



Dear Friends,

It's autumn already, and kids are back in school. And it's no different for the students we've helped this year through the **Lupus Inspiration Foundation for Excellence, L.I.F.E.:**

Kirstin Badrak, University of Texas, Austin studying music; **Brittany Black**, University of Florida working towards a Bachelor degree; **Yesenia Godinez** majoring in psychology at UC, Irvine, CA; **Emily Gunsberger** studying sociology at University of Wisconsin, Madison; **Carla Martinez**, California State University, Long Beach pursuing a degree in counseling.

The generosity of people like you has enabled these students to pursue an education while overcoming lupus. And that's why we're asking for your **tax-deductible** contribution.

L.I.F.E. maintains no offices, pays no salaries or commissions, and has no budget for advertising, so a much higher percentage of your donation goes where it is needed to the students, and to the very minimal expenses this foundation incurs, mostly paper, postage, and printer ink.

Lupus is a systemic illness, which may present itself as anything from a chronic fever, joint pain, profound fatigue or skin rash to recurring meningitis. It can affect any organ system. It tends to strike mostly young women during their childbearing years, but some men have been known to develop the disease.

The persistence and the cyclical nature of the disease, coupled with its timing in a young person's life, complicates normal life functions in ways we don't like to imagine. Everything becomes harder: school, dating, and living away from home. Patterns emerge among patients just starting out in life: enroll in college full-time, get too sick to continue with school, drop out until next semester, and then start the whole process over again until they give up entirely, which limits their career prospects, lowers their self-esteem, and makes them even more ill. Most people with lupus can successfully maintain a part-time academic schedule, but that ends their eligibility for student loans and most scholarships.

The Foundation allows the student to determine their capacity for an academic schedule, and awards the same amount to a full-time student or part-time student. There are a few eligibility requirements—they have a diagnosis for Lupus and are enrolled in a U.S. accredited college or university among others—that you can view on our website: **www.lifescholarship.org**.

And it's working. We've given out scholarships for three years---eleven scholarships total! Students that might otherwise drop out are staying in school, remaining active, and are striving toward independence. With your **donation** we can continue to help students in their struggle.

Attached, please find an article published in the November 2004 issue of "*The Desert Leaf*".

Sincerely,

Winfield Patterson
Vice-President and Editor