

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CENTERPOINT MEDICAL CENTER PARTNERS WITH KIDSANDCARS.ORG TO REMIND PARENTS TO LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK™

As summer heat kicks in, a timely reminder of the dangers of forgetting a child in the car — so far 13 toddlers from across the country have died this year, a preventable tragedy.

WHO: Atif Ali, DO, Emergency Medicine, Centerpoint Medical Center and KidsandCars.org will remind new and expectant parents and caregivers about Look Before You Lock child-car safety program.

WHAT: Leading up to National Heat Stroke Prevention Day the end of July, Centerpoint and KidsandCars.org demonstrate a powerful program to gain awareness of accidentally leaving children in cars during hot weather, often when new parents are distracted and unaccustomed to having a child in the car's backseat.

WHEN: 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 25, 2014

WHERE: Centerpoint Medical Center, 19600 E. 39th St., Independence, MO. 64057

WHY: Heat stroke is the leading cause of non-crash vehicle fatalities for children 14 and younger who die from a preventable tragedy. Often a new parent, unaccustomed to having a baby in a car's backseat, is distracted and accidentally leaves the child in the vehicle. Centerpoint Medical Center is partnering with KidsandCars.org to offer new and expectant parents and caregivers a safety education program.

A parked car can reach 125 degrees in minutes, even when the windows are partially open. Children are especially vulnerable to heat stroke, as their body temperature rise three to five times faster than an adult's. Atif Ali, DO, Emergency Medicine, says partnering with KidsandCars.org is a natural. "We want to help gain awareness for a very real and unnecessary tragedy — leaving a baby in a car. We're teaching new and expectant parents and caregivers the habit of always opening the back door of their vehicle every time you reach your destination to check to make sure no child or pet has been left behind and to keep a large stuffed animal in the child's car seat."

Dr. Ali and Amber Rollins of KidsandCars.org, along with a mother and her four-month-old son, will demonstrate how, right before the child is placed in the seat, moving a stuffed animal to the front passenger seat is a visual reminder that a child is in the back seat.

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About Centerpoint Medical Center

Centerpoint Medical Center, part of HCA Midwest Health System—Kansas City's largest healthcare provider—is located near I-70 and 291 Highway in Independence, MO. Centerpoint Medical Center is a 221-bed acute care hospital with a Level II Trauma Center, 24/7 Emergency Department, an Accredited Chest Pain Center, Certified Stroke Center, women's services including eastern Jackson County's only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit caring for premature or ill newborns, orthopedic services, advanced diagnostic imaging, surgical and other acute care services. Centerpoint Medical Center has received the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers; the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines™ Heart Failure Silver Plus and Stroke Silver Plus Performance Achievement Awards; and the Action Registry® Get With The Guidelines™ Heart Care Silver Performance Achievement Award. In addition, HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare rating organization, has ranked Centerpoint Medical Center among the top 10 in Missouri for Cardiac Surgery for the 4th Consecutive Year (2009-2012) and in 2012 awarded Centerpoint a 5-Star Rating for Heart Valve Replacement for the 2nd consecutive year and a 5-Star Rating for Treatment of Stroke. For more information on Centerpoint Medical Center, visit centerpointmedical.com.

About HCA Midwest Health System

HCA Midwest Health System is the Kansas City area's largest healthcare provider consisting of seven hospitals, outpatient centers, clinics, physician practices, surgery centers and an array of other services to meet the healthcare needs of the greater Kansas City area. HCA Midwest Health System is also the area's largest private sector employer with more than 9,000 employees, the largest provider of charity and uncompensated care, and

annually donates more than \$1.2 million to local charities. Since April 2003, HCA Midwest Health System has invested more than \$845 million to enhance and expand patient services and has paid more than \$216 million in taxes to local communities. HCA Midwest Health System facilities serving the Kansas City area include Allen County Regional Hospital, Belton Regional Medical Center, Cass Regional Medical Center, Centerpoint Medical Center, Lafayette Regional Health Center, Lee's Summit Medical Center, Menorah Medical Center, Overland Park Regional Medical Center, Research Medical Center and Research Psychiatric Center. Midwest Physicians, which is part of HCA Midwest Health System, is a network of experienced, multi-specialty physicians located throughout the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Midwest Physicians currently represents 346 physicians, including 142 primary care providers and 199 specialists with 80 physician practices providing care in 145 locations to serve the community. The physicians, licensed professionals and support staff who comprise the HCA Midwest Health System team are dedicated to improving healthcare in the Greater Kansas City and outlying areas. For more information, visit hcamidwest.com.

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