



## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

### What is Sickle Cell Disease?

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a genetic blood disorder where red blood cells change shape—becoming stiff, sticky, and crescent-shaped (like a sickle). Instead of flowing smoothly, these cells clump together, block blood flow, and break apart faster. This leads to severe pain episodes, anemia, and organ complications. SCD is lifelong, but with the right care and support, individuals can live fuller lives.

#### *Did You Know?*

- About 100,000 Americans live with Sickle Cell Disease.
- Sickle Cell is more common than cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy combined—but receives far less funding and awareness.
- Even with modern treatment, the average life expectancy for someone with Sickle Cell is still more than 20 years shorter than the national average.

#### *Myth or Fact?*

**Myth:** Sickle Cell Disease only affects Black people.

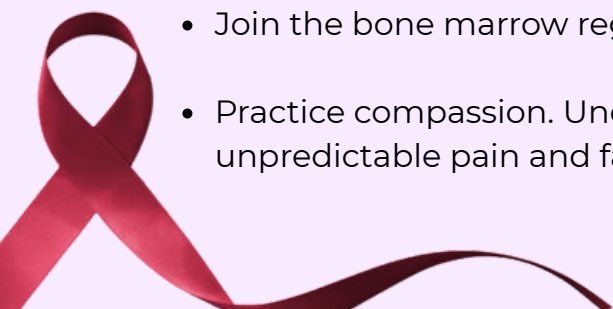
**Fact:** While it's most common among people of African descent, Sickle Cell affects people of all races and ethnicities.

**Myth:** People with Sickle Cell are just “drug-seeking” when they go to the ER for pain.

**Fact:** Sickle Cell crises cause some of the most intense pain imaginable, and people living with it often face stigma instead of compassion.

### How You Can Help

- Donate blood. People with Sickle Cell often need transfusions, and having a diverse blood supply saves lives.
- Join the bone marrow registry. You might be someone's match.
- Practice compassion. Understand that living with Sickle Cell means living with unpredictable pain and fatigue. Empathy makes a difference.



# WARM A CHILD FOR WINTER IS BACK!!

Every child deserves to feel safe, warm, and cared for—especially during Michigan's cold winter months. Yet for many families in **Saginaw County**, that warmth is out of reach.

- In Saginaw County, over 33% of residents and more than 53% of children under 18 live in poverty.
- Since the pandemic, the need for warmth has only grown. Every year, our contact-free drive-thru coat drive ensures children and families receive the winter outerwear and household essentials they desperately need. Last year alone, in just three hours, Warm A Child For Winter provided winter wear and supplies to over 700 children and families.
- To make every dollar count, we purchase coats year-round, seeking the most affordable, high-quality options to keep kids warm.

**Your generosity can help us go even further this year. A donation of any size means a child won't have to walk to school in the snow without a coat, or go without the basics during the coldest months of the year. To ensure we can get coats into the right hands before winter hits, please consider giving by October 1, 2025. Together, we can keep our community warm. One child at a time.**

**SUPPORT THE MISSION**

For more information, or to download the 2025 Warm A Child for Winter Registration Form visit:  
[womenofcolors.org/warm-a-child-for-winter](https://womenofcolors.org/warm-a-child-for-winter)



**Evelyn McGovern**  
**President/Co-founder**

# President's Corner

As we welcome the crisp energy of September, we also pause to recognize Sickle Cell Awareness Month. This is a time to honor the resilience of those living with Sickle Cell, to educate ourselves, and to take action where we can—through compassion, advocacy, and support. Together, even small gestures like donating blood or spreading awareness can create meaningful change. Let's make this month one of learning, empathy, and impact.

*Why did the scarecrow win an award?  
Because he was outstanding in his field!*

## **STRONGER TOGETHER** | **SAGINAW** **ADDICTION SUPPORT GROUP**

Formerly known as *Families Against Narcotics Support Group*, **Stronger Together** is here to help you cope. Join us at WOC for an addiction support group for family and friends of people struggling with addiction.

**1ST AND 3RD  
TUESDAY OF  
EVERY MONTH  
6:00 PM**

**3057 Davenport  
Saginaw, MI 48602**

✉ [stronger@faceaddictionnow.org](mailto:stronger@faceaddictionnow.org)

## Get In Touch

Have questions or donations?  
Want to get involved?  
We'd love to hear from you!



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



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**Let's Make A Difference  
Together!**