



## ***September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month***

As members of the Bexar Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., we play a crucial role in recognizing September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month. Our collective efforts are vital in bringing attention to the research and treatment needed for this disease.

### **Research shows that:**

- △ Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a known group of inherited blood disorders.*
- △ The red blood cells in the body become stiff and sickle-shaped due to the disease.*
- △ SCD affects approximately 100,000 Americans.*
- △ SCD symptoms include fatigue, trouble breathing, and pain, and could lead to significant complications, such as stroke, including death.*
- △ Treatments for this disease consist of the use of various medications, including blood transfusions and bone marrow transplants.*
- △ As with any disease, diagnosing it and beginning treatment at its onset can help reduce the risk of medical problems that are sometimes irreversible.*
- △ In the U.S., SCD is usually diagnosed at birth, and although it can be found in other ethnic groups, it is more common in African Americans.*

For more information about this disease, please visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Sickle Cell Speaks.