

## **More Scholarship Stories**

Ariatna L. was always encouraged by her parents to get the best education she could and go to college. She struggled for several years due to the language barrier but gradually overcame that and in fifth grade graduated from the English Learning Program for Spanish speakers. Her parents, even though they were separated, were united in their support of her and continued to encourage her to be a great student. As a runner in High School, she sustained a knee injury which made her realize that life is similar to a race in that each person has to persevere through something at a different stage in their life, whether it is at mile one or mile three. She became the first in her family to attend college and graduated with a BS in Nursing from Cal State San Marcos this past May, but that is certainly not the end of her story. With a Scholarship from Assistance League, she is able to address the many different expenses outside of the tuition and books. She needs uniforms, materials for lab practice, fees for various study programs and clinical hours which can take place down the street or in other cities which means of course, GAS! She is currently preparing for the NCLEX exam to get her license and we have no doubt she will do just that.

Lucas R. was raised in Brazil and witnessed the death of his great-grandfather at home because the local paramedics did not get to him in time. At that moment, he decided to get into the nursing profession to help prevent unnecessary deaths. Through his research, he discovered that Palomar College had a great nursing program and moved here specifically to attend Palomar. Unfortunately, due to the differences in educational requirements, he had to take classes he already had taken in Brazil in basic subjects and pre-requisites before he could even begin the nursing curriculum. He persevered and will graduate with his RN in December of this year. Along the way, he took a "side trip" to become an EMT so he could get a job and support himself and his family and has been working full time while going to school. As mentioned by many students, in addition to tuition, there are costs that one does not always think about, and the Assistance League Scholarship is critical in helping to cover these costs. Books, study materials, even one's own stethoscope, are very expensive and not an optional one at all. Once he gets his RN, Lucas intends to continue at the university level and achieve his BS in Nursing and continue to work as an EMT as well.

These and many other students are able to move ahead in their educational journeys thanks to the Assistance League of Inland North County Scholarship Program. This, in turn, encourages other family members to follow in the students' footsteps and over time, provides a more educated workforce which benefits everyone.