

# Congratulations to the 2024 PDSA College Scholarship Winners!

This year we had 23 applicants from the United States and Canada. We would like to extend our thanks to this year's judges, Debbie Couture, Lib Elder, and Sharon Morgan for all their hard work in selecting this year's winners from so many outstanding applicants.

## \$1,500 RECIPIENT



*"When I was first diagnosed with ITP, many saw it as somewhat of a tragedy, taking me away from sports and creating a whole new life of doctors' appointments and medical struggles. But, to be honest, I think it's given me so much more in allowing me to become confident in who I am, proud of the accomplishments I've made, and more vocal in standing up for not only myself, but also other people who might not fit the perfect, healthy standards of society."*

**SOPHIA MAE RISER**, Fresno, CA  
California State University - Fresno

## \$1,000 RECIPIENT



*"My journey with ITP has gifted me with empathy, resilience, and a deep desire to serve and help others. In navigating a complex disease like ITP, I've learned that true understanding and support are invaluable, which guides me towards my goal of fostering connections with patients to uplift and empower them in times of need."*

**LOGAN RESCH**, Milton, GA  
Georgia College

## \$750 RECIPIENT



*"Dealing with such mutable illnesses as ITP and Lupus is extremely difficult and looks different each day. Despite that, my disabilities have taught me resilience and catalyzed my emotional healing journey."*

**RUBY MIN BASSFORD**, Mechanicsville, MD  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

## \$250 BOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS



*"My ITP diagnosis has made me more resilient in the face of challenges and allowed me to realize that I can make the best of a difficult situation."*

**ANNALISE BORRELLI**, Pittsford, NY  
Buffalo State University



*"I...am grateful that ITP has allowed me to view the world in a way that suits me and has made me the person I am today, a future nurse practitioner who is ready to aid in the gap of health inequity focusing on underserved communities."*

**HANNAH CASTILLO**, Pomona, CA  
Western University of Health Sciences



*"The most incredible experience of my life has truly been being diagnosed with this platelet disorder. While I did lose a lot of friends throughout my first few months with my condition, I ended up creating the most beautiful friendships with the people I would have overlooked before."*

**BELLA FRAUSTO**, Rocklin, CA  
Grand Canyon University



*"I carry with me the invaluable lessons learned from my battle with ITP. Armed with self-confidence and a sense of purpose, I am confident in my ability to overcome any challenge that comes my way."*

**IAN MICHAEL PRICE LEMUS**, Vail, AZ  
Adams State University



*"...For all the annoyance that a measly scratch can leave me with, in the end, my ITP has made me into the person I am today. I know my journey's still far from over, but I'm thrilled for what's to come."*

**CLAIRE OPDAHL**, Sioux Center, IA  
University of Iowa

## HELP SUPPORT PDSA'S COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

To help make a difference in the lives of students with ITP and other platelet disorders, you can donate to the PDSA College Scholarship Program. PDSA is a 501(c)(3) organization; all donations to the Scholarship Program are tax deductible. <https://pdsa.org/scholarship-donation.html>