

Dear Sir or Madam:

Since 1991 SCTPN and hospitals providing comprehensive care for sickle cell and Thalassemia patients have co-sponsored a Scholastic Achievement Awards program to deserving children and young adults living with blood disorders to strive for *Excellence in Education* to ensure them a brighter future. Sunday, June 22, 2008 will mark the **Seventeenth Annual Scholastic Achievement and Scholarship Awards Ceremony**, which will be hosted by The SickleCare Program at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, 234 East 149th Street, New York, New York 10451. The ceremony is a grand event attended largely by children, young adults, their families, medical professionals, and guest speakers. The event features a variety of entertainment, speeches, food and refreshments.

The achievement program consists of three segments:

- Recognition and Excellence Awards
- Essay Competitions for Elementary, Middle School and High School students
- College Scholarship Awards

Enclosed, are flyers with this year's essay questions. There are first, second, and third place cash prizes for each group: elementary, middle school, and high school. All essays are due on/or before June 13, 2008. Any applications received after this date will be disqualified. All winners will be announced at the awards presentation on Sunday, June 22, 2008, and in support of our programs, if at all possible, we encourage all applicants who submit essays to be present to accept their awards should they win. **Please be sure to include the name, age, and contact information of all entrants in the essay.**

Recognition Awards:

Recognition Awards will be given to all students in elementary, middle and high school, who continue to demonstrate a determination to succeed scholastically despite of the many obstacles they face. Please submit names of those you would like to recognize for demonstrating the right attitude toward school. **Please submit any qualified students by June 16, 2008.**

Excellence Awards:

Excellence Awards will be given to all students graduating from high school, even if they are not planning to attend college. **Please submit names by June 16, 2008.**

College Bound Students:

Enclosed is an application for college bound or (post-secondary) students who would like to apply for a scholarship. Please make additional copies as needed. Completed applications along with your other nominations are to be returned no later than June 13, 2008. If for any reason students who are receiving awards will not be able to attend the awards program it would be appreciated if a representative from the family would be on hand to accept the award on their behalf. If you would like to fax applications or essays my phone/fax, number is (877) 816-4216. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Thanks for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Francesca Stephen
Coordinator, Youth Program