

**The William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund, Inc.**  
**Awareness Education Hope**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karen Proudford

**Jackson to be Honored at Sickle Cell Fundraiser**

Dover, DE – September 14, 2006 – Sickle cell disease is the most common genetic disorder in the U.S. Yet, many people are unfamiliar with this devastating disease that prevents blood from carrying oxygen throughout the body, causing excruciating pain and often leading to heart attack, stroke or death. Persons with sickle cell disease often need regular transfusions in order to survive pain episodes. There is currently no cure for the disease, though research and experimental treatments are providing some hope that a cure may eventually be found.

September is “Sickle Cell Awareness Month.” In celebration, the William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund, Inc. (the Fund) is honoring Coach Greg Jackson with its “Unsung Hero Award” during its inaugural fundraiser on September 16, 2006, at the Sheraton Dover Hotel, from 4-7p.m. Coach Jackson, whose son, Greg Jr., has sickle cell disease, has been a quiet hero – persistent in his efforts to find effective treatment for the disorder. He has done so while simultaneously mastering a turnaround of the Hornets basketball team, coaching them to two consecutive MEAC (Middle Eastern Athletic Conference) finals. The Fund is proud to recognize Coach Jackson for his commitment to combating this disease. His efforts are giving hope to many others who are determined to lead productive full lives despite the challenges of living with sickle cell.

Proceeds of the fundraising reception benefit the William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to support sickle cell education, awareness and research. The Fund is pleased to announce the **Delaware State University as a Platinum Sponsor** and the **Nemours Partnership for Children’s Health (A.I. duPont Hospital for Children) as a Gold Sponsor** of the event.

For more information about this event or about the Fund, please call 302.983.8455. For more information about sickle cell disease, visit The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America website at [www.sicklecelldisease.org](http://www.sicklecelldisease.org).