



National Cancer Survivors Day® - Sunday, June 5

National Cancer Survivors Day® is Sunday, June 5, 2011. This 24th annual, worldwide celebration of life will be held in hundreds of communities throughout the United States, Canada, and other participating countries. Cancer survivors, caregivers, family members, friends and healthcare professionals will unite to show that life after a cancer diagnosis can be meaningful and productive.

“Surviving cancer is an attitude about life and living each day to the fullest,” said Dr. Robert Moser, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). “We honor cancer survivors for their strength and courage. We also recognize the contributions of families, friends and healthcare providers who have supported survivors through their life journeys.”

Anyone living with a history of cancer, from the moment of diagnosis through the remainder of life, is a cancer survivor, according to the NCSF Foundation. Over 11 million Americans are now living with and beyond a diagnosis of cancer. In the United States, almost half of all men and one third of all women are expected to be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives. Learning about this disease is crucial, because many forms of cancer can be prevented and most cured if detected early.

Major advances in cancer prevention, early detection and treatment have resulted in longer survival, and therefore, a growing number of cancer survivors. However, a cancer diagnosis can leave a host of problems in its wake. Physical, financial and emotional hardships often persist after diagnosis and treatment. Survivors may face many challenges such as hindered access to cancer specialists and promising new treatments, inadequate insurance, financial hardships, employment problems, psychological struggles, and late and long term effects of treatment. In light of these difficulties, cancer survivors need to be supported in improving their quality of life.

“Despite the adversities, cancer survivors face each day with courage and dignity and serve as an inspiration to all of us,” added Dr. Moser.

Visit www.ncsd.org for more information about National Cancer Survivors Day. Visit www.cancerkansas.org for Kansas cancer resources.