

**An American Red Cross Sickle Cell Blood Drive Sponsored by 107.5  
WBLS Radio, The Sickle Cell Association of New Jersey and the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated  
in Honor of Black History Month**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEWARK, NJ – February 13, 2012.** The Sickle Cell Association of New Jersey (SCANJ) celebrates Black History Month by teaming up with 107.5 WBLS Radio and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity 2nd District for the American Red Cross Sickle Cell Awareness Blood Drive on Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am-2:00pm at New Jersey City University's Gillian Student Union Building Multi Purpose Room, 2039 Kennedy Boulevard in Jersey City, New Jersey.

According to the Red Cross, every minute of every day, someone needs blood. It is especially important for minority populations to donate because there are not enough minority donors to meet the need. Scientific research has shown that the best match, and that least likely to cause an allergic reaction, is blood donated from someone of the same ethnic group. Having such blood available is particularly important for people with sickle cell disease, who typically need several transfusions throughout their lifetimes. To register online go to [RedCrossblood.org](http://RedCrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor code 02215063 or you may call 1800 26-BLOOD (1800 262-5663). Walk ins are welcome too.

This is much more than a blood drive. This is a celebration of service as the Omega's put their community service in action by offering attendees an opportunity to learn about sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disorder that causes the red blood cells to become hard and pointed which can cause anemia, pain and many other serious health problems. Interactive exhibits and games will reinforce the importance of minority blood donations, the history of sickle cell disease and educate about history maker, Dr. Charles Drew. WBLS celebrity DJ's will be on hand, along with prizes and give aways at the *SCANJ Health Fest*. The Health fest features appearances by New Jersey Sickle Cell Poster Child Sanaa Johnson and Teen Spokesperson Amanda Salazar. Organizations with blood donors are invited to step and stroll.

**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated** is a community service brotherhood founded in 1911 on the principals of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. The fraternity members dedicate their lives to "service" for our communities.

**107.5 WBLS Radio** is part of the Inner City Family of stations. They are the #1 Rhythm and Blues station in the New York area. Their mission includes a commitment to creating a positive economic and cultural impact on their listeners.

**SCANJ** is a non profit community based agency that assists the sickle cell community, especially adults, with non-medical needs such as support groups, transition education, access to research, resource sharing, family follow up and other programs that improve their quality of life. Mary Bentley LaMar, Founder and Executive Director of SCANJ asks, "Please register now to donate blood and ask others to do the same. We need your help to combat the devastating effects of sickle cell disease." [www.sicklecellnewjersey.org](http://www.sicklecellnewjersey.org)

**For More Information Contact: Mary Bentley LaMar, at 973. 482.9070 or via email at [sicklecellanj@gmail.com](mailto:sicklecellanj@gmail.com)**