

WILLIAM E. PROUDFORD SICKLE CELL  
FUND, INC.

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# Press Release

Contact: Marc Proudford  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
9 A.M. EDT, September 6,  
2007

## **SICKLE CELL PATIENTS OFTEN SUFFER IN SILENCE**

Baltimore, MD. Because so little is widely known about sickle cell disease, patients with sickle cell may face health care professionals with limited knowledge about how to recognize and treat a sickle patient in crisis. Moreover, the general public knows little to nothing about the disease, making it difficult to get attention necessary to support them. So, sickle cell patients often feel isolated or even trapped by this crippling disorder.

Even though sickle cell disease is the most common genetic disorder in the U.S., it still today remains invisible to the general public. That's why it is critically important for private organizations and the government to fund awareness, education, and treatment about the disease.

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.

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 for the General  
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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