

# Lupus Awareness Month: Take a Message

**S**omeone You Know Has Lupus. That's the theme of the Lupus Foundation of America's annual national Lupus Awareness Month campaign, launched in October.

A recent LFA survey revealed that one in four Americans know someone with lupus, but public understanding of the disease remains low. To increase awareness, the Foundation has launched a series of print and broadcast advertisements, as well as a poster (see right), that aim to put a face—actually many faces—on the disease.

“Lupus is a multifaceted disease that affects millions of people—men, women and children—from all walks of life,” says LFA Board of Directors Chair Christine Smith. “Most Americans don't understand the many devastating ways lupus can affect individuals and their families.”

Still, hope is the campaign's underlying message, says Smith. “Lupus usually strikes in the prime of life. But new research brings hope that safer and more effective treatments, and ultimately a cure, can be found.”

To learn more, contact the Lupus Foundation of American at 888-38-LUPUS or visit [www.lupus.org](http://www.lupus.org).

*Someone YOU know has LUPUS*

A rash across the cheeks and nose resembling a "butterfly" can be a symptom of lupus.

The butterfly has become the Lupus Foundation of America's national symbol of hope.

**LUPUS IS:**

- an autoimmune disease
- the body attacking itself
- difficult to recognize and diagnose
- occurs in mild, sometimes life-threatening
- forms seen in women, especially African American, Hispanic, Asian and Native Americans
- also found in men and children
- a lifelong chronic disease that can last

**SYMPTOMS:**

- joint pain
- fatigue
- joint swelling
- fever
- skin rash
- swollen
- stomach pain
- kidney disease

**LUPUS**  
Foundation of America, Inc.  
www.lupus.org

To find out how YOU can help the 1.5 million Americans with lupus, call 888-38-LUPUS or visit [www.lupus.org](http://www.lupus.org)

## Summer L.I.F.E. Scholarships Awarded

Twice a year, the Lupus Inspiration Foundation for Excellence (L.I.F.E.) selects one or more worthy college students to receive merit-based scholarships. L.I.F.E. scholarships are awarded to individuals who demonstrate courage, strength and perseverance in overcoming the limitations of lupus.

Summer 2003 scholarships went to **Dana T. Turner** of Browdeer, Wis., who is majoring in English at Cardinal Stritch University; **Cristen Patricia Wetherbee** of Marietta, Ga., who is pursuing a law degree at Mercer University School of Law; and **Gina Nicole Insalaco** of St. Louis, Mo., who is in the Counseling and Family Therapy graduate program at St. Louis University.

L.I.F.E. is the only charitable organization in the United States dedicated to supporting students with SLE—a group underrepresented by governmental funding.

The next L.I.F.E. scholarship awards will be announced in January 2004. Applications must be postmarked by December 16, 2003. For more information, students should e-mail the Foundation at [lifa4lupus@hotmail.com](mailto:lifa4lupus@hotmail.com).

Note: Due to new privacy laws created by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), only potential applicants can request information, not relatives or friends.