LIFE AND FAMILY FOUNDATION VA

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Who we are:

The Life and Family Foundation of Virginia (L@FF-VA) is a community-based organizational (CBO) hub for the State of Virginia providing Advocacy, Education, Empowerment and Partnerships through bio-psycho-social health and human services life-course approach. The hub is for individuals, families, medical practitioners, and care givers of those with health care problems related to Sickle Cell Disease, a chronic disease with acute, painful debilitating systemic syndrome characterized by chronic anemia, acute painful episodes, organ infraction and chronic organ damage often resulting in shorter life expectancy.

What we do:

Advocacy

- Serve as an advocate for initial and continued access to quality medical care, treatment, and transitional programs for the life-course via:
    - Health Care
    - Social Welfare
    - Emotional Support
    - Mental Health
    - Skill Building
- Advocate for individuals and families touched by Sickle Cell Disease through the life-course approach for the following:
    - Schools
    - Work place
    - Government
    - Health and Human Services field
- Advocate for measures to reduce pain and complications of Sickle Cell Disease allowing those with the disease to lead quality and productive lives
- Advocate for future cures and pharmaceutical treatment of Sickle Cell Disease
- Advocate for the Sickle Cell community by attending, local, national, and international conferences, seminars and visiting other academic institutions where leadership in the care of SCD is blossoming; Gather and bring back information on expanded best practices, research and development for treatments and cures for our stakeholders

Educate

- Increase knowledge and awareness of individuals and families who suffer from Sickle Cell Disease through the following:
    - Professional standards
    - Administration
    - Healthcare
    - Public relations
    - Fundraising
- Provide continued educational programs for those treating patients with Sickle Cell Disease:
    - Medical Practitioners
    - Medical Administrators
    - Medical Students
    - Medical School University Curriculum Creators
    - Public and Private Employers
    - Community, Officials and Public Policy Administrators
    - Educators and School Staff

Empower

- Support and teach individuals and families to understand their specific Sickle Cell Disease and family trait status
- Provide opportunities for those with sickle cell to take charge of their lives through education, training, and participation in programs
- Provide opportunities for caregivers to learn more about sickle cell (programs, health updates, etc.) and how to actively support their loved ones through everyday living and beyond

Partner

- Partner with the state and local government, community groups, hospitals, churches, pharmaceutical corps, educational foundations, higher educational institutions, to support the Sickle Cell community
- Partner to promote continued blood donation, increase participation in the bone marrow registry and inform the Sickle Cell community about ongoing clinical trials
- Serve as a liaison between local health care organizations, Virginia Department of Health and national research institutions to provide the most up-to-date care recommendations
- Work with Virginia Department of Health through employee Community Health Workers to reach newly identified parents of Sickle Cell newborns. Also, providing support through life-course transitions with specialized care for every stage of life.

More of what we do:

Serve as an advocate for initial and continued access to quality medical care, treatment, and transitional programs for the life-course via: Health Care, Social Welfare, Emotional Support, Mental Health, Skill Building; Advocate for individuals and families touched by Sickle Cell Disease through the life-course approach for the following: Schools, Work place, Government, Health and Human Services field; Advocate for measures to reduce pain and complications of Sickle Cell Disease allowing those with the disease to lead quality and productive lives; Advocate for future cures and pharmaceutical treatment of Sickle Cell Disease, Advocate for the Sickle Cell community by attending, local, national, and international conferences, seminars and visiting other academic institutions where leadership in the care of SCD is blossoming; Gather and bring back information on expanded best practices, research and development for treatments and cures for our stakeholders. Educate: Increase knowledge and awareness of individuals and families who suffer from Sickle Cell Disease through the following: Professional standards, Administration, Healthcare, Public relations, Fundraising; Provide continued educational programs for those treating patients with Sickle Cell Disease: Medical Practitioners, Medical Administrators, Medical Students, Medical School University Curriculum Creators, Public and Private Employers, Community, Officials and Public Policy Administrators, Educators and School Staff. Empower: Support and teach individuals and families to understand their specific Sickle Cell Disease and family trait status; Provide opportunities for those with sickle cell to take charge of their lives through education, training, and participation in programs; Provide opportunities for caregivers to learn more about sickle cell (programs, health updates, etc.) and how to actively support their loved ones through everyday living and beyond. Partner with the state and local government, community groups, hospitals, churches, pharmaceutical corps, educational foundations, higher educational institutions, to support the Sickle Cell community; Partner to promote continued blood donation, increase participation in the bone marrow registry and inform the Sickle Cell community about ongoing clinical trials; Serve as a liaison between local health care organizations, Virginia Department of Health and national research institutions to provide the most up-to-date care recommendations; Work with Virginia Department of Health through employee Community Health Workers to reach newly identified parents of Sickle Cell newborns. Also, providing support through life-course transitions with specialized care for every stage of life.