1. 3 years old; 3 and half years old she went to porthsmouth naval hospital. She’d cry and rub her legs. Had a temperature of 106. Stayed there for almost 2.5 hours. Took interenest corp(member in military staff).
2. At the time, they didn’t know much at all. Did not give information about sickle cell and the parents didn’t know. Just knew that she kept crying and having fevers
3. When at Norfolk general king daughters they said they couldn’t find what was causing her to hurt. She had all her baby shots.
4. Grandma didn’t know what do thinkg. Was trynna figure out from the doctor. Thought she had polio cuz her mother had polio and it runs in the family.
5. Doctors did not mention she was unhealthy. Came out healthy, and was over due. Had to have induced labor.
6. Older she got, the more she was in the hospital
7. Already answered. Last medication she was on was Dilaudid.
8. Pain in joints, couldn’t walk,} sickle cell crisis fingers,elbows, arms would swells, fever, aching all over.
9. Between crisis, she would be able to enjoy family, work,school,friends.
10. Insurance covered up to 25. She applied for medicare and get disability check.
11. Its painful to see the child in so much paint and you feel helpless. Don’t give up, pray, standy by them, encourage them and help them grow. Don’t let them feel helpless, help them live a normal life as possible.have patients.

Doctor took her into a room&ask if she knew bout sickle cell. Showed her a film about sickle cell and explained while she kept rubbing her limbs and crying.gave her plenty of fluids and pain medication(demorol,pain patchesheating pads,Tylenol for fever,potassium,had to take folic acid(had to take it rest of her life)). As she got older she was in and out of the hospital. She was 10 when she got her first blood transfusion. You have 13 pints of blood and her blood count would stay between 5 and 6. Had to go to the hospital numerous times.Went to the doctor every two weeks, always stayed there for 7-10days at a time.had to put a metaort in and picc lines because they would stick her so much and give ivs that her veins collapsed, became exhausted and had to find new veins).picc lines became infected so gave her metaport.

She also had an enlarged spleen and/or heart.at 20 yrs she had surgery for gallstonesthe lder she got, the more she stayed in the hospital. She had to get help breathing..02 continuously.”mama I hurt, I hurt.” Constly cryin cause of pain. They gave her morphine along with vikatin, Tylenol, valium. Didn’t sleep well although she had sleeping medicine. Missed school a lot; tried to get in activities but she couldn’t. Couldn’t participate in pe. Fingers would swell.

At about 30, she wuld begin to question gma. Would meet other patients sick like her. “mama, that lady over there has sickle cell, she’s going to die.” Doctors said she was going to live to 20-22 because she was getting worse. Doctors told her not to get pregnant, but she did anyway in early 30s. Monitored baby, and did prenatial care. Began to have a lot of fluid buildup so she was on bedrest in the hospital. She had a trach because she developed pneomia. Saw a lot of white matter-bilatteral pneumonia. Went in and out of consciousness, doctors called a family meeting ad said she had to go onto ventilator machine. Said they were going to take the baby, weren’t sure the baby or aunt Cheryl was going to live. “I’m going to pray for you because there is a chief position that is higher than you and I’m going to pray that he give you the knowledge and wisdom to take care of my daughter. Not only is she going to live, but she will walk out of here. In Jesus name.” After she had the baby, she was fine but had to go onto 02. He has the sickle cell trait. He weighed 6pounds, 16 ounces. After, a week, they took the 02 off and he could go home. But aunt Cheryl was still on the ventilator. 2 weeks later, they were gradually taking her off the ventilator. Her lungs cleared up from white matter, and she had a mouth piece put into the trach so she could talk. First question was, “Wheres my baby?” Even though the whole time she didn’t remember. Grandma would go up everyday and sing to her and music. She had physical therapy to help lower body. Help walk, and help with fluid motions. She still had 02, but they went in separate room and let her visit the baby. She cried when meeting him…it was the first time seein her baby. 6weeks later, she came home. Her and the baby went to checkups. When jeremiah was about 4, she began to get sick again. Aching with pain, received more transfusions. “mama im tired.” “I want to live to take care of my baby but I’m tired and its hard to breathe.” “I’m exhausted” got to the point where it bothered her to talk.

Jeremiah is now 14, happy and healthy. “The little enjoyment that she did have while she was living with her son would make her smile. When she coughed, he would run over to her and pat her until she stopped coughing. Or when he ran out of his crib to get beside her. But what really made her happy was when he called her mama.” Her last words were “don’t cry, we will see her again. I will be refreshed. I love you mama and I love my whole family.” As a mother, I cried many nights. If I could take her pain from her and give it to me I would do it so she could enjoy her life with her baby because I lived my life. “- grandma