



# About Us

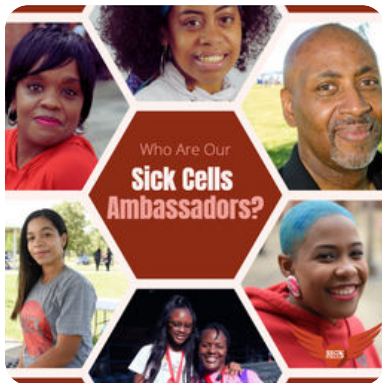


Sick Cells is a national advocacy nonprofit organization co-founded by sibling duo, Marqus and Ashley Valentine in 2017. Marqus gained his warrior wings on June 22, 2020, but Sick Cells remains committed to continuing his legacy.

Sick Cells' mission is to elevate the voices of the SCD community and our stories of resilience. In amplifying the challenges this community faces, we will influence decisionmakers and drive positive change.

## Ambassador Program

## Faces of SCD Storytelling Program



432  
Ambassadors

Who live in  
34 states & DC  
9 countries



Over  
270  
interviews

24,000+  
Stories shared with  
people on social media

The **Ambassador Program** provides advocacy tools, training, and resources to ambassadors, connects SCD advocates to legislators and speaking opportunities, and serves as a policy hub for the community as a whole.

Through our Ambassador Program, we:

- **Host** monthly Tea Chats to engage the community
- **Coordinate** monthly Priority Topic Meetings to provide advocacy training
- **Connect** with legislators across the country
- **Publish** toolkit resources

The **Faces of SCD Storytelling Program** is our keystone program inspired by Marqus' vision to educate and connect through human experience. This program captures the stories to eliminate stigma and influence decision-makers.

Through the Faces of SCD, we:

- **Publish** educational blogs
- **Interview** community members
- **Produce** audio, visual, & video stories to share on social media

## Check Out Our Website to Learn More



[sickcells.org](http://sickcells.org)



[Policy & Legislation](#)



[Blog](#)



[Ambassadors](#)



[Faces of SCD](#)



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# Featured Projects

## Policy & Legislation

- **Scheduled** [160 Congressional meetings with 222 Advocates at the 2025 SCD Policy Forum](#)
- **Submitted** [Comments on the CDC Opioid Prescription Guidelines Update](#)
- **Wrote** [the Community Congressional Hearing Request Letter](#)
- **Published** [policy memos monthly](#)

## Access & Coverage

- **Hosted** [inaugural Sick Cells Therapeutics Conference](#)
- **Prepared** 40+ advocates to provide oral or written comments at state Medicaid coverage decision meetings
- **Ensured** [community representation in 2023 FDA Advisory Committee Meeting for Cell and Gene Therapy](#)
- **Hosted** [annual Coverage for SCD Summit](#)
- **Ensured** [community representation in 2023 ICER reviews for SCD](#)

## Research & Publications

- **Co-published** ["Advancing Care for SCD: A Strategic Roadmap"](#)
- **Co-Published** ["SCD Patient & Caregiver Preference Study"](#)
- **Published** ["Defining Value and Supporting Equity in SCD" Lay Summary Report](#)
- **Co-published** ["Finding Equity in Value"](#)
- **Co-authored** ["Health Equity Concerns in People with Sickle Cell Disease and Recurrent Vaso-Occlusive Crises: Results from an International Survey Study"](#)

## Community Support

- **Accomplished** [Hispanic Outreach Promoting Equity \(HOPE\) to increase reach in the Hispanic/Latinx community](#)
- **Partnered** [with Caregiver Action Network to provide SCD caregiver resources](#)
- **Created** [collection of toolkit resources to inform community initiatives](#)



Learn more on our website

