



New Jersey Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association, Inc

January 12, 2012

Dear Guidance Counselor:

The New Jersey Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association, Inc. is pleased to sponsor a scholarship for the amount of \$1,000 to be awarded to a graduating senior in the class of 2012 who has ME/CFS. Our scholarship is available by download on our website: <http://njcfsa.org>.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) also known as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) is a serious and complex illness that affects many different body systems. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ME/CFS is characterized by chronic incapacitating fatigue, cognitive and neurological problems, chronic tender lymph nodes, low-grade fevers, and muscle and joint aches to name a few symptoms.

ME/CFS can strike people of all ages, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, last many years and severely debilitate. Since the cause of ME/CFS is unknown and lacking a definitive test, the diagnosis is made by exclusion. Ruling out all other illnesses, including Lyme Disease, Lupus and Multiple Sclerosis is the currently accepted methodology.

Children of all ages may contract ME/CFS, yet the majority of children with the illness are in late adolescence. ME/CFS is a syndrome, (collection of symptoms), in which the degree of disability varies. It can be difficult to understand the special educational needs of young persons with ME/CFS. While some can continue classroom education with a reduced schedule, others require homebound tutoring. It can take years to recover from ME/CFS and lost time may directly affect planning and continuing the student's further education.

The New Jersey CFS Association is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the educational difficulties of young persons with ME/CFS and to encourage all young persons with ME/CFS to pursue a post-secondary education. This scholarship is offered to a New Jersey high school senior who has been diagnosed with ME/CFS. He/she will have applied to and been accepted or enrolled, full or part time, in a college (2-year or 4-year), university or an accredited technical school for the 2012-2013 school year. Eligibility is also extended to recent high school graduates who had to delay their education due to ME/CFS. Each applicant will be judged on merit, the sincerity of his/her essay and on his/her financial need.

The New Jersey CFS Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support patients and their families, disseminate reliable information and promote research into the cause and cure for ME/CFS. Our activities include sponsoring support groups, publication of a newsletter, physician and attorney referrals, a lending library, and an annual medical conference attracting leading edge researchers and clinicians.

Thank you for your assistance in making this information available to those who may qualify for this scholarship. Please feel free to duplicate all eight pages of our scholarship for your student(s). The deadline for submitting applications for consideration will be April 16, 2012. Applicants will be notified by May 16, 2012. All applications should be forwarded to:

New Jersey CFS Association, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 477, Florham Park, N.J. 07932

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (609) 748-3559.

Sincerely yours,
Betty McConnell, Chairperson
NJCFSA Scholarship Committee