



**COOLEY'S ANEMIA....
AN ITALIAN TRAGEDY
...AN AMERICAN
RESPONSE
Established 1976**

Cooley's anemia is an inherited disease of the blood which, while found in other populations, is peculiar to people of Mediterranean ancestry like Italians and their descendants. It is noncontiguous but passed from parent to child by inheritance of a gene defect.

There are two main forms of Cooley's anemia – the disease and the trait.

- 1) Persons born with the disease have defective red blood cells present in insufficient number to carry enough oxygen to the body's tissues. This results in severe anemia and ultimately death.
- 2) Persons born with the trait can be healthy and lead normal lives. If, however, two people with the trait marry their children may inherit a defective gene from each and develop the severe form of Cooley's anemia.

UNICO National and its chapters have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in an effort to find a cure. Although great strides have been made with children, who used to live only to 5 years of age 30 years ago, now living well into adulthood; but, a cure has not been found. Funds are still needed for research, treatment and transfusion, and medical costs that burden the family's resources while they await a cure.