The Facts

• Sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans.
• The majority of those affected are African American.
• Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder in which the red blood cells harden and curve into a sickle shape and may cause pain, infection, eye disease, stroke and more.
• There is no universal cure for sickle cell disease.

Blood Transfusions Can Help

• When a sickle cell patient gets a blood transfusion, normal red blood cells help the sickle cells move through the body normally.
• Sickle cell patients often need blood transfusions during their lives.
• A blood transfusion can reduce pain and help patients avoid life-threatening complications.

Diverse Blood Donors Save Lives

• Patients respond best when they receive a transfusion from a donor of a similar race and ethnic background.
• Less than 10% of Americans donate blood, and only 5% of those donors are African American.
• Donating blood takes an hour, and you could save someone’s life.