

WILLIAM E. PROUDFORD SICKLE CELL  
FUND, INC.

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# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
9 A.M. EDT, August 28,  
2007

## **NEVER HEARD OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE? HERE'S WHY**

Baltimore, MD. According to a 2006 article in the leading medical journal, *Pediatrics*, just \$6 per sickle cell patient was raised in private funds during 2003. By contrast, over \$5,000 was raised per cystic fibrosis patient. With such a small amount of funding, it is difficult to make the public aware of this crippling disease, to provide adequate treatment resources and to fully train health care professionals about the disease.

Private organizations must do much more in order to increase funding for awareness, treatment and research. There is a profound need to touch and encourage individuals, foundations, churches and other private organizations to send a message that the time is now to significantly escalate efforts to combat this disease.

Sickle cell disease is the most common genetic disorder in the United States. Though the disease

affects African Americans disproportionately, it also affects people of many nationalities including Italians, Latin Americans, Greeks, Arabs, and Asiatic Indians. In the U.S., an estimated 1 out of 1,000-1,400 Hispanic newborns has the disease. Approximately 2.5 million African Americans have sickle cell trait, and 1 out of 400-500 African American newborns has the disease.

September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month, and on Saturday, September 15, The William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraiser in Baltimore. Oprah Winfrey Show regular contributor, "Dr. Robin" Smith will deliver the keynote address. The event will honor Dr. Sophie Lanzkron of the Sickle Cell Center for Adults at Johns Hopkins and Ms. Jean R. Wadman, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in the Sickle Cell Program at the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support sickle cell programs in the Mid-Atlantic region.

When: Saturday, September 15th

Where: Renaissance Harborplace Hotel  
Baltimore, Maryland

Time: 6:00 PM

Cost: \$60 per person - General reception;  
\$125 per person - VIP reception

Contact: Ms. Kathy Sutton

302.983.8455 (Delaware) or

410.963.5092 (Maryland)

Tickets: On sale now; may be purchased via  
phone or online

Sponsorships: May be purchased via phone or online

Website: [www.wepsicklecell.org](http://www.wepsicklecell.org)

The William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund is a 501(c)  
(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization whose purpose  
is to promote treatment, research and education about  
sickle cell disease.

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