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Tragedy to Awareness



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Building community awareness about sickle cell anemia has been a focus of Pastor Marcia Taylor of Portland for almost 30 years, ever since her late daughter was diagnosed with the complicated blood disorder. Taylor's granddaughter TaNieshia (left) is a carrier, and new Portland transplant Tiffani Moss (right) has the disease. Both serve with Taylor as members of the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Oregon.

Family's grief raises profile of sickle cell anemia

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In 1987 Pastor Marcia Taylor started a support group out of the living room of her Portland home for individu-

als and families struggling with a disease that afflicts thousands of lives every year; sickle cell anemia, the notorious blood disorder causes normal red blood cells to form a sickle-like shape, increasing the difficulty for

blood to pass through the body.

If untreated, the disease can cause a host of problems ranging from spleen damage, kidney problems, stroke, and even death. And often times a lack of treatment can

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