker Cancer Center and Salina Regional Health Center are making these screening tests available free of charge during national Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March.

Pick up a test at any participating Salina or Lindsborg pharmacy, the Salina Family Healthcare Center or Tammy Walker Cancer Center while supplies last.



Salina Regional Health Center



www.tammywalkercancercenter.com