I AM BECAUSE WE ARE
Sickle Cell Disease

WHAT IS IT?
Sickle Cell is the most common inherited blood disease. It causes red blood cells to form abnormal crescent shapes. These sickled cells will bump against the blood vessels and cause intense pain.

As the number of sickled cells start to outnumber the healthy red cells in a patient's body, blood transfusions are needed to replace the sickled cells with healthy red cells. Due to the lifespan of red cells, transfusions may be needed every couple of weeks or months.

WHO HAS IT?
98% ARE AFRICAN AMERICAN
1 IN 2 AFRICAN AMERICAN'S ARE A MATCH FOR DONATING BLOOD

WHERE DO I COME IN?
There are some rare blood antigens that are rare to African Americans, and it is hard to find compatible blood types for some Sickle Cell patients. Because they require multiple blood transfusions the blood they receive must be very closely matched to prevent reactions. The best match is blood that comes from another African American donor.

DONATE BLOOD OR HOST A BLOOD DRIVE
EVEN WITH THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT, YOU CAN STILL DONATE!
Donor Eligibility

- Photo ID required (all personal information is confidential)
- Must be 17 yrs old
- Weigh at least 110lbs