

For Immediate Release

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Phelps Stokes Receives a Grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to Support the National Homecomers Academy

Washington, DC, March 16 2010 – Phelps Stokes is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant totaling nearly \$397,500 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan. The two-year grant is provided to support the National Homecomers Academy Initiative.

“Every year there are more than 750,000 men and women released from American prisons,” said Dr. Badi Foster, President of Phelps Stokes. *“For the most part, these Homecomers are being released ill prepared for the transition from prison to the greater society. The National Homecomers Academy will make these men and women better prepared to face this very difficult and trying transition.”*

The overarching aim for this initiative is to create connections between Homecomers, their children and families that are needed for all to thrive. This initiative will effectively support new cycles of transformational action and positive consequences that lead to better outcomes for vulnerable youth and families. The National Homecomers Academy will serve recently-released inmates by providing them with the resources necessary for their successful return to American society. The project promotes a holistic approach to respond to the needs of Homecomers, their children and families. Phelps Stokes is partnering with TimeBanks USA and the National Legal Aid & Defender Association to successfully implement this initiative.

“Not only does this project aim to better prepare Homecomers, but it will also strive to remove the stigma associated with people recently released from prison,” Dr. Foster said. *“We will have a concerted public relations campaign so that these men and women are referred to as Homecomers, reflecting their current journey from life in prison to being reintroduced to civil society. If we can reduce this stigma, then we can increase the chances of success for Homecomers.”*

Phelps Stokes is a non-profit organization formed in 1911 to address the educational and leadership needs of African Americans, American Indians and the African Diaspora. Phelps Stokes is a trusted partner to visionary leaders and organizations with big ideas that address the needs of these communities. Phelps Stokes is, and always has been, committed to leveraging all its resources to create lasting social change and helping big ideas break through. For further information, please visit the Phelps Stokes website at www.phelpsstokes.org.

Established in 1930, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa. For further information, please visit the Foundation’s website at www.wkkf.org.