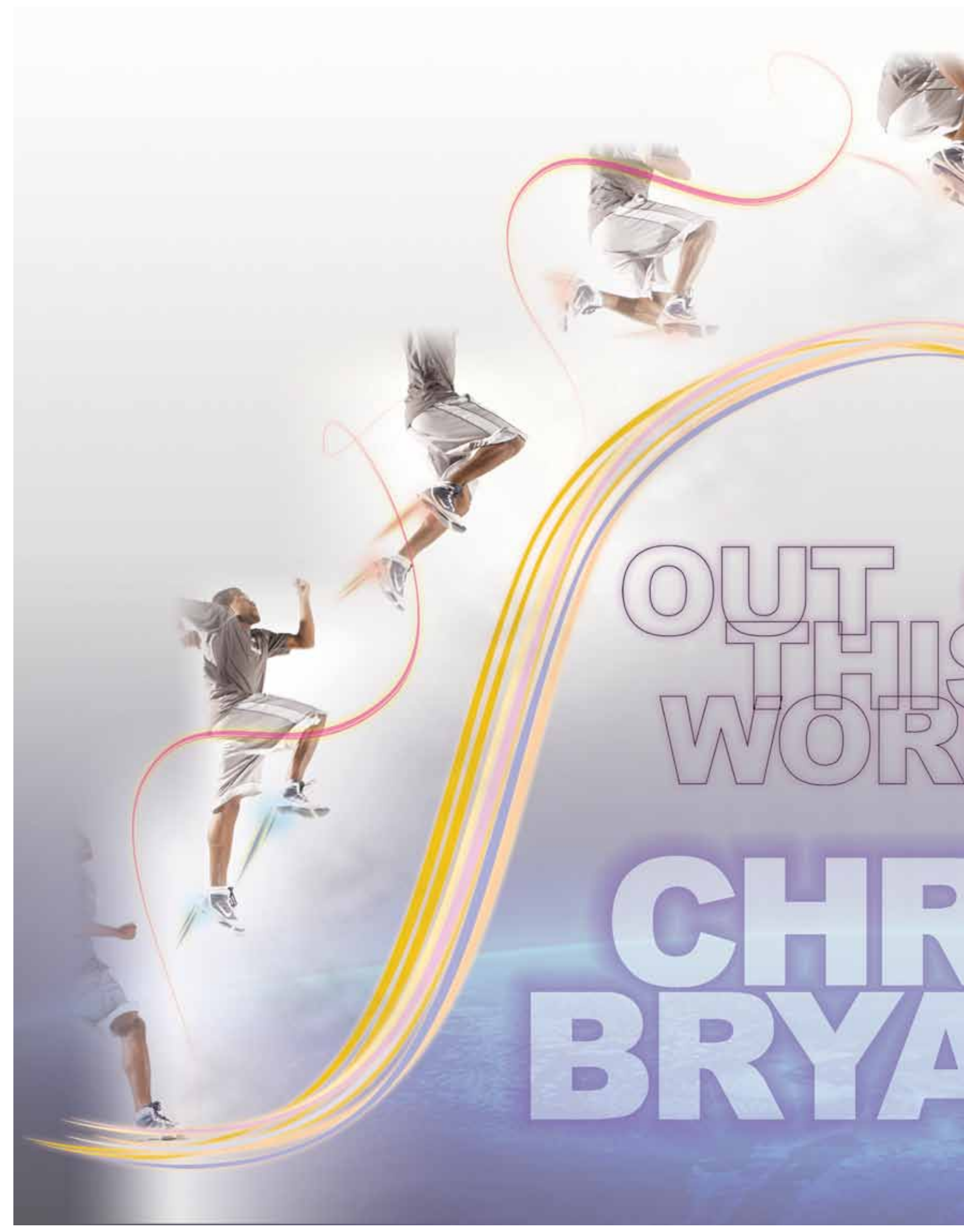




# CHRIS BRYANT



MEDIA KIT 2011



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# MY STORY

**Positive Energy** | I was born in Meridian, Mississippi. I was raised not too far from there on a farm in Cromwell, Alabama. I don't know what my religion is exactly, but my grandparents were very religious. I loved them to death. I also loved the farm. It taught me the principal of work—hard work. Of course, I had to get up extra early to plow the garden, pick okra, peel peas and anything else you could imagine a farm boy had to do.

My mom, my two sisters and I moved to Atlanta, then to Akron, Ohio, after my grandfather died of cancer. Losing my grandfather to cancer was a test and a life lesson wrapped up in one. You see, I was born with my own debilitating illness, sickle cell. And though many of my days were and still are dictated by my illness' agenda, I am certain that no day will end without my making it a better one for myself or those close to me. For life, as I see it, is a gift that you can't ever let slip away.

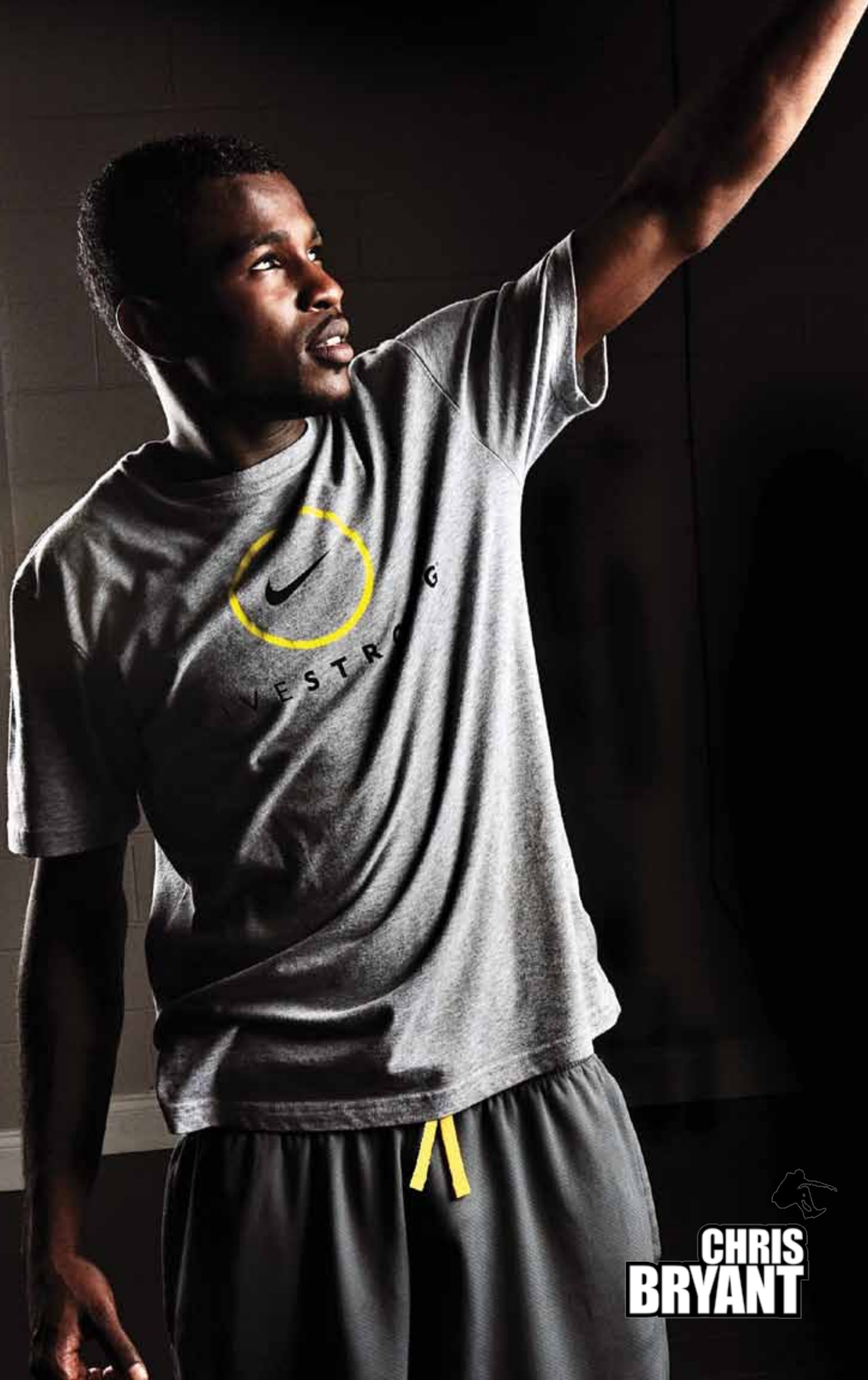


  
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# MY GIFT

**Taking Flight** | I started jumping things when I was about eight years old, first stacking chairs and jumping over them. My sickle cell gave me some problems, and my docs said I shouldn't be able to jump as high as I did.

Well, I wasn't about to let that keep me down. The first time I jumped over a car I had just finished playing basketball, and I had dunked on my friend. On the way home, he bet me that I couldn't jump over this old car parked on the curb. I started about 15 feet away from the car and I sprinted off. About 4 or 5 feet away from the car I took off. Sure enough, I cleared it—cleared it with about 4 feet on the other side. I was so excited I did it again and again! After that day I was known as “the car jumper,” and after every game at the park I jumped a car for the kids. I became something of a legend at that park.



  
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# MY BREAK

**SEEING IS BELIEVING** | I got a job at a restaurant not too far from the park called The Waterloo. I've been working there for long enough now that everyone there is like family. I was working one day and a reporter from the *Akron Beacon Journal* was doing a story on the restaurant, and I thought, I have to tell him about my talent. The newspaper couldn't believe it, they came to my house on Lovers Lane and took some photos. The camera guy was blown away. The paper wanted to do a whole story about me. Then, Fox 8 did, too. I made a video and sent it to *The Ellen Show*, and they wanted me to come to L.A. and show the world what I could do. After I jumped six cars on the show, Ellen asked me what I wanted to do with my talent. I told her I wanted to do a Nike commercial. Dream big, right?

When I got home, everyone in my town was so proud of me, especially my mom. Meanwhile, Ellen called Nike and told them they had 24 hours to call her back or she was going to another shoe company. They called her back and said they wanted to do something with me. Back to L.A. I went. On the show for the second time, Ellen told me that Nike wanted me to do a "just do it" commercial with me. I went to Portland, Oregon, to tape my commercial. It took five days to do it, and I was so sore when I got home, I just wanted to sleep. A few weeks later, I was back on *The Ellen Show*. This time Ellen surprised me with my finished Nike ad. Ellen and I watched it and cried. It felt so amazing.



  
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# THE DIFFERENCE

## Knowledge Is Power | Sickle Cell Disease

Before you finish reading this, one of your red blood cells will have been able to circle your whole body, a dozen times probably. Your red blood cells are chugging along right now completing your body's circuit in about 20 seconds, and they'll more or less keep up that pace for the rest of your life. If you're like the great majority of Americans and have red blood cells that haven't been stricken with some kind of disease, you've probably never given much thought to them. You haven't had any reason to.

A normal red blood cell looks sort of like a circular, rubber raft—the sturdy variety that you and a few friends would plop onto and float down a river on a nice day. A normal red blood cell whooshes down your bloodstream with little trouble, carrying oxygen to your lungs and other parts of your body, removing waste from other parts. It's pliable, bending when it needs to get through one of your smaller vessels, so rarely is the flow interrupted.

A body that was born with sickle cell disease, though, doesn't maintain the effortless flow of blood like yours. This body has abnormal red blood cells that are shaped like long, thin crescents. They don't maintain a natural flow through the body's bloodstream. They're sticky and stiff and sometimes get blocked up in vessels. Sickle cells die much quicker than healthy red cells and aren't regenerated by the body as quickly. They carry less oxygen to the lungs than healthy red blood cells would and they don't remove as much waste.

What all of this equates to for someone who has sickle cell disease is chronic pain, fatigue and a shortened life span, on average 42 years for males and 48 for females. Only about 1 in 5,000 Americans are diagnosed with sickle cell. That's less than one thousandth of a percent. But, when the statistics are isolated to African Americans, about 1 in 500 African-American children are born with the disease, and it's even more common in people with descendants from Sub-Saharan Africa. No cure-all exists yet, but blood and marrow stem cell transplants have shown promising results in some people. In the last 100 years, scientists have learned a vast amount of knowledge about sickle cell, and those with the disease, with proper care and treatment, are living longer than ever.

Typically, people with sickle cell have weak immune systems and bodies. But I am an anomaly. Sickle cell may limit me, but that doesn't mean that I have to live a limited life.

My jumping abilities are rare, but in the face of my sickle cell, they are extraordinary. My current vertical jump is 59 inches, and I am only 5-9. Seeing me jump the roof of a car or dunk a basketball is memorable, but the knowledge of what sickle cell is and how it can be managed is what I pray is eternal.



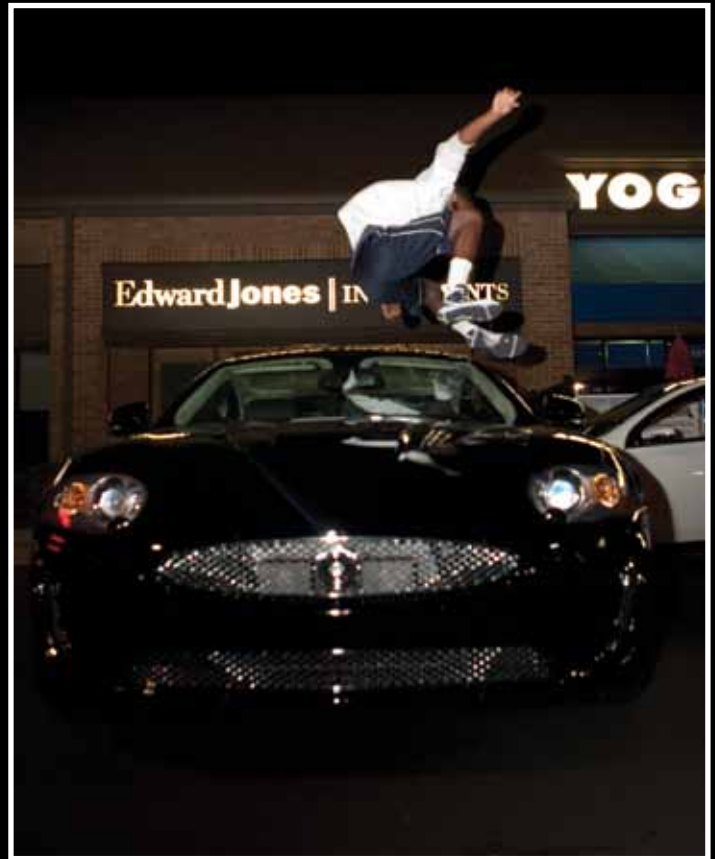
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# EVENT APPEARANCES



To see Chris in action [click here](#)







JUMP

CHRIS BRYANT

## CONTACT | BOOKINGS

To book a jumping demonstration or to schedule an event appearance, call Jason Ohlson at 614-571-6322. For more information, visit [www.chrisbryantjumps.com](http://www.chrisbryantjumps.com)