



The William E. Proudford  
Sickle Cell Fund, Inc.

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Local Organization Launches September Sickle Cell Awareness Month Activities** *The William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund rallies support from Celebrities, businesses and community*

*Baltimore* – The William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund (WEPSCF) recognizes National Sickle Cell Awareness Month this September to raise awareness of the disease and funds for local hospitals and other support efforts. National Sickle Cell Awareness Month aims to generate awareness of Sickle Cell disease in Baltimore and the WEPSCF will sponsor events, including “Waiting on You: Celebrities Who Serve” and culminating with the organization’s 5th Annual Fundraising Reception – “Step Up for Sickle Cell,” on September 30.

In Baltimore City, there are approximately 1,100 African Americans living with Sickle Cell disease, with an estimated 34,000 carriers of the trait. With this, over 900 Emergency Department visits related to Sickle Cell disease were reported in 2008. The majority of hospital visits are a result of pain “crises,” which occur overwhelmingly in Baltimoreans aged 20-45. Complications from Sickle Cell disease can also affect individuals - ranging from newborns to the elderly - through organ damage, stroke or early death.

“As we move towards this awareness month, we’re excited about the potential to work with the community to make a difference in the Baltimore area,” states Dr. Karen L. Proudford, President of WEPSCF. “This year we will honor two schools that continue to strive toward awareness and a deeper understanding of the disease -- especially its impact on students. These schools have helped students with the disease be successful academically and socially in school.”

### **Waiting on You: Celebrities Who Serve**

This new twist on fundraising will feature Kenneth R. Banks, President and CEO of Banks Contracting, and his celebrity friends, as they provide table service for a private lunch event at the Capital Grille in downtown Baltimore. The Capital Grille will offer its regular a la carte menu to attendees, with no additional costs for the event. All celebrity tips will be donated to the William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund in support of its important mission of supporting education, advances in treatment and research for Sickle Cell disease. Waiting on You will be held on September 14, 2010 from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. in a private room at the venue.

### **Step Up – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Reception**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser, being held on Thursday, September 30, themed “Step Up for Sickle Cell,” will honor Baltimore and Delaware education programs for their efforts in promoting awareness and knowledge of the devastating effects of Sickle Cell disease. The WEPSCF will use proceeds from the fundraiser to support sickle cell programs in the mid-Atlantic region, including Johns Hopkins and Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. The event will be held at Baltimore’s Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor Hotel from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Tickets are available online or by phone.

The William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Established in 2005, the fund partners with major institutions in the mid-Atlantic area to provide an ongoing source of funds to support sickle cell awareness, education and research. For more information visit [www.wepsicklecell.org](http://www.wepsicklecell.org).

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