



**Phelps Stokes: New Look, Renewed Purpose
For Changing World**

Washington, DC (May 20, 2009) – The 98-year-old nonprofit group, the Phelps Stokes Fund, announced that it is boldly resetting its image and purpose to meet today’s unprecedented global challenges. Now known as Phelps Stokes, the organization has revitalized its programs, invested in new partnerships, streamlined its operations, launched a new website, adopted a new logo, and sharpened its focus around a new maxim: “Where Big Ideas Break Through.”

“During times of economic crisis, the organizations that persist and thrive are those that invest in themselves. At Phelps Stokes, we are investing in ourselves so that we may better serve those who are investing in transforming their communities,” said Phelps Stokes Chair Jonathan Cahn.

Phelps Stokes was established by an act of the New York State legislature in 1911 by bequest of philanthropist Caroline Phelps Stokes. Founded contemporaneously with the major New York philanthropies, such as the Carnegie Corporation, Phelps Stokes is distinguished by a rich history of achievements, often ahead of its time and despite hostility, resistance and a relatively small endowment.

Based in Washington since 2003, Phelps Stokes has nearly a century of experience supporting visionary leaders with innovative ideas, complementing government and private sector efforts to address critical issues, building bridges of international, intercultural and interracial understanding and effectively setting the stage for lasting social change.

Landmark institutions that can trace their roots to Phelps Stokes support include UNCF, Jackie Robinson Foundation, American Indian College Fund, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Association of Black American Ambassadors, South African Institute for Race Relations and numerous Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Individuals who have received Phelps Stokes support include former African heads of state Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria, and Eduardo Mondlane of Mozambique. Phelps Stokes also provided strategic counsel and financial support to W. E. B. DuBois. Nobel Prize Laureate Ralph J. Bunche is a former member of the Phelps Stokes Board of Trustees and famed Ghanaian educator and intellectual James K. Aggrey was a supporter and key member of several Phelps Stokes commissions on African education.

Today, Phelps Stokes is the only organization exclusively focused on strengthening Africa and underserved communities in the Americas with a proven model that finds and nurtures bold thinking by connecting visionary leaders with needed resources and inspiring new initiatives and institutions that go on to transform local communities. President Badi G. Foster emphasized that the reset agency has created three programs that exemplify the kind of transformative action needed for a world in crisis.

- Promoting service learning and servant leadership through Ralph Bunche Societies, Afro-Latino Leadership Initiative, and U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program
- Connecting Africa to the global community through the New Africa Network, an information communication technology social venture
- Renewing the development of those returning home after incarceration through the National Homecomers’ Academy

“With high resolves, noble purposes, and integrity Phelps Stokes preserves the sincerity of intent and the unflagging efforts of those who preceded us,” said President Foster. “Together, we will ensure that big ideas always find a way to break through.”