



Johnson County Government Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Children Join Safe Kids Johnson County on International Walk to School Day

(OLATHE, KS – **OCTOBER 7, 2013**) Safe Kids Johnson County will join local school children and FedEx volunteers on Wednesday, Oct. 9 to raise awareness about pedestrian safety on International Walk to School Day. More than 250,000 children across the United States will participate in the annual event to learn about walking safely and to encourage the creation of safe walking environments. This year, Bentwood Elementary School (13000 Bond Street) in Overland Park is celebrating the event with parent volunteers walking to school safely with the students and having refreshments for the children when they arrive.

“On International Walk to School Day, parents and caregivers both teach and model safe pedestrian behavior,” said Katie Schatte, Safe Kids Johnson County coordinator. “It is one thing to tell students about pedestrian safety, but by walking with them on International Walk to School Day, we can show them proper behaviors and give them the tools to be safer pedestrians.”

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among children ages 3 to 14. More than 61 children are injured every day severely enough to seek medical attention and more than 500 children are killed every year.

In 1999, Safe Kids Worldwide and program sponsor FedEx created the Safe Kids Walk This Way Program in the United States to teach safe behaviors to motorists and child pedestrians and create safer, more walkable communities. Safe Kids coalitions across the country will work with over 1000 elementary schools to hold events for children on how to walk safely and recognize pedestrian dangers.

About Safe Kids Johnson County

Safe Kids Johnson County works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the number one cause of death for children in the United States. Safe Kids Johnson County is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury. For more information, call 913-477-8312.

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About Johnson County

Located in the southwestern quadrant of the Kansas City Metropolitan Region, Johnson County, Kansas is a community of choice with a current population of more than 544,000, making it the most populated of the 105 counties in Kansas, but traditionally having the lowest mill levy in the state. Johnson County offers a vibrant quality of life including nationally recognized schools, libraries and parks where businesses and families choose to locate and call their home. For more information visit the county's website at www.jocogov.org.

