

Calendar Listings:

March

Take Control of Your Health Workshops. Part of the Stanford School of Medicine CDSMP.

Various locations:

4 Day Peer Leader Training Certifications. March 5-8th. Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (NBIMC).

March 12,13,15,16th. UMDNJ Program at Terrell Housing Complex Newark.

6 Week Take Control of Your Health Community Workshops
Locations: March 3-April 7 Shiloh Baptist Church (registration full).

March 22-April 26th NBIMC 1:30pm-4:00pm. Register online or call us now to be part of this empowering program.

19th American Red Cross Sick Cell Donor Advisory Board Meeting. Philadelphia, PA

24th Transition Education Workshop with the Central-Northern NJ Sick Cell Network. **Funplex 182** State Route 10 in East Hanover. 2-6pm. RSVP to Miralda 973 926-6923 or Haywood 973 926-8243.

27-31st American College of Medical Genetics Annual Meeting
Sponsored by the National Coordinating Center and Health Resources Service Administration, Genetics Collaboratives' Advocate Leaders Partnership Program Charlotte, NC

April

3rd. Deadline for receipt of Public Service Announcement (PSA) Video Contest entries. Registration and contest rules (Jan. newsletter) available through eventbrite.com and sicklecellnewjersey.org

5th. Liberty Science Center Community Evening. 6-9pm. Visit SCANJ's booth. Admission is Free. Jersey City.



Volume 3
Issue 3

Say It Loud!

March 2012

Sickle Cell News You Can Use

The Sick Cell Association of New Jersey

A Note From the Executive Director...



Mary
Bentley LaMar

"Knowledge is power." Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

Empower yourself by taking advantage of all learning opportunities.

I recently returned from the 6th Annual SCD Scientific Meeting in Hollywood, Florida where I presented a poster on our programs. It was inspiring to be in the midst of researchers, physicians, nurses, scientists and patient advocates who are passionate about finding solutions to the issues surrounding sickle cell disease. At the end of this month, representing the New York Mid Atlantic Consortium, I'll travel to Charlotte, NC for the American College of Medical Genetics

Annual Meeting as part of the Advocate Leader Partner Program. I'll be joined by Gloria Rochester, founder of the Queens Sick Cell Advocacy Network (QSCAN) and other Advocate Leaders from throughout the country.

You don't necessarily have to travel to learn. Take a glance at our calendar listings for opportunities, visit www.sicklecellnewjersey.org or come to one of our special events. You can learn a lot when you participate in a Take Control of Your Health Workshop such as the one starting March 22nd at Newark's Beth Israel Hospital.

As the founder of SCANJ, I believe it's extremely important that we learn as much as possible and share the knowledge. In addition, I believe it's important to foster those same opportunities for others.

When you participate in SCANJ programs and services you experience what we, as an organization, have learned and put into practice for your benefit.

Collectively, we can combat sickle cell disease with knowledge... knowledge of better treatment, services, support and ultimately a cure.

Lastly, I dedicate this issue to the memory of Phyllis Zachery Thomas, founder of the Sick Cell Soldier Network, author and advocate. She can never be a "fallen soldier" because she lifted up so many. Powerful! God bless us all.

~Mary

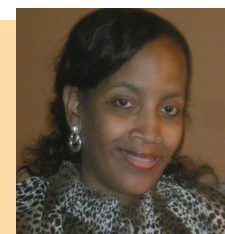
Can You Hear Me Now??

When you think of the word "advocate" think of yourself. Just reading this newsletter makes it very easy for you to put this word into action to fight sickle cell disease. For one thing you are connecting yourself to a larger community that supports some of the same interests that you have. Share this newsletter with someone else and you have just advocated by raising the "volume" on awareness for sickle cell disease.

Advocacy can take many forms. It could mean that you go to your child's school to meet about the best learning plan for your child. It could mean that you accompany your friend to the hospital during a crisis to support as needed.

Perhaps it could mean you attend a workshop to learn how to take better care of yourself and others you care about. Register to vote, call or write your elected officials.

Embrace advocacy and make some noise.



"Becoming my own advocate was mandatory... because I had to explain what was going on. I couldn't depend on someone else to do that..."

~Phyllis Zachery Thomas

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EIN# 80-0474935 SCANJ is a 501c 3 agency

Donations are tax deductible.

Please make a contribution today.

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email: sicklecellanj@gmail.com



Actors Dexter Darden and Courtney Vance in a scene from the movie
A Joyful Noise!

SCANJ's Stellar Evening on The *Kente Carpet* at the AMC Movie Theatre February 11th.

Thanks to all who came out including our SCANJ Blood Drive Task Force and our Take Control of Your Health Peer Leaders, Rho Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Voter Registration Team, Ediom Utuk, PSA Video Contest Chair and Amanda Salazar Sickle Cell Teen Spokesperson.

Special Thanks to Joyful Noise star, Dexter Darden. He took pictures with guests, gave us the behind the scenes scoop on the movie, answered questions and signed autographs. Dexter has not let living with sickle cell disease have him. He inspires us with his rising star!

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Coming Soon...

Say It Loud! PSA Video Contest Registration and entry Deadline April 3rd.
Complete Rules and Guidelines are on our website and on eventbrite.com

World Sickle Cell Disease Day Commemoration June 19

June 9th is the 3rd Annual Sickle Cellabration Sickle Cell Awareness Blood Drive at the Jersey Explorer Children's Museum. 192 Dodd Street in East Orange. 10:00am-3:00pm

Stay posted for details on a special Blood and Marrow Drive in Asbury Park in May and a Take Control of Your Health Peer Leader Training for Southern Jersey.

The Say It Loud Newsletter is published monthly. Archived copies are available for download from our website.

Beverly Lucas-Editor

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