

Rae Blaylark
President & CEO
Sickle Cell Foundation of Minnesota

Ms. Rae Blaylark is the Founder and President of Sickle Cell Foundation of Minnesota (SickleCellMN) and the proud mother of an adult son living with sickle cell disease. Ms. Blaylark founded SickleCellMN as a means to increase education and awareness of sickle cell disease, elevate the voices of the community, and partner to improve healthcare outcomes that dramatically improve quality and quantity of life on biopsychosocial levels.

As a community leader with nearly 20 years of experience as a healthcare professional, Ms. Blaylark has served in various professional roles. During her many years in blood banking, she excelled in training and education, community engagement, donor diversity & recruitment, and as a lead phlebotomy instructor. In recent years, Ms. Blaylark has served in the capacity of Community Health Worker, Hemoglobinopathies Counselor, Sickle Cell Program Coordinator, and Patient Family Health Advocate at Minnesota's leading pediatric Cancer & Blood Disorders Program, supporting 300+ children and their families living with sickle cell disease.

Motivated by her passion, the mission of the Foundation, and her calling as a bridge builder, Ms. Blaylark continues to lead with boldness, representing community health on various local, state, and national advisory committees, while bringing unique perspectives and experiences as a community leader who has navigated medical spaces, both as a caregiver on the outside of the healthcare system and on the inside of the system as part of the clinical care team. It is through this dual lens that Ms. Blaylark continues to impact the trajectory of many individuals, families and professionals, all of whom play a critical role in improving outcomes in this precious community.

As a sought-after speaker, consultant, and technical advisor, Ms. Blaylark is also the Principal Consultant at Raise Hope Consulting. A consulting firm that she started in 2019, with an aim to bring help and hope to individuals and businesses seeking people-centered solutions.