

Calendar Listings:

May 10th Summit HS Spaghetti **Dinner Sickle Cell Awareness** Club Fundraiser for SCANJ, Summit High School 125 Kent Place Blvd. in Summit. 6pm

10th Sickle Cellabration Planning Committee Meeting 5:30-7:00pm at Jersey Explorer Children's Museum 192 Dodd Street in East Orange.

12th House of Prayer Episcopal Church Health Fair 10am-2pm 407 Broad Street in Newark

19th Attention New Yorkers-Queens NY Sickle Cell Advocacy Network Jamaica Ball

Party With a Purpose - \$50. The Jamaica Performing Arts Center 153 -10 Jamaica Avenue • Jamaica • NY 11432 8pm to 1am

25-27th African American Heritage Parade and Festival Weekend. Weequaic Park. Look for SCANJ in the Sunday Parade on Broad Street, Downtown in Newark

June 9th SCANJ's 3rd Annual Sickle Cellabration and American Red Cross Blood Drive. Jersey Explorer Children's Museum. 192 Dodd Street in East Orange. 9:30am -3pm. This event is FREE, however you must RSVP via sicklecellabration3.eventbrite.com or call us at 973 482-9070. To register for the Blood Drive go to redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code 022215167

Take Control of Your Health Workshops, created by Stanford's School of Medicine to help individuals with health conditions and caregivers learn how to better manage their health.

12-15th Four Day Peer Leader Training for Certification Begins. MLK Community Center Whitesboro (Cape May County). 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

June 14– July 19th Take Control of Your Health Six Week Community Workshop. Northern NJ location TBA. Evenings 6pm-8:30pm Healthy dinner provided.

Register online or call SCANJ at 973 482-9070.



Say It Loud!

Sickle Cell News Yo Cell Associat

Volume lssue 5

A Note From the Executive Director...

Lately. I feel like I've been singing Willie Nelson's song; "On The Road Again." Just yesterday (May 9) I returned from a trip to South Jersey.

Mary Bentley LaMar

The first stop was Atlantic City for the New Jersey Governor's Conference For Women (see below). Talk about awesome! Movers and shakers from throughout the state came together for empowering workshops on everything imaginable that could help you lead a better life both personally and professionally.

I'm most proud of our SCANJ Advocates; Olga Barnwell-Gift, Cyntra Scott, Dominique Scott and Robin Rison-McCoy. They helped to raise the volume about our programs and services by interacting with other attendees and by helping out in the SCANJ booth during the health fair.

After getting fired up by Donna Brazille, Peggy Noonan, Lois Frankel, Dr. Ian Smith, Jeannine LaRue and other

presenters at the conference, Olga and I, continued to Cape May County to meet with the Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro at the Martin Luther King Center in Whitesboro.

The 'Concerned Citizens' are committed to building a strong vibrant community through education, recreation, scholarship and economic empowerment. They were very receptive to our message of partnering to raise awareness of sickle cell disease and participating in the Take Control of Your Health Program (calendar listings). Next month, I will share more about the town of Whitesboro. It has an interesting history that I think you will find inspiring.

Nothing can stop you when you put your mind to it. On April 28th, the brothers and sisters of the Trenton Joint City Council of the International F & M Masons and Order of the Eastern Stars Inc., Southern New Jersey District Convention, put their minds together and resolved to raise sickle cell awareness and support SCANJ in honor of Passion; a beautiful little girl who courageously battles sickle cell disease.

We thank them for the generous donation and Public Resolution.

Today (May 10) the Sickle Cell Awareness Club of Summit High School is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner to raise awareness and funds for SCANJ. This happened because one student was moved to action by the struggles of her friend who has sickle cell disease. We thank them for acting on the inspiration.

I'm happy to conclude this letter with a HUGE SHOUT OUT to our awardees for The PSA Video Contest. They are the Burlington County Mentoring Program: the Newark Boys Chorus School; Johnathan Stamper student lead and University Charter University Academy Charter School; Reed Anciando student lead. They will receive between \$500-\$1000.00 and be recognized at the Sickle Cellabration (pg 2).

Get on board...

Next stop Sickle Cellabration! ~Mary

Thanks SCANI Advocates to the NI **Governor's Conference for Women**



Register Today for

Sickle Cellabration and the

American Red Cross Blood Drive



There was excitement in the air. On May 7 & 8th Women (and a few men) from throughout New Jersey came together networking, sharing resources and inspiring each other.

Stay posted for our Advocates reflections on the conference in next month's newsletter. Be encouraged...



Say It Loud! Hemoglobinopathies Webinars. Sponsored by the Center for Disease Control Every 4th Thursday of the Month from 2-3pm EST. Dial in information is on our website events page.

