

**ATTENTION: Assignment Editors,
Metro Reporters, Photojournalists
Oct. 27, 2009**

Obesity epidemic in children is subject of Dr. Kenneth Cooper speech; Father of Aerobics will speak at Passport to Health Expo Oct. 28

Dallas – International fitness expert Dr. Kenneth Cooper will discuss the alarming trend of childhood obesity and its link to diabetes in youth at the Second Annual Passport to Health Expo at noon, Wednesday, Oct. 28 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St.

“Childhood obesity is the health epidemic of our generation,” said Dr. Cooper. “If present trends continue, one out of every three children born in this country after the year 2000 will become diabetic sometime in their life,” he said. With childhood obesity rates in Texas among the highest in the nation, Cooper Institute efforts have focused on improving physical education in schools, including use of the Institute’s Fitness Gram assessments to determine whether students in a healthy fitness zone for their age and gender.

Dr. Cooper is the keynote speaker for the free event hosted by CBS11 and TXA21 Sports Anchor and Reporter Gina Miller. Other speakers will include Superintendent of Schools, Dallas ISD Michael Hinojosa; and Kenneth P. Moritsugu, Vice President of Global Strategic Affairs for LifeScan. Special musical performance will be presented by Angela Blair, Angela Blair Entertainment. Guests will include Mayor Tom Leppert; Honorary Chair Mrs. Laura Leppert; Michael Paul, Company Group Chairman, Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Care Franchise; and Dallas City Council Members Carolyn R. Davis, Pauline Medrano, Delia Jasso and Sheffie Kadane.

The Expo from 9 a.m. to noon will include workshops; information booths and prizes including Southwest Airline tickets; and a Diabetes Awareness Prevention Program open house. This private public partnership is presented by the City of Dallas and the Nicole Johnson Foundation through an education grant from the Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Institute. Both events are free. Sponsors include CBS Ch 11, Baylor Health Care System and LifeScan, Inc., a Johnson & Johnson Company.

“Let’s Start Talking” Town Hall meeting set for Wednesday night

The Passport to Health campaign concludes with “Let’s Start Talking,” a Town Hall meeting from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Community Cooperation’s Gulf/Rio Room at 2900 Live Oak St. Anyone interested in learning more about diabetes is encouraged to attend the event, facilitated by Shawn P. Williams, editor of the nonprofit news Web site, DallasSouthNews.org. Panelists will include Donna Rice, Baylor Health Care System; Dr. Augustine Gonzales, physician; Rev. Johnny C. Smith, Pastor of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church; Esteban Mojica, advocate for diabetes awareness; and Anoma Amerasekera, parent of a 13-year-old child living with Type 1 diabetes.

The panel of community advocates, experts and diabetics will explore ways to manage diabetes, discuss obstacles to treatment and offer solutions. To RSVP call (214) 670-5658 or email Gaytha.davis@dallascityhall.com.

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