NHS/MHIC STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA

December 10, 2013

The Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies Minority Health Initiative Council stands with the world in mourning the passing of Nelson Mandela, and honoring his truly transformative leadership and legacy.

Even though he now belongs to the ages, Nelson Mandela will live in history as an inspiration for defenders of liberty around the globe. He stood firm for decades on the principle that until all South Africans enjoyed equal liberties he would not leave prison himself, declaring in his autobiography, "Freedom is indivisible; the chains on any one of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me." Because of his epic fight against injustice, an entire nation is now free.

His ideals will endure; his words will live on, and it is this type of social justice that will continue as part of our mission of engaging with community as trusted partners in various health initiatives at the regional, national, and international levels in an effort to reduce health disparities. And his example will continue to light our way as we move forward in our work to create a healthier more promising future for our most vulnerable and underserved communities.

Today, as we offer our condolences to the Mandela family, and to the people of South Africa, we also celebrate the life of a truly extraordinary man and his fight for civil rights.

Our thoughts and heartfelt prayers are with the Mandela family and the many people the world over, whose lives he touched. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to our continued engagement in 2014.

Sincerely,

2013-2014
NHS Minority Health initiative Council