



LYME DISEASE FOUNDATION

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Dear Friends:

December 2005

Please help the LDF **stop a new epidemic of Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, and babesiosis that is about to hit the United States in 2006 and 2007.**

You and your loved ones are already at greater risk for infection and reinfection over the next two years. Lyme ticks are currently up 500% from last year, despite decades of tick-reduction research and measures. The adults wintering-over to 2006 will add to the already emerging nymphs to create a very dangerous 2006. The offspring from these ticks are set to cause a new epidemic in 2007. This is against a background of federal and state governments having less funding for Lyme disease and weaker tick-borne reporting systems.

*****A new charitable donation law allows YOU to Donate Cash & Deduct up to 100% of this from your adjusted gross income!** This change expires 12/31/05 & temporarily eliminates the 50% donation cap. **In addition, your donation is NOT subject to the 3% itemized deduction limit!** This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will result in better health for your loved ones!

Together, we can prevent this epidemic! Your generous donation is key to helping us:

1. Implement a major Educational Campaign - Each One - Reach One - focusing on prevention of tick bites, treatment on tick-bite, and early diagnosis of disease.

Your support will fund a media program, place existing video's on DVD's, develop new school multi-media lesson plans, and expand the list of items that enable others to join in to spread the word through an assortment of brochures, wallet-tick ID cards, Lyme bracelets, bumper stickers, magnetic green ribbons, T-shirts, & more. **What would you have given to prevent a case of tick-spread disease in your family?** Together, we can help prevent a new infection for you and your loved ones.

2. Support Passage of Federal Legislation establishing a Tick-borne Advisory Committee that gives patients & doctors formal input into Federal tick-borne programs.

Despite 20 years and millions of dollars of government and private funding into research, there is still no definitive test! Without a perfect test, how can anyone determine the best treatments? Where has the government's money gone? It is time for our patients and doctors to have input into the Federal government's programs. See our website www.Lyme.org for what you can do to help the legislation pass.

3. Foster development of Definitive Tests and then determine Curative Treatments.

Until we have a definitive and scientifically accepted test, our doctors will be under attack for their clinical diagnosis. It is clear the federal government is the only place with the magnitude of funds that can sustain major funding for a perfect test. To make the type of improvements our community needs, we need to influence the Federal agenda and uncover scientific flaws before they are promoted as "accepted science."

4. Watchdog Federal and State Agencies in order to protect us from adverse actions.

Change is on the horizon for 2006. The LDF is ready to attend and voice concerns during the critical meetings on these events. **We can not participate without your generous donations to cover the costs.**

• A new test will further complicate an already tricky clinical diagnosis.

The "C-6 peptide" test is about to be declared the new "perfect" Lyme test, replacing the former "perfect" 2-tier ELISA test. The ELISA test has been a nightmare for patients & doctors because it misses 50% of actual cases and provides a false standard of care that patients with a negative test do not have Lyme disease. That false standard has resulted in state medical licensing boards attacks on and malpractice suits against our doctors. The new test will not be much better. Ironically, NIH has a definitive test, the *Gold Stain Test*, which has sat undeveloped for the last 10 years!

• A new Lyme Vaccine will start Clinical Trials.

Teams are now being formed for a new OspA Lyme vaccine clinical trial. The LDF will be at these meetings advocating for safe trials and fully informed consent. Unfortunately, trial investigators are developing new protocols that promote *no treatment on tick-bite* as the standard of care. Why? Because if every trial participant got treated on tick-bite, there may not be enough participants exposed to the Lyme bacteria to validate the trial. This National Standard will prevent the rest of us from getting treated on tick-bite, ensuring the preventable epidemic takes its toll on thousands of new victims. We will be here protecting the public, but only if we have the funds.

Please donate generously so we can help your loved ones over the coming two years!

Karen Vanderhoof-Forschner, M.B.A., C. P.C.U., C.L.U.
Chair, Board of Directors

Lesley Ann Fein, M.D.
Medical Advisor

Leonard Schuchman, D.O.
Medical Advisor, Webmaster

Dear Friends:

In 1985, my son Jamie was born prematurely. He had such low muscle tone he could not even hold his head up. He had eye tremors, vomited constantly, and suffered from repeated bouts of bell's palsy. We called all over the country for help to diagnose the illness that ravaged his little body. Months after his birth, we asked a doctor whether my wife could have a mystery illness called "Lyme disease." A woman in New York had told us of rare condition called "lyme disease" that was transmitted by a tick and started with a Bull's-eye rash. My wife, while she was pregnant, had a bull's-eye rash on her leg after a bug-bite. Doctors dismissed this possibility saying that the Lyme bacterium couldn't infect a fetus. They were wrong. Both my wife and son tested positive for the infection. We thought a simple antibiotic treatment would cure him. We were wrong.

After almost 6 years struggling with this disease, he died during a relapse. On autopsy, the doctors found the Lyme bacteria still in his system. Sometimes, there are no easy answers.

We spent three years searching for help and found that there was no organization dedicated to Lyme disease. We had no place to call to get help. So, in 1988, my wife and I started the Lyme Disease Foundation in order to help others prevent the ravages of tick-borne infections. We have been here helping others for 17 years. My wife volunteers over 2,000 hours a year to the LDF.

Last month, I got a call from a mom whose baby was very ill. The child, born prematurely, had very low muscle tone, eye tremors, and vomited constantly. The mother had been diagnosed with Lyme disease during her pregnancy and the doctors had told her that the Lyme bacterium does not infect a fetus. I was pleased to provide her with information and help her get a second opinion. I don't know if her baby's problem is congenital Lyme, but it should be explored.

We are asking for your donation so we can continue to be here for others. Just like every other charity, the LDF needs funds to upgrade our computers and printers, purchase paper and envelopes, and pay for the 24-hour hotline phone bills. All of our activities focus on finding solutions to the myriad of problems our community faces every day.

Please remember us in your Holiday Giving!

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Forschner, MBA, CPA
Executive Director
Lyme Disease Foundation

DONATE BY CASH: CHECK OR CREDIT CARD
CONTACT THE LDF DIRECTLY IF YOU ARE DONATING: STOCK • CARS • BOATS • RV's • EXPERTISE OR SERVICE
WORKPLACE DONATIONS: WRITE IN "LDF 860-870-0070" ON A DIRECTED DONATION FORM FOR
UNITED WAY • COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN #1724 • COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES

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Call the LDF at 860-870-0070 to make a credit card donation by phone, or
Complete this, detach here, and mail to the LDF at P.O. Box 332, Tolland, Ct 06084

Your Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Daytime Phone _____ **Email** _____

Donation Amount: \$10,000 \$5,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 other _____

Check enclosed - Payable to: Lyme Disease Foundation

Please Charge AmEx Visa Master Card

Account# _____ Exp Date _____

Cardholder signature _____

In **Honor of** or **Memory of** (circle one) _____

Acknowledgement Name & Address: