



NEWS RELEASE
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LiveWell Lawrence to celebrate fifth anniversary

(Lawrence, KS) – LiveWell Lawrence will mark its fifth anniversary with a community celebration from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 15 at Abe and Jake’s Landing, 8 E. Sixth St., in Lawrence. The event is free and open to the public.

LiveWell Lawrence is a coalition of more than 100 community members who are working together to make it easier for Douglas County residents to eat healthy foods, be physically active and live tobacco free.

Nancy O’Connor, one of the 16 founding members, said she’s amazed by what LiveWell has achieved. “In the beginning, we barely had a vision of what we were setting out to do or how to do it. Now, I am in awe of the many community initiatives that have taken hold and how the group has grown in numbers and strength.”

LiveWell has played a key role in supporting a number of community successes, including passage of a Complete Streets Policy in Lawrence, adoption of school marathon clubs and school gardens, and establishment of WorkWell Lawrence, a network of employers working to create a culture of health in the workplace.

Dr. Robert Moser, secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, will attend the celebration event and recognize LiveWell as being a state leader in health. Douglas County Commissioner Mike Gaughan and Lawrence Mayor Michael Dever also will talk about LiveWell’s impact on the community. Additionally, LiveWell founder Marilyn Hull, of the Douglas County Community Foundation, will be honored for her efforts in helping to establish LiveWell. Hull said she felt compelled to help people live long, full lives. “Obesity was hurting the health of people around me, including some loved ones, and it didn’t have to be that way,” she said. “I wanted to do something that would make it easier for people to stay healthy.”

LiveWell has received more than \$500,000 during the past five years from the Kansas Health Foundation, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Douglas County Community Foundation.