

# ENTERTAINMENT

Los Angeles -- Legendary jazz giant Count Basie will be honored by the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease (NASCD) at a benefit dinner to be co-hosted by the Sickle Cell Disease Research Foundation (SCDRF), ON Wednesday, September 21.

Basie will receive the NASCD's Award of Distinction that evening, and the entertainment dinner, which is open to the public, will be held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills.

Count Basie and his orchestra have been in the forefront of jazz artistry for 42 years. The Count's driving piano style and dynamic arrangements have markedly influenced jazz musicians and such singers as Joe Williams, Frank Sinatra, and Jimmy Rushing.

Basie is being paid tribute by the NASCD and the SCDRF for his personal commitment to humanitarian causes.

The tribute to Basie will be the third annual entertainment benefit dinner conducted by the NASCD and marks the first time that their pioneer chapter, the SCDRF, will co-host the star-studded event. Jazz greats Ray Charles and Ella Fitzgerald were previous honorees. The event annually attracts top show business celebrities, who have joined in the entertainment.

September is National Sickle Cell Month, and the Basie Tribute is just one of several activities scheduled for that month, which will include naming of the 1977-78 Poster Child, Sickle Cell Sunday, and an all-media education awareness campaign.

Sickle cell disease is a life-threatening hereditary blood disease prevalent among those with black and Mediterranean ancestry.

The NASCD is a nation-wide, non-profit organization dedicated to providing leadership, coordination, standards and guidelines to 60 affiliate chapters across the United



States. It also provides leadership in educating the public about sickle cell disease and providing comprehensive sickle cell disease programming.

The Sickle Cell Disease Research Foundation of Los Angeles, founded in 1957, was one of 14 charter members of the NASCD and helped provide organizational support to the founding of the National in 1971. This chapter was one of the first in the nation to originate and implement adequate testing, counseling, and education programs.

Ticket information can be obtained from the NASCD offices at (213) 731-1166, 945 South Western Avenue, Suite 206, Los Angeles, California 90006, or the SCDRF, (213) 299-3600, 4401 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90043. Proceeds will benefit both organizations.

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