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## Colon exhibit helps in fighting cancer

By Sheryl Edelen  
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It's not every day that a Louisville Bats fan encounters a colon polyp the size of a human head, but more than 300 people did just that at the Super Colon exhibit at Louisville Slugger Field on Saturday afternoon.

The Colon Cancer Prevention Project was host for the Louisville visit of the exhibit. The 8-foot-tall, 20-foot-long exhibit, one of six owned by the Prevent Cancer Foundation, crisscrosses the country to educate people about the disease and the importance of colon exams.

Colon cancer education is especially important in Kentucky, where as many as 900 of the 2,700 people diagnosed with the disease each year die from it, said Dr. Whitney Jones, the founder and president of the project.

The exhibit shows the different stages of colon cancer and related diseases. The goal is to encourage people to get checkups, because the earlier the disease is detected, the better the chances of survival.

Oncology specialist Dr. Renato LaRocca stood at a table handing out information. "We're handing out bracelets that say 'Preventable, Treatable, Beatable,' because it can be cured," LaRocca said.

Polyps on the colon wall are an early sign of the disease.

"You don't want to be having the colon talk," Jones said. "You want to be having the polyp talk."

Jones said people with no history of colon cancer in their family should begin having colon checks at 50 years of age.

The exhibit seemed to make its biggest impression on people like 5-year-old Riley Mayberry.

"I loved it," Riley said. "It gives you a chance to check out a part of your body that you can't see."

Highlands resident and family friend Tara Weatherholt said Riley could prove to be an effective ally.

"I think we're going to convince her to talk to her grandparents about watching their health," Weatherholt said.

The Colon Cancer Prevention Project is dedicated to lobbying for changes in how the health care system approaches prevention, Jones said. Future events include a walk-a-thon Aug. 29.

Reporter Sheryl Edelen can be reached at (502) 582-4621.

## Additional Facts

Fourth annual Walk Away From Colon Cancer Super Colon

**When:** 9 a.m. Aug. 29

**Where:** E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park

**Info  
rmation**

: Registration and other materials at [www.coloncancerpreventionproject.org/events.html](http://www.coloncancerpreventionproject.org/events.html)  
To see more photos from the exhibit, go to [www.courier-journal.com](http://www.courier-journal.com)

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