THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS EVENING!

ALL OF THE PROCEEDS RAISED FROM THE SALE OF ARTWORK, CRAFTS, SNACKS, T-SHIRTS, AND DINNER WILL BENEFIT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS SICKLE CELL INITIATIVE.

DON'T MISS A THING!

Red Cross Blood Drive, 3:30 - 7:30 in the Library. All donors receive a $20 Amazon gift card for donating in the month of February. Walk-ins welcome!

Presentations in the Gym by:

- Steven Webb, M.D., *RRH Pediatrics*
- Maureen Dulgozina, M.D., *RRH Internal Medicine*
- Gladys Magee, *Sickle Cell Advocates of Rochester*
- Elizabeth Reyes, *RCSD Associate Dir. of the Families in Transition (FIT) Program*

Community Health Organizations in the Commons:

- Cancer Services Program of the Finger Lakes Region
- National Witness Project

Soul Food Dinner in the Gym catered by Big Boys Eatery, 4 - 7:15 ($10 suggested donation per plate or 2 free tickets with blood donation)

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BIG BOYS EATERY, LLC

Donations can be made via Venmo to @SWWPTO or Cash App to $WWPTO

WELCOME TO THE

Sickle Cell Awareness Event & Red Cross Blood Drive

HOSTED BY THE SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO), STAFF & STUDENTS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GREATER ROCHESTER CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS
480 BROADWAY, 14607
3:30-7:30PM

WHAT IS SICKLE CELL DISEASE?

Sickle cell disease, also known as SCD, is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders. Healthy red blood cells are round and they move through small blood vessels to carry oxygen to all parts of the body. In someone who has SCD, the red blood cells become hard and sticky and look like a C-shaped farm tool called a "sickle." The sickle cells die early, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells. Also, when they travel through small blood vessels, they get stuck and clog the blood flow. This can cause pain and other serious problems such as infection, acute chest syndrome and stroke.

In the United States, the exact number of people living with SCD is unknown. It is estimated by some that SCD affects approximately 100,000 Americans. SCD occurs among about 1 out of every 365 African American births and about 1 out of 16,300 Hispanic-American births. About 1 in 12 African American babies are born with the sickle cell trait.

People with SCD may start to have signs of the disease during the first year of life, usually around 5 months of age. Symptoms and complications of SCD are different for each person and can range from mild to severe. Until recently, people with SCD were not expected to survive childhood. But today, due to preventive drug treatment, improved medical care and aggressive research, half of sickle cell patients live beyond 50 years.

For more information about SCD, we encourage you to speak with your doctor.

THIS EVENT IS IN HONOR OF PAUL & SOLOMON HARRIS

When Paul was about six months old, his parents, Narseary and Vernal Harris, noticed that his urine looked darker than normal—similar to the color of tea. One evening, after he had turned 1 year old, he began to cry and Narseary noticed that his fingers and joints were swollen and extremely painful to the touch. He didn't even want to be picked up to be comforted. They brought him in to the ER where they did x-rays and blood work. That evening his parents were told that their child had sickle cell anemia and would not live past the age of five.

To their heart-breaking surprise, at the age of six-months-old, Solomon, Paul's younger brother, demonstrated the very same symptoms. Soon, he too was diagnosed with sickle cell anemia. Solomon and Paul, like all healthy little boys, just wanted to run, jump and play. Most times afterwards they would go into a pain crisis and end up in the hospital for weeks or sometimes even months. Even swimming would cause a crisis. It was absolutely devastating to watch them go through that. They were told that they would not finish school or go to college. They were told that they would not have children. They beat those odds! Paul went to college and worked in the Rochester City School District, where he was employed at the time of his passing. He was one of the founders of Church Boy Productions and one of the music producers for the children's PPB TV program "*Dr. Rock*."

Solomon went to barber school and graduated as one of the youngest Master Barbers in Rochester. He gave his parents two beautiful grandchildren despite being told he would not be able to have children. Both Paul and Solomon had to be hypo-transfused, which is a protocol that required them to have blood transfusions at least twice a month or more. Without these life-sustaining blood transfusions, they would not have been able to function at school or work. They needed the transfusions to help them deal with the already challenging life of every day pain that they were dealing with. In spite of it all, Paul and Solomon embraced life and lived it to the fullest capacity that they could. They didn't let Sickle Cell Disease stop them. They remained faithful and took full advantage of moments of happiness that came their way. They are their mother's heroes!

Paul King David Harris and King Solomon D. Harris both attended the RCSD, graduating from SOTA. Paul passed at the young age of 26 and Solomon at the young age of 33.

Narseary Harris is SWW's former Community Service Coordinator and Home School Assistant but currently serves as a clerical support in our Main Office.