



Bright Light Foundation

Jillian Crochet

2009 BLF Recipient



Jillian has been going to countless doctors for more than a year looking for the cause of her Peripheral Neuropathy, a condition that causes intense pain and burning in her feet and pain and numbness in her legs and arms. Peripheral Neuropathy is a degeneration of the nerves. It inhibits the amount of time she can spend on her feet as well as the amount of time she can spend driving. It severely affects her balance and muscle strength in her legs. As of now, she and her family are still trying to find the cause of the Peripheral Neuropathy, as well as various forms of treatments to manage the

pain and fatigue.

She has also dealt with thyroid-related issues since the age of 12, when she had her thyroid partially removed. As of late, they found another enlarged growth. Currently, it is being monitored as it poses no immediate threat, but she will most likely have to undergo another costly procedure to have it removed.

Jillian Crochet is a young artist of 25. She grew up in the Pensacola, FL, area and attended the University of Alabama, where she graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture and a minor in Digital Media. Currently, she has been fortunate enough to stay with her parents in Elberta, AL, where she enjoys painting, sculpting, crafting, and basically anything that involves utilizing her creativity.

Jillian has started her own Etsy site, jiggyfresh.etsy.com, where she sells some of her up-cycled accessories. She recently got a part-time position at a local library in the children's department, and she hopes to help young teens find something to excite their own passions through the vast resources the library allows. In the future, Jillian hopes to pursue a Master's degree and maybe own her own art business, selling her own as well as her friends' art.

She has been unable to work, until recently, because of her symptoms, but she hopes her new supplement plan will help her maintain the strength to battle on. She would like to thank her family for their love and support as well as the Bright Light Foundation for reaching out and helping her in this difficult time.