

Starlerra (Star) Simmons

ADVOCATE & ACTIVIST FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
EDUCATIONAL EQUITY AND ACCESS

“LIVING BY DESIGN, NOT BY DIAGNOSIS”

Starlerra Simmons is a Leader at the junction of Culture and Justice.



A lifelong resident of Orange County, and Founder and President of her own Not for Profit Organization (5013c), Star is a profoundly passionate advocate, dedicated to increasing health access, educational equity, and social justice for disadvantaged and underserved populations. For over 40 years as a community advocate, Star has assisted many families in need of help navigate through countless confusing paperwork and meetings with schools, courts and hospitals. She has represented both adults and children to ensure they receive the best services available to meet their needs. Star continues to work diligently with many doctors, educators, city officials and law makers, to secure services and accommodations for the disabled, and the economically and the educationally challenged.

With the launch of the Sickle Cell Foundation of Orange County in 2003, Star became a leading driving force in support services for those living with Sickle Cell Disease. She teaches and motivates all to **“Live by Design.....Not by Diagnosis”** She believes and lives for educating people of all walks of life, about the effects, challenges, responsibilities and resources that affect those whose lives are impacted by Sickle Cell, as well as those who are living in a systemic oppressive culture.

Star is as unapologetic as she is passionate about fighting for those who would otherwise, not have a voice; which, consequently, at times put her in challenging situations that most would circumvent. For Star, there is no limit to life’s possibilities. She encourages and challenges all to push beyond their limitations and to rise to new heights. This mind-set is repeatedly reflected her work in the Sickle Cell Foundation of Orange County, and the community at-large.

Over the past twenty years, Star has appeared on several TV Shows, Radio Platforms, Podcast, and more, advocating for the disabled, the disadvantage and the underserved. Her voice is one that speaks with passion and conviction. “We must bring change to the systemic culture which perpetuates racial inequality and ableism. It is my goal to be a catalyst for change where everyone will have access and opportunity to reach their full potential.

Awards

Citizen of the Year- Inc. Mu Alpha Alpha, 2010
Courage and Honesty in Sharing your Story- Life Stream Blood, 2012
Phenomenal Woman, National Negro Council Women (OC Chapter), 2012
Dedicated Service Award – Loma Linda University Medical Hospital (LLMUH), 2012

Partnerships

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital (FVRH)
Millers Children Hospital Long Beach (MCHLB)
Life Stream Blood (LSB)
State of California Sickle Cell State Planning Institute
Orange County Department of Education (OCDE)
The Princeton Review
The California Partnership for Access to Treatment
The Cayenne Wellness Center
Vocational Visions

News Publications & Articles

“I will make this World my World” The OC Parenting Magazine, 2016
“Mission Viejo 13-Year Old spreads the word about Sickle Cell” The Orange County Register, 2016
“Against All Odds-Sickle Cell Patient Survives” (FVRH), 2012
“Through Life-Saving Measures” The Orange County Register” 2012
“Ex-Mater Dei athlete shows blood can be priceless” The Orange County Register, 2009
“Sickle Cell Blood Donation Drive” The Orange County Register, 2012
“Sickle Cell-Keeping the Faith” Tri-County Bulletin”, 20012
“One Parents Quest to Fight Sickle Cell” Tri-County Bulletin, 2012
“Sickle Cell Foundation of Orange County Hosts Gala Fundraiser”
The Orange County Register, 2012

Television Appearance

Joy in Our Town-Trinity Broadcast Network

Radio Appearances

88.5 FM KSBR
100.3 FM the Sound LA Radio
101.5 FM KOCI Radio
106.3 FM Joy “Daytona’s Favorite Gospel

Proclamations

City of Santa Ana
City of Lake Forest
City of Brea
The Orange County Board Supervisors