

Board of Directors of The Sickle Cell Association of New Jersey

Mrs. Mary Bentley LaMar Founder & Executive Director, Mary Bentley LaMar has a BA degree from Indiana University and has worked professionally in the health care industry for over 12 years. She is trained in respiratory, diabetic and infectious diseases medicines. She has experience promoting awareness on reproductive endocrinology and most recently Mary worked with community based sickle cell agencies nationwide to educate about sickle cell disease and related conditions. Mary has held leadership positions with civic, fraternal and religious organizations. She engages in over 40 hours per week serving as the chief operating officer of SCANJ and as such, has the responsibility of administering, directing, supervising and implementing the programs, policies, business and fiscal affairs of the corporation with such powers and to perform acts or duties for and on behalf of SCANJ as stated in accordance with the corporation purpose.

Dr. Ansley W. LaMar, President, Dr. Ansley W. LaMar is a professor of psychology and has served at New Jersey City University as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Chairman of the Psychology Department. He has served on many boards and received numerous awards for his civic engagement. In addition to having a doctorate in Social Psychology, he is a certified Life Coach, Master Practitioner in Neurolinguistic Programming, a “Certified Graduate of the Authentic Happiness Coaching Program” and specializes in applying social psychological theories, principles and research to enhance individual and group effectiveness. Dr. LaMar founded LaMar Educational Enterprises, LLC to make advances in psychological and educational research available to families, schools and corporations. He sponsors the summer residential SUPERKIDZ KAMP and also offers personal and executive coaching to individuals and groups who are interested in meeting and exceeding their personal, professional and financial goals.

Rev. Darlene B. Young, Vice President, Rev. Darlene B. Young is an educator, singer actress and minister ordained by Covenant Ministries International. She earned her BA degree in Theatre Arts from Morgan State University and has studied at the Kentucky Institute for European Studies in Austria. She has worked in raising awareness for sickle cell disease and is a frequent blood donor. Her volunteer service has led her to work with the following programs; The Cop to Cop Organization, The Clara Barton Center and The Burlington Mall Ministry. Darlene serves SCANJ with her expertise in programs and outreach. She coordinates the African American Blood Drives and Sickle Cell Sabbath outreach program. As the Vice President, she assists and steps in as needed to fulfill the duties of the President of the Board of Directors

Ms. Vallerie Cleveland Treasurer, Ms. Vallerie Cleveland has served as a guidance counselor for troubled youth for over 30 years having worked for the New York Department of Juvenile Justice and currently The New York Department of Education. She holds a BS degree in Business Education from Baruch College and a Masters Degree in guidance and counseling from Hunter College. Her volunteer activities include mentoring youth through Chiku Awali’s dance program and her church.

Mrs. Beverly D. Lucas Secretary, Mrs. Beverly Lucas is a graduate of Indiana University with a BA degree in Print Journalism. She has been a medical writer and editor for more than 20 years. Currently she is Executive Director of the John Hopkins White Papers. Beverly is the parent of an adult child with sickle cell disease and as such, has first-hand knowledge of the need for New Jersey residents who are affected by this condition.

Mrs. Deborah M. Wilson Board Member, Deborah M. Wilson is a graduate of Ohio State University and obtained her MBA from Morgan State University. She has worked in corporations for over 20 years and is currently a Senior Managing Director for Cushman Wakefield Real Estate Company. Deborah has served in many leadership positions and has been recognized for her contributions to the community. She has served on many boards including the Montclair New Jersey Board of Education.

For questions about this information call 973 482-9070 or contact us via sicklecellanj@gmail.com.