

**Afflicted With Sickie Cell Anemia**

**Lindsey Excels Despite His Illness**

By Russell Clark  
Post Staff Writer

It was an exciting day last month when two Charlotte Youths left home for the first time with strangers. They were picked up at home by counselors from the "Camp-In-The-Pines" (near Pinehurst) for three days of boating, camping, fishing, horseback riding, and art work. After the trip sponsored by the Association For Sickie Cell Disease (For Charlotte-Metrolina, Inc.) was over, Rodreika Turner, 11 and Maurice Lindsey, 9, returned home with a strengthened grip on a disease that affects over 50,000 Americans.

It is estimated that one out of every 294 non-white children born in North Carolina has Sickie Cell Disease. Among those is 9-year old Maurice Lindsey, who is the 1986 Sickie Cell Poster Child for ASCD in Charlotte-Metrolina. Governor James G. Martin has proclaimed September as Sickie Cell Month in North Carolina.

"It means a lot to me to know that my son will get recognition for his suffering," says his mother, Beverly Lindsey. "We applied for the Poster Child position two years ago and was disappointed. This year James Rodgers of ASCD applied for us and we are overjoyed with the decision."

Maurice is a fourth grader at Tuckasee Elementary School where he makes A's and B's despite his illness. "Last year he missed about 50 days because of sickie cell. His crisis flares up when the seasons change. If he catches a cold it gets worse—he takes fever, becomes sluggish, loses his appetite and requires special attention to his skin," said Beverly Lindsey, while neatly folding laundry at home.

Maurice has had surgery on his left arm twice and when he misses school students miss him. "The last time he came home from the hospital, his friends got off the school bus and ran in the house to hug him and cheer him up," she said.

Now things are going well for the energetic youth. He has lots of playmates and he's playing flag football for the Endeavor Park Neighborhood Center. Unfortunately, there isn't any cure for sickie cell. "Recently, he has been doing well," says Barry Golembe, MD. "In the last six to nine months he had had no problems. He's a tough little guy,



Sickie cell poster child, Maurice Lindsey (l.) takes time out to embrace his big brother Terry (r.).

but his crisis can occur anytime."

Beverly Lindsey says that a doctor told her that it was not a good idea to have kids after she had her second son, Terry, who is now 12. "Back then I was not aware of the seriousness of the disease. I first detected Maurice's illness when he was six-months old. We were living in Fort Campbell, Ky. at the time and doctors there thought it was just pneumonia until they ran tests.

When we moved back to Charlotte, I knew I had to find help, so went to ASCD and they referred me to Dr. Golembe, Lindsey recalls.

Of course, no one wants to think that this could happen to their child, but the only way to combat sickie cell is to arrange an inexpensive and painless test at the hospital or your doctor's office.

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