



Lupus Inspiration Foundation for Excellence (L.I.F.E.)

was expressly created to help these students obtain their college degree, by providing them with financial and educational assistance.

Every year the Foundation will select one or more students—on a non-discriminatory racial and religious basis—to receive a L.I.F.E. Scholarship. The scholarship(s) will be awarded to individuals who demonstrate their ability to overcome the limitations of lupus by showing courage, strength, and perseverance. Each applicant must submit a letter from a physician verifying the diagnosis of SLE. Applicants must be working towards a degree with a minimum of six credits per semester, have a GPA of at least 3.0, and be involved in at least one extracurricular activity, such as a performance group, athletics, clubs/organizations, community service, employment, etc. There will be an essay required as well.

Although the Foundation, at

this time, limits its scholarships to those suffering from SLE, it does provide other services that are intended for the general public. One of the goals of this organization is to promote awareness of lupus and the educational needs of these students. The founders of L.I.F.E. believe that educating the public about SLE is an important step to decreasing many of the prejudices surrounding this condition. To aid in this goal, a Lupus Awareness Campaign will be instituted by L.I.F.E. co-founders Jodi Norton and Adina Gravit, and any other volunteers wishing to participate. These individuals will visit elementary schools in an effort to educate children about lupus and chronic illness, while at the same time promoting philanthropic activities and serving as good role models for the community. Brochures

or other publications will be provided to the public. Some lectures will be geared towards health care professionals and future medical students.

To receive a L.I.F.E. Scholarship packet, please write to LIFE4lupus@hotmail.com. For more information about L.I.F.E. scholarships, volunteer opportunities or donations to the L.I.F.E. Scholarship Fund, please write to Lupus Inspiration Foundation for Excellence, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 64088, Tucson, AZ 85728-4088. Please note that completed applications will need to be postmarked by December 16 to be considered to receive the first award, which will be issued in January 2003.

The main purposes of the Lupus Inspiration Foundation for Excellence (L.I.F.E.) are twofold: To promote awareness of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), and to provide supplemental financial and educational assistance to part-time or full-time college students with this disease. This is the only charitable, non-profit, organization in the country dedicated to providing much-needed financial aid to students with SLE—a group under-represented by governmental funding. SLE remains one of the least recognized major illnesses affecting Americans.

It is the belief of the founders of L.I.F.E. that college degrees are more difficult for individuals with lupus to obtain. Many individuals with organ-threatening disease must delay school or drop out all together. Those who are able to attend school may need to reduce their course load, classifying them as only part-time students. This part-time status can place a substantial financial burden on any student, since most financial aid or scholarships are given only to full-time students. The loss in financial aid, coupled with costly and time-consuming treatments for the disease, can hinder schooling significantly.

L.I.F.E. recognizes the importance of a college degree today. The Foundation also realizes the obstacles a student with lupus must face, and its program



L.I.F.E. Scholarship co-founders Jodi Norton, left, and Adina Gravit.

