Nina Simone White
Fort Worth, Texas

As a newborn, Nina was diagnosed with sickle cell anemia. Before she was a year old, Nina had two blood transfusions. She took penicillin twice a day for five years in an effort to forestall infection. Additionally Nina could not go to regular day care or school for fear of being exposed to infections. She would need in-home care.

When Nina was 5 years old, their hospital received a new transcranial Doppler that could test the blood flow to the brain. Only 5% of those infected with sickle cell have strokes but it was determined that Nina was at high risk. In fact, it was discovered that she had already had some small strokes. .

Chronic blood transfusions seemed to be the available method to help Nina begin to live a healthier life and allow her family to begin to have a more normal routine. At first Nina had a transfusion every 2 weeks and then she began to receive them at three week intervals. For the last year, Nina has received transfusions once a month and, according to Nicole, it has changed their lives.

The transfusions help keep a delicate balance in her body.

She is now in first grade at regular school. A happy, prissy child, Nina loves to sing, dance and perform.

According to her dad, when Nina gets her transfusions she has said

"*I hate getting my IV but I love the way I feel after I get the blood*"