

# The Echo Foundation

**“A Night To Remember” – Sept. 21, 2010**

## **News Release**

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### **The Echo Foundation Unveils “Sandra and Leon Levine Medal for Life” at Premiere of Documentary Film *In The Footsteps of Elie Wiesel***

*Medal Commissioned by The Echo Foundation as a Surprise Gift for  
Sandra and Leon Levine*

**September 21, 2010 (Charlotte, N.C.)** – The Echo Foundation unveiled the “Sandra and Leon Levine Medal for Life” during Echo’s film premiere celebration, “A Night To Remember,” at the Knight Theater. The evening featured the premiere of the documentary film, “In The Footsteps of Elie Wiesel;” an on-stage dialogue with Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate for Peace Elie Wiesel and Echo Student Ambassadors; and the presentation of the 2010 “Echo Award Against Indifference” to Sandra and Leon Levine. A Patrons’ Reception at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art followed.

The “Sandra and Leon Levine Medal for Life” will be awarded to individuals whose actions call forth the best in human nature and inspire us all to reach our highest potential. Its creation is a tribute to Sandra and Leon Levine, whose generosity and vision has made an unequalled contribution to the quality of life in our community.

The Levines may be involved in the recipient decision-making process, and will be invited to present the medal. The Echo Foundation anticipates the inaugural medal will be presented at the New York Premiere of “In The Footsteps of Elie Wiesel.”

“Sandra and Leon Levine have given so much to the Charlotte region, they are more than deserving of this unique gift. Their names are synonymous with compassion and generosity. With the “Sandra and Leon Levine Medal for Life,” we not only express our gratitude to Sandra and Leon, but we create a path for recognizing those around the world whose generous spirit has made a substantial impact in the lives of others,” said Echo President Stephanie Ansaldo.

The Echo Foundation commissioned world-renowned artist Mark Podwal to design the “Sandra and Leon Levine Medal for Life.” Podwal, known for his many illustrated books, stained glass windows, New York Times OP-ED page drawings, and more, also designed Nobel Peace Laureate, Elie Wiesel’s Congressional Gold Medal bestowed by President Reagan. Inspiration for the medal’s design came from the Levines’ philanthropic activities and their Jewish heritage. The front of the medal evokes an ancient Israeli coin, featuring a lyre and the biblical verse Psalm 89:3 in Paleo-Hebrew. The name of the medal, “Sandra and Leon Levine Medal for Life,” arcs halfway around the coin. The reverse side is inscribed with the same verse, which reads, “The world is built upon loving kindness,” in both Paleo-Hebrew and English.

### ***About the Echo Award Against Indifference***

The Echo ***Award Against Indifference*** was established to honor a member of the Mecklenburg County community who works “... ***with an eye towards peace, a heart filled with compassion and a voice against indifference, in order to remind our community of its highest ideals.***” Previous recipients include the late Joe Martin, Bishop George E. Battle, Jr., the late Sister Mary Thomas Burke, former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt, former UNC Charlotte Chancellor Dr. Dean Colvard, former Bank of America Chairman Hugh McColl, Jr., developer Howard “Smoky” Bissell, community volunteer Sally Dalton Robinson, business and civic leaders, Alan and Stuart Dickson, and the civil rights law firm Ferguson Stein Chambers Gresham & Sumter, P.A.

### **About Sandra and Leon Levine**

Sandra and Leon Levine epitomize compassion, personal responsibility and commitment to humanity. Their contributions to the Charlotte community, encompassing the medical, educational, religious, and arts fields, demonstrate the power of leadership and strength of character. Among the many institutions that bear their name are the Levine Children’s Hospital, Shalom Park, UNC Charlotte, Levine Museum of the New South, Levine Center for the Arts, Queens University, and Central Piedmont Community College. Most recently, the Levines spearheaded efforts to minimize the impact of the national financial downturn by launching the Critical Need Response Fund, a crucial source of support for those most adversely affected in the Charlotte community.

### **About The Echo Foundation**

The Echo Foundation was founded in 1997 to carry on the message Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel brought to Charlotte that year – a call to action for human dignity, justice and moral courage. The Echo Foundation brings to Charlotte speakers and programs that illustrate how one person can make a difference for humanity through its *Voices Against Indifference Initiative*.

Previous Echo speakers include Partners in Health co-founder Paul Farmer, Nobel Laureate for Peace Elie Wiesel, Rwandan Bishop John Rucyahana, African policy expert John Prendergast, Doctors Without Borders founder and French Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner, Harvard African and African-American Studies Department Chairman Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Columbia University Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs, Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka, human rights advocate Kerry Kennedy, and Chinese dissident Harry Wu. For more information about The Echo Foundation, visit [www.echofoundation.org](http://www.echofoundation.org).

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