



*Our mission is to  
gather momentum  
work toward longer  
healthier lives for  
individuals with  
sickle cell disease*

**LIMITLESS  
POSSIBILITIES**



The Shine the Light initiative was founded by leaders of community-based organizations (CBOs) working to improve care for individuals with sickle cell disease through Education – a multi-state collaborative dedicated to improving care for individuals with sickle cell disease. The Shine the Light idea was initially suggested by Gloria Rochester (founder and president of Queens Sickle Cell Advocacy) and formed a work group to help organize people in communities across the nation and around the world to Shine the Light. The group included Judy Anderson – Sickle Cell Association, Norfolk, Virginia; Linda Armstrong – Armstrong-Barnhill Foundation for Sickle Cell Advocacy Network; and Nikia Vaughan – Adult and Pediatric to Adult Sickle Cell Clinic, Johns Hopkins University.

Shine the Light on Sickle Cell is prominent across the North East Region at the 2019 Annual Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland. The Shine the Light initiative was embraced by the CBO leaders at the 2019 Annual Conference. The CBO leaders included: Philadelphia/Deleware Valley Chapter and the Sierra Network, Gloria Rochester – Queens Sickle Cell Advocacy Network, and more of these community gatherings annually.

## CALL TO ACTION

### Stand Up:

Shine the Light on Sickle Cell is a community initiative to bring attention to this disease and celebrate World Sickle Cell Awareness Day on June 19, 2026.

### Speak Out:

You are invited help organize and/or attend a Shine the Light on Sickle Cell gathering in your community on June 19. People from around the nation and across the globe will host and participate in local events to increase awareness of this disease and speak out for a universal cure.

### Spread the Word:

Send this Call to Action to all of your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues via email and social media, and ask them to share this with all of their contacts.

### Share Your Event:

Tell others about your Shine the Light on Sickle Cell gathering, and let us know about it by tweeting us at @WEPSCF.

### More Info:

To find out more about the Shine the Light on Sickle Cell initiative, [visit the Shine the Light on Sickle Cell webpage](#).

**Thank you for helping to Shine the Light on Sickle Cell Disease!**

**We proudly support Juneteenth on June 19, 2026!**