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Rockford Spine Center Recognizes National Scoliosis Awareness Month
Decorates tree with over 250 bows representing patients treated within past 12 months

Rockford, IL (June 3, 2013) – Rockford Spine Center joins health care leaders across the country in recognizing June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month. A tree on the property along Perryville will be decorated with more than 250 bows representing the patients who were treated for scoliosis in the past 12 months.

Patients will join Rockford Spine Center staff in hanging the ribbons on the tree on Saturday, June 8 at 9 a.m. Rockford Spine Center is located at 2902 McFarland Road.

Scoliosis is a sideways curvature of the spine that occurs most often during an adolescent growth spurt. According to the Scoliosis Association, the condition is the most common deformity of the spine affecting about 10% of adolescents in the U.S., or an estimated 7 million Americans.

“Scoliosis Awareness Month is a good time for us to strengthen our efforts to recognize and treat individuals with scoliosis,” said Dr. Christopher Sliva, partner and fellowship trained surgeon at Rockford Spine Center. “Our aim is to diagnose early and work on preventative steps for adolescents with possible scoliosis conditions so they have a better chance of avoiding potentially painful outcomes later in life.”

Most cases of scoliosis are mild, but severe scoliosis can be disabling. An especially severe spinal curve can reduce the amount of space within the chest, making it difficult for the lungs to function properly. In children and teens, scoliosis typically does not cause symptoms and is not obvious until the curve of the spine becomes moderate or severe.

“We feel it is important to promote awareness of this condition so people educate themselves on what signs to look for and when to seek guidance from a doctor,” said Dr. Michael Roh, partner and fellowship trained surgeon at Rockford Spine Center. “In the 10 years we have been practicing in Rockford, we have diagnosed or treated more than 2,000 people with scoliosis. It is such a heartwarming feeling to see a patient stand up straight for the first time – often inches taller – and able to enjoy a pain-free life.”

Some of the signs or symptoms of scoliosis include:

- Uneven shoulders
- One shoulder blade that appears more prominent than the other
- Uneven waist
- One hip higher than the other

In keeping with their commitment to educating and improving the quality of life for their patients, Rockford Spine Center maintains multiple resource tools on the Patient Education portion of its website found at www.rockfordspine.com. The tools include tutorials, videos and links to professional organizations like the Scoliosis Research Society, for which Dr. Roh has served as a cabinet member and committee chair.

About Rockford Spine Center

Celebrating 10 years of service in 2013, Rockford Spine Center is the only facility in Northwestern Illinois dedicated exclusively to spinal care. The facility has the combined expertise of three fellowship trained spine surgeons, and a Mayo Clinic-trained physiatrist.

Rockford Spine Center's team of experts uses a multidisciplinary approach to treat spinal disorders, ranging from simple to the most complex cases. The team has an advanced understanding of the spine and specializes in both surgical and non-surgical spinal disorders. Rockford Spine Center has earned national recognition in Newsweek, is ranked among the Top 50 Spine Surgery Practices to Know in Becker's Spine Review and earned the Patients' Choice Award in 2011 and 2012. For more information about Rockford Spine Center, visit the company's website at www.rockfordspine.com or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RockfordSpine.