



**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
July 6, 2018**

Contact: Carole Bernard,
Marketing and Communications Director
cbernard@sicklecelldisease.org
(410) 528-1555 (o)
443-538-1565(c)

**Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. Partners with the
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.**

~ National Walk Increases Awareness and Raises Critical Funds for Sickle Cell Disease Research ~

Baltimore, MD- There are over 100,000 individuals who are affected by sickle cell disease in the United States. There is no cure, and the disease affects predominantly people of color. The 5th Annual Walk With The Stars is one of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.'s (SCDAA) largest events dedicated to finding better treatments and a cure for sickle cell disease. Every dollar raised goes towards preventing the complications of sickle cell disease through awareness, education, advocacy and research. SCDAA to-date has raised over \$540,000 for better treatments and improvements in the quality of health for individuals, families and communities affected by sickle cell disease. This year, SCDAA seeks to raise \$300,000.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is partnering with the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA) to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) and to raise money to support research and education of the negative impact of SCD on the health, economic, social and educational well-being of the individual. Phi Beta Sigma Chapters across the country have joined SCDAA's efforts to raise funds by participating in the 5th Annual Walk With Stars event on August 18, 2018 in Baltimore, MD. In addition to raising funds for research, this partnership will support SCDAA through mobilizing blood and bone marrow drives and educating the community about sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait.

"Phi Beta Sigma understands the deep impact that sickle cell disease has on our communities, and we are thrilled to partner with SCDAA to help raise awareness and funds to address the complexity of this rare blood disease," says International President Micheal Cristal. "This partnership is very important, and we are excited to lend our efforts to raising funds for this important cause."

"We are very proud to partner with Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. to increase awareness about sickle cell disease and to raise funds for sickle cell research, education and services," said SCDAA President Beverley Francis-Gibson. "Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity is a well-respected international Greek letter organization with a long history of serving the community. We look forward to working with these Top Men of Distinction to support the health, economic, social and educational well-being of individuals living with sickle cell disease."

To register for the National Walk With the Stars event, visit www.sicklecellnationalwalk.org.

Hashtags: #WalkWithTheStars #MoveForSickleCell #SCDAA #PhiBetaSigmaWalk #SCD #SCT #sicklecelldisease

About the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.'s mission is: To advocate for and enhance our membership's ability to improve the quality of health, life and services for individuals, families and communities affected by sickle cell disease and related conditions, while promoting the search for a cure for all people in the world with sickle cell disease. Visit: www.sicklecelldisease.org.

-continue-

About Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is an international organization that was founded at Howard University in 1914 to be a Greek letter fraternity that would exemplify the ideals of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service. The Founders also conceived Phi Beta Sigma as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. has been instrumental in the establishment of the Phi Beta Sigma National Foundation, the Phi Beta Sigma Federal Credit Union and The Sigma Beta Club Foundation. Visit: <http://phibetasigma1914.org/>.

About Sickle Cell Disease

Sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disease, causes red blood cells to have a sickle-shape. With their stiffness and unusual shape, blood flow is blocked to different tissues, ultimately damaging them. These red blood cells contain an abnormal type of hemoglobin, hemoglobin S, while normal red blood cells have hemoglobin A. Hemoglobin is important to the body because it helps the body carry oxygen throughout the body. There is currently no cure.

###