



Living Without Limits



**Sickle Cell Association
Of Houston, Inc.**
4014 Market Street
Houston, Texas 77020

5th April 2018

Dear President,

42 years. 48 years. This was my average life expectancy, until a few years ago. According to research as of 2013, my current average life expectancy is now 38(men) and 42 (woman). I had no issues with access to healthcare and being treated with decency and respect from toddler to the age of eighteen. But now as an adult woman or man I am faced with a different reality. And sometimes when my body is in excruciating pain, I may receive the honor of being stereotyped, labeled, and made to feel ashamed; simply because I know what medications will or won't work for me as it travels through my veins. My disease is more than 100 years old and the health disparity still exists. Our ask of you today, is to help us address this.

Sickle Cell Association of Houston would like to invite you to become an active participant/sponsor as a collective body of the **2018 Sickle Cell Houston Walk 5K/1K** that will be held during National Sickle Cell Awareness month on **Saturday, September 8, 2018 @ 8:00am** starting at MacGregor Park. The walk benefits families affected by sickle cell disease by providing direct services and education while supporting progressive research aimed at curing this devastating genetic disorder. As a sponsor, our benefit levels provide ideal marketing opportunity, promotes positive brand recognition, and directly connects you with local community initiatives making an impact!

Facts About Sickle Cell - Sickle cell disease is the most common inherited blood disorder, affecting approximately 100,000 people. While sickle cell disease impacts all racial and ethnic groups, a higher proportion of African Americans and Hispanics are diagnosed with the condition. Individuals with sickle cell disease experience frequent and unpredictable pain episodes, numerous hospitalizations, and other serious health problems. People with SCD have less access to comprehensive care than people with genetic disorders such as hemophilia and cystic fibrosis. The most recent data available shows that costs for hospital stays due to complications were estimated at \$488 million.

Funding by the federal government and private foundations for the disease pales in comparison to those for other disorders. Cystic fibrosis research, for example, receives seven to 11 times more funding per patient than SCD, according to a 2013 study published in *Blood*. From 2010 to 2013 alone, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved five new drugs for the treatment of cystic fibrosis. There are only two FDA-approved treatments for SCD: hydroxyurea (approved in 1998) and L-glutamine oral powder (approved nearly 20 years later in July 2017). Help us in this fight from Warrior to Warrior!

Sincerely,

Tonya C Prince

**Sickle Cell Association of
Houston**

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