

City of Dallas News Release

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Second Annual Passport to Health takes message to schools; Events and activities will focus on childhood obesity and diabetes

Dallas – The Second Annual Passport to Health Diabetes Awareness campaign is taking its message directly to Dallas schools to confront a national epidemic among the City's youngest residents. According to the American Diabetes Association, if today's trends continue, one of every three children born after the year 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime.

"We want to bring awareness about the need for young people to get involved in physical activities and develop healthy eating habits to reduce the high incidence of childhood obesity and the onset of type 2 diabetes," said Passport to Health Honorary Chair Laura Leppert.

The outreach begins Saturday, Oct. 24 with "Check Me for Diabetes," at Woodrow Wilson High School, 100 S. Glasgow Drive. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. an estimated 300 to 500 youth will participate in competitive exercises, challenges/obstacle course, FitnessGram activities coordinated by the Cooper Institute, a 2K Walk/Run and celebrity guests from the sports and entertainment industry, including former Los Angeles Raiders wide receiver and Heisman Trophy Winner Tim Brown.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, Passport to Health will visit Irma Rangel School, Woodrow Wilson High School, Townview Health Magnet High School and Kipp Academy, presenting information on diabetes awareness, obesity prevention and the importance of fitness and nutrition. The tour is sponsored by the City of Dallas and the Dallas Independent School District.

The campaign concludes Wednesday, Oct. 28 with the free Passport to Health Expo from 9 a.m. to noon at Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St., hosted by award-winning sports reporter Gina Miller of CBS-11 News. The event will feature workshops, information booths, free screenings and service providers and will include an appearance by former Miss America Nicole Johnson, founder of the Nicole Johnson Foundation and Host of dLife TV (CNBC) and author of *Living with Diabetes*. Speakers will include Dallas Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa; Dr. Georita M. Frierson, assistant professor of psychology at Southern Methodist University; Stephen W. Farrell of the Cooper Institute; Motivational Speaker Paula Jernigan, sharing her personal experiences on successfully managing her diabetes; and former Deputy Surgeon General Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu, currently Vice President of Global Strategic Affairs for LifeScan.

The Second Annual "Passport to Health" Diabetes Awareness campaign is made possible through an education grant from the Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Institute in cooperation with the Nicole Johnson Foundation. Sponsors include CBS Ch 11, Baylor Health Care System and LifeScan, Inc., a Johnson & Johnson Company.

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