IMPROVING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH RHEUMATOID DISEASE

RHEUM4US.ORG
February 2nd marked the fourth annual Rheumatoid Awareness Day -- established by RPF in 2013 as a way to spread facts and increase awareness of what rheumatoid disease really is. With so many misconceptions and myths perpetuated by the media, and with a common name of rheumatoid "arthritis," it can be difficult to break through with the truth about RD. For Rheumatoid Awareness Day 2016, our campaign focused on seven facts to help show the world what The Real Rheumatoid Disease looks like -- not the way it's portrayed on TV ads or in the media -- but what it's like for real people.
In 2016, RPF held its second scholarship program for individuals and families who are affected by rheumatoid disease. We recognize the financial strain that rheumatoid arthritis can place on a family and the career challenges many people with rheumatoid disease face. In light of that, we are happy to be able to offer some support to those looking to advance their education and/or change careers.

2016 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

• Open to any U.S. student enrolled at a higher education institution who has a diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis or Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, or who has a parent with such a diagnosis

• Participants were required to submit a written response to several essay prompts

• Two $1,000 Scholarships were awarded to the applicants who scored highest on their essay responses

• RPF received 100 Scholarship applications – more than double the response of our first year’s program

2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

“\textit{I am so humbled by the work of organizations like Rheumatoid Patient Foundation that are so dedicated to advocating for people like me. Together, we can take down the barriers of disease to build the brightest of futures for our community!}”

Ariella is studying advertising and public relations at Columbia College in Chicago, IL. She hopes to pursue a career in pharmaceutical advertising and strives to create transparent messages that inform and engage audiences within the medical community.

KRISTINE MALIXI

ARIELLA PHILLIPO
EDUCATIONAL & INSPIRATIONAL MATERIALS
IN RHEUMATOLOGY OFFICES

Our hope is to provide educational resources that are easy to understand and to provide encouragement and support to others with rheumatoid disease during their time spent in doctors' waiting rooms. Rheumatoid disease can be confusing and isolating; and sometimes just hearing from another voice who understands can provide hope.

The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation has collaborated with the ContextMedia:Health (now OutcomeHealth) Network to provide content on a patient education TV network to doctors' offices across the country, including videos that feature patient stories and educational content viewable within waiting rooms.
Each year, the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) hosts a conference that brings together thousands of rheumatology professionals from around the world to present upon and learn about the most recent research in the field. The 2016 event took place in Washington, D.C. and brought together over 16,000 rheumatology professionals -- doctors, nurses, researchers and more -- from around the globe.

RPF sent a couple of representatives to the ACR Annual Meeting to attend the scientific sessions and connect with healthcare and industry professionals in an effort to further our mission.
GET INVOLVED: TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE

Please consider a donation of your time, talent or resources to help support our vision of a world where no one suffers from rheumatoid disease. There are many ways you can help: volunteer, coordinate a fundraiser, donate photos for RPFs use, join RPF as a Member or Lifetime Member, or contribute a one-time financial donation.

Learn more at rheum4us.org

2016 Sources of Support

- General Donations: 79%
- Memberships: 19%
- Other: 2%

2016 Expenditures

- Program Services: 91%
- Admin & Operations: 9%