

# The Echo Foundation

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Rowan, 704.591.8945 or [krowan@corderphilips.com](mailto:krowan@corderphilips.com)  
Heather Fried, 704.347.3844 or [CharlotteEchoes@aol.com](mailto:CharlotteEchoes@aol.com)

## The Echo Foundation to Host Elie Wiesel and Honor Sandra and Leon Levine at Charlotte Premiere of “In the Footsteps of Elie Wiesel”

*Tickets on Sale Now for Documentary Film Premiere Featuring On-Stage Dialogue with Nobel Peace Laureate Wiesel and Echo Student Ambassadors*

**June 15, 2010 (Charlotte, N.C.)** – [The Echo Foundation](#) will premiere the 56-minute documentary film, “[In the Footsteps of Elie Wiesel](#),” at an event from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Knight Theater on Tues., Sept. 21. The event, *A Night to Remember*, will include an on-stage dialogue with Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel and Echo Student Ambassadors featured in the film; the presentation of the 2010 Echo Award *Against Indifference* to philanthropists Sandra and Leon Levine; and a post-film Patrons’ Reception.

Patron tickets for *A Night to Remember* (\$250 per person, or Patron packages and corporate sponsorships ranging from \$3,000) are available by calling 704.347.3844. General admission seating will go on sale in late summer.

“In the Footsteps of Elie Wiesel” chronicles the journey of 12 Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school students who trace the life experiences and formative environments of Wiesel as part of The Echo Foundation’s 2007 Footsteps Global Initiative.

Charlotte-based [Indievision](#) produced the film in association with [Emulsion Arts](#). Led by Executive Producer Bert C. Hesse, Indievision’s recent films were presented at the 2006 Berlin and Cannes film markets. [Emulsion Arts](#) is an award-winning film production company. “In the Footsteps of Elie Wiesel” features an introduction by Richard Gere, music and lyrics by New York Fifth Avenue Synagogue Cantor Joseph Malovany and an original score by [Fred Story](#), a nationally recognized composer whose numerous credits include six Emmy Awards.

The documentary film serves as a new medium for the Echo mission, giving visual expression to the foundation's work for social justice through education and positioning the organization to reach audiences worldwide.

"The film – a moving portrayal of young people on a quest to impact humanity through their understanding of history – is a powerful vehicle to promote justice and inspire hope," said Stephanie Ansaldo, president of The Echo Foundation and the film's director.

The [12 Student Ambassadors](#) were Charlotte high school students at the time of filming. They were chosen following an intensive application and interview process on the merits of their intellectual curiosity, a demonstrated commitment to social service, and an innate sense of personal responsibility for humankind.

Sandra and Leon Levine epitomize compassion, personal responsibility and ethical leadership. Most recently, the Levines spearheaded efforts to minimize the impact of the national financial downturn in Charlotte through personal support and advocacy for increasing resources to those most adversely affected. "Sandra and Leon's vision for the quality of life in Charlotte and the vitality of our community inspires us all to do more," said Ansaldo.

### **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 Dean Colvard, former Bank of America Chairman Hugh McColl Jr., developer Howard C. "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.

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

Community philanthropists Sandra and Leon Levine are the living example of Echo's ideals, consistently demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to the community. They have a longstanding reputation for leadership in the Charlotte region. With a powerful combination of business acumen, compassion and responsibility, the Levines have been a driving force behind the development of medical, religious, educational and arts

infrastructures across the community. 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. In the wake of the financial downturn, the Levines helped launch the Critical Need Response Fund, a crucial source of support for those in need in the Charlotte community.

### **About Elie Wiesel**

[Elie Wiesel](#) was born in 1928 in Sighet, Transylvania, now part of Romania. At age 15, he and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz. His mother and younger sister perished, his two older sisters survived. Wiesel and his father were later transported to Buchenwald, where his father died shortly before the camp was liberated in April 1945. He wrote about his experience in the death camps in his internationally acclaimed memoir, “La Nuit” or “Night,” which has since been translated into more than 30 languages.

Wiesel is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University, where he is a member of the faculty in the Department of Religion as well as the Department of Philosophy. He is Chairman of The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, an organization he and his wife created to fight indifference, intolerance and injustice. He is the author of more than 40 books of fiction and non-fiction, and the recipient of numerous awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal and the Medal of Liberty Award, and the rank of Grand-Croix in the French Legion of Honor. In 1986, Elie Wiesel won the Nobel Prize for Peace. More biographical information: <http://inthefootstepsofeliewiesel.org/bios.html>

### **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 Peace Prize winner 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 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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