

NEWS RELEASE

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The Echo Foundation to Honor Mary Lou and Jim Babb at 15th Annual Award Event

Couple to Receive 2012 Echo Award Against Indifference

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (July 10, 2012) – On September 3, The Echo Foundation will hold its 15th Annual Award Event as the Democratic National Convention kicks off in the Queen City. The program features the presentation of the 2012 Award Against Indifference to Charlotte civic leaders Mary Lou and Jim Babb.

The Echo Award Against Indifference honors members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community who exemplify the organization’s dedication to promoting human dignity, justice and moral courage through positive, effective action for humankind. Past recipients include philanthropists Sandra and Leon Levine, former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt, former Bank of America Chairman Hugh McColl, Jr., the late UNC Charlotte Chancellor Dr. Dean Colvard, and developer Howard “Smoky” Bissell.

The event is a part of the foundation’s 2012 election year series titled, “We the People. The Voices and Vision of Democracy.” The award program will take place at the Knight Theater starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by a reception at *The Charlotte Observer*. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please call 704.347.3844.

About Mary Lou and Jim Babb

The Babbs are well known for their many contributions to educational, cultural and charitable institutions in the Charlotte community. Jim has spent the entirety of his career working in broadcast communications with wide impact in state and national business circles. He’s the past president and CEO of Jefferson-Pilot Communications and Outlet Communications and currently he’s executive vice president and chief operating officer

of Bahakel Communications, Ltd. Operations of the three companies include television and radio properties across the nation. Mary Lou is the former chair of the board of trustees of the Mint Museum and briefly served as interim director of the museum. She co-founded The Woman's Impact Fund in 2003, which helps women reach their monetary giving potential while meeting community need. Both are active on several advisory boards and have received countless honors for their work in the community.

“Mary Lou and Jim uplift the cultural, educational and philanthropic fabric of this community,” said Stephanie Ansaldo, president of The Echo Foundation. “Their compassion for others and dedication to improving the quality of life in Charlotte set the bar high as we seek to follow their noble example.”

About “We The People. The Voices and Vision of Democracy.”

A three-part series that builds on past Echo successes, “We the People. The Voices and Vision of Democracy.” includes the **15th Annual Echo Award Event**, a **Photojournalism Project** and the **Footsteps Global Initiative: Youth Engage**. This series will bring together political and business leaders from across the country in celebration of renowned humanitarians whose work responds to the question, “What can one person do?” With events and programs designed to engage the leaders of tomorrow, Echo leverages this historic opportunity presented by the DNC to teach and celebrate the best that America stands for: freedom, opportunity and self-determination.

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. Through comprehensive education programs, Echo equips individuals with moral and intellectual tools necessary to create positive change in their local and global communities. The Echo mission, “...to promote justice and inspire hope through education, creative acts of service, and the development of leadership for a more humane world” is realized through five core initiatives: *Voices Against Indifference*, *Footsteps Global Initiative*, *Books Beyond Borders*, *Forum for Hope*, and *Living Together in the 21st Century*. The Echo Foundation has hosted 24 humanitarians and

world leaders and served over 730,000 students in the US, Eastern Europe and East Africa. For more information, please visit www.echofoundation.org, www.echofoundationphoto.org or www.inthefootstepsofeliewiesel.org.

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