

# THE SICKLE CELL FOUNDATION

SICKLE CELL DISEASE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA – CENTRAL ALABAMA CHAPTER

Organized in 1976 | a 501©(3) non-profit organization | a United Way Agency

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## ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE

- One out of every 500 African American babies born will have sickle cell disease.
- One out of every 10 will have sickle cell trait.
- The disease is inherited when both parents have sickle cell trait.
- Sickle cell disease affects people of many ethnic backgrounds, but disproportionately affects African-Americans.
- Some of the more serious complications are pain requiring hospitalization, strokes, infections, anemia, jaundice, leg ulcers. Many individuals have suffered devastating complications and are permanently disabled.
- Twenty-five years ago, a person with sickle cell disease was not expected to live to adulthood and the average life span was about 21 years of age. Today the outlook is much more optimistic and many people are living beyond 50 years of age.
- Studies have shown that some major medical complications can be minimized and even some deaths preventable when appropriate medical intervention is available and accessible.
- A universal cure has not been found.

## ABOUT THE SICKLE CELL FOUNDATION

- **The Foundation is committed to working to enhance the quality of life for individuals and families challenged by the complications from sickle cell disease.**
- The Foundation serves 13 Central and East Alabama counties: Blount, Clay, Calhoun, Cherokee, Cleburne, Cullman, Etowah, Jefferson, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega and Walker.
- Thousands of individuals have benefited from free community education, testing, and counseling services.
- The Foundation offers support services to individuals with sickle cell disease. Medicines and equipment are purchased, dental and vision care is available and many other services are provided that families need to help them to cope financially and emotionally with this disease.
- For children with sickle cell disease, the Foundation offers scholarships for college-bound students, and annually host a family fun event.
- The Sickle Cell Foundation raised **One Million Dollars** for The Adult Sickle Cell Clinic. Located at Kirklin Clinic in Birmingham, the clinic provides comprehensive medical care to reduce preventable permanent organ damage and complications that can result in early deaths.



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