



The Cell

Winter 2010

Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach County & Treasure Coast, Inc.
1600 North Australian Ave. West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 833-3113 or www.sicklecellpalmbeach.org

A message from the Chair

We ended 2009 with some exciting highlights to share – a local teen received a bone marrow transplant last summer to become Sickle Cell free, our local poster child was crowned National Poster Child. You can see more highlights in this issue. We are even more excited about 2010 because we will celebrate two special anniversaries this year. We are busily planning several events and activities to highlight these anniversaries all year long. As we stay true to our mission of *improving the quality of life for persons affected by Sickle Cell Disease/Trait and their families, while educating the public about this very serious blood disorder, while also providing services to persons with other health challenges and their families*, I invite you to join us in this year long celebration.



Keely Gideon-Taylor

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, clients and volunteers, we are grateful to our corporate sponsors, donors, community and business partners, supporters and friends for your commitment to our Foundation. We value and look forward to your continued support in 2010.

Gratefully,
K.D. Gideon-Taylor

Greetings from the CEO



Yvette Coursey

This is a great time and I thank each and every one of you for helping us to carry out our mission through the services and programs that we provide. As we stand at the beginning of a new year, we can look back and be inspired by the events and developments of 2009. Yet, we can also be motivated to increase our efforts in 2010 as we know the number of persons affected by the Sickle gene is growing and there is still much to be done.

This is a great time. The year 2010 is a special year as Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast, Inc. – your Foundation – is celebrating its 30th year of incorporation. This is a great time as the year 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Sickle Cell in the western hemisphere. Please join with us as we celebrate throughout the entire year.

Peace & Blessings,
Yvette

Calendar of Events

March 4 • 30th Anniv. Reception • Quantum Foundation • 1:30 p.m.

March 6 • 21st Annual Eva W. Mack Sickle Cell Luncheon
Crowne Plaza • West Palm Beach • 11:30 a.m.

April 10 • Poetry Contest Reception • JAY's Ministries

April 20 • Volunteer Recognition Reception • Sickle Cell Office

April 23 • Annual Golf Gala • Crowne Plaza • WPB • 6 p.m.

April 24 • 7th Annual Golf Tournament • Presidents Country Club
West Palm Beach • 7 a.m.

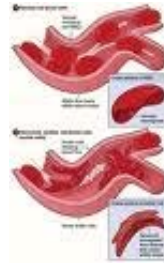
Family Support Group Meetings

Belle Glade: 3rd Saturday, 11-12 Noon • **South County:** 2nd
Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. • **West Palm Beach:** 3rd Saturday,
11-12 Noon • **Indiantown:** 4th Wednesday, 6-7 p.m.
Fort Pierce: 3rd Thursday, 6-7 p.m.

Contact Foundation Office at 561-833-3113 for more information.

Sickle Cell Corner

Sickle Cell Disease will celebrate its 100 year anniversary of being discovered in the western world in 2010. It was in 1910 when James Herrick, a Chicago physician, described the symptoms of a 20-year-old black male student from the West Indies. The man had reported shortness of breath, palpitations and yellow eyes]. He had an anemia. Dr. Herrick noted that the student had peculiar shaped



(thin sickle-shaped and crescent-shaped) red blood cells. It was then that the scientific community came to know about sickle cell disease. Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells. Sometimes these red blood cells become sickle-shaped and have difficulty passing through small blood vessels. Health maintenance for patients with sickle cell disease starts with early diagnosis, preferably in the newborn period.

Treatment of complications often includes antibiotics, pain management, intravenous fluids or blood transfusion. In some severe, rare cases, bone marrow transplantation has been used to cure sickle cell disease. To learn more, contact 561-833-3113.

Community Voice

Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast has joined in the fight to reduce black infant mortality. In July 2009, Sickle Cell began operating **Community Voice: Taking It to the People, a grass-roots program designed to teach residents about issues related to Black infant mortality.** The program, which is funded through a grant from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, focuses on recruiting groups of five to ten people to meet over a five-week period to learn about black infant mortality and ways to improve birth outcomes. During the five-week session, the curriculum covers topics such as prenatal care, domestic violence, nutrition and parenting. After the five-week session, the participants graduate and are deemed Lay Health Advisors for the Community Voice program. As Lay Health Advisors, they spend the next six months discussing the program in the community at churches, barbershops and beauty salons with their friends and neighbors. Their mission is to recruit their friends and neighbors to participate in the Community voice program to help stop Black babies from dying.

TOGETHER TOWARDS A NEW BEGINNING

Written by Lataisha Nicole

Together towards a new beginning
Not, that past legacies are ending
However moving into the future
means

That past knowledge of leadership
passed down
Will be the heart of what we bring
100 years

A century has passed
Are we any closer to a cure?
For 100 years the pain has engulfed
For 100 years our faith has had to
endure

Feet too swollen to walk
Pain too vivid to talk
This is my disease

Whether I like it or not
God please
Make this pain stop

For 100 years my heart has been
bleeding
For 100 years I have searched for a
meaning

Some reason
For an existence
Some way
That will carry me through this
For 100 years

My blood refuses to flow
Grips me within its pain
And refuses to let me go
Nooo!

Not sentenced to death!
I have been sentenced to life
I'm so cold my body shivers
In the scorching heat
Of the night

By God a century
Now: my biggest fear
What will become of me
As I pass down this disease

A por-trait
Of myself
And my hope is that in the
Next 100 years to come

The effect of Sickle Cell
Won't be felt

And this wicked pain that eats at my
core

Slowly
Someday
Will all be ending
If we walk together now
Towards a new beginning

Poster Child Crowned

In October, Miss Giovanna Poli was crowned the national poster child by Sickle Cell Disease Association of America for 2009-2011. Giovanna has served as the local poster child since September 2008. She is a 5th grader at Pierce Hammock Elementary School. As poster child, Giovanna shares her story about Sickle Cell Disease throughout Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast. In December, she was interviewed for an article that will appear in the March 2010 issue of Essence Magazine. You can see more of Giovanna on YouTube.com and Facebook.com



Giovanna and Family

Save the Date Honor Those Who Honor Us!

21st Annual Eva W. Mack Sickle Cell Luncheon
Saturday, March 6, 11:30a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel, West Palm Beach

To purchase tickets or for more info:
www.sicklecellpalmbeach.org • 561.833.3113

We Want to Hear From You

As a community based organization, we realize that our supporters and friends are an important part of fulfilling our mission. Your comments/suggestions are always welcomed. You can contact us at www.sicklecellpalmbeach.org or (561)833-3113.

Online Donations! www.sicklecellpalmbeach.org

facebook

Join us on Facebook
and become a fan!

2009 Highlights



Travis Washington is Sickle Cell free after receiving bone marrow transplant.



6th Annual Walk of Support



Annual Open House



A Happy & Thankful Family!



20th
Eva W.
Mack
Sickle
Cell
Luncheon

Make the switch and support your local Sickle Cell Foundation. Visit your local tag office or www.myflorida.com. Twenty-five percent of funds generated from the sale of the Live the Dream specialty license plate are distributed equally among Sickle Cell Organizations that are Florida members of Sickle Cell Disease Association of America.



Membership Application

New
 Renewal

We are accepting applications for membership and would like you to become a part of the Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. Please complete the form below and return it along with your check/money order. You may also wish to dedicate your membership/contribution in recognition of an anniversary, birthday, or other special occasions, or in memory of a loved one.

Please circle the level of membership - Thank you.

Individual: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$1,000 Other
Organization: \$200 \$500 \$1,000 \$5,000 Other
Corporation: \$1,000 \$2,000 \$3,000 \$5,000 \$10,000

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
In memory of: _____
Other: _____

Make checks payable to
Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach County & Treasure Coast, Inc.



Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach County & Treasure Coast, Inc.
1600 North Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33407-5621

Executive Committee

Keely Gideon-Taylor, Chair
Verona Matthews, Vice-Chair
Raymond F. Buza, Jr., Treasurer
Anthony D. Mack, Secretary
Claudia J. Smith, Immediate Past Chair

Board of Directors

Ron Carryl
Thomas Frazzetto
Charlie B. Hudnell
Dionne Lewis
David Shelton
John H. Swain, Jr.

Chief Executive Officer

Yvette L. Coursey, DPA

The difference between impossible and possible lies within one's own determination.