

# Media Release

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For Immediate Release

## **Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children to be recipient of Sickle Cell Endowment**

The William E Proudford Sickle Cell Fund Inc (WEPSCF) is proud to announce that funds raised to combat sickle cell disease will be donated to the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, Delaware.

Founded in 2005 by the family of the late William E. Proudford, the William E Proudford Sickle Cell Fund Inc (WEPSCF) is committed to obtaining funds necessary to support ongoing efforts to stop the debilitating and life-threatening effects of sickle cell anemia. William E. Proudford had SC disease, a form of sickle cell anemia, and the family witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of this disorder. **Sickle cell anemia is the most common genetic disorder in the United States.** Despite this, the public is largely unaware of the disease and its devastating effects. In addition, health care professionals have not received extensive training in identifying and treating forms of the disease. Sickle cell disease affects people of many nationalities including Italians, Latin Americans, Greeks, Arabs, and Asiatic Indians. However, sickle cell disease disproportionately affects people of African descent. Children who suffer from sickle cell often experience repeated pain episodes that can lead to stroke, heart attack and death.

“We’re excited about this opportunity to support the Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children’s Sickle Cell Program,” says Karen Proudford, President. “Their comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to treating sickle cell patients is a model for all health care institutions that serve this underserved population. We were especially impressed by the manner in which they integrate the patients’ families into the overall treatment strategy.”

The Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children opened in 1940 as an orthopaedic hospital for children. The hospital today provides a wide range of medical services to children from birth to age 18. Its mission is to provide leadership, institutions, and services to restore and improve the health of children through care and programs not readily available, with one high standard of quality and distinction regardless of the recipient's financial status.

The WEPSCF is dedicated to supporting education and awareness about sickle cell. The organization will establish an endowment at the duPont Hospital both as a legacy to William E. Proudford and to ensure that efforts to combat this disease are ongoing. The organization will hold its second annual fundraiser in September, 2007, at the Rollins Center, Dover Downs; the event will feature Dr. Robin Smith, bestselling author and contributor to “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”