



## Lyme Disease

John A. Gridley

### The Children of Lyme Disease

Current research indicates that the Lyme disease bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, can be transmitted within hours after an infected tick attachment. Failure of parents and teachers to recognize Lyme disease early in its course can result in a child developing a chronic difficult to treat infection in the brain, eyes, joints, heart and elsewhere in the body.

In my experience (said Dr. Charles Ray Jones, M.D. Lyme Disease Specialist and Pediatrician) treating 7,000+ children birth to 18 with Lyme disease, 50% have no tick attachment history, 10% or less have an erythema migraines (bullseye rash) history, but all have a history of living, near or having visited a Lyme endemic area and have a decline in the way they play and perform in school.

They are tired, wilt easily, have dark circles under their eyes and are sick. Lyme disease has a profound negative impact on a child's life, cognitive function and ability to perform maximally in school. Severe fatigue unrelieved by rest results in decreased stamina and a decreased ability to play and to do school work. Insomnia, headaches, nausea, abdominal pain, impaired concentration, poor short-term memory, an inability to sustain attention, confusion, uncharacteristic behavior, outbursts and mood swings, fever/chills, joint pain, dizziness, noise and light sensitivity, and difficult thinking, expressing thoughts, reading, writing and making decisions as well as feeling of being overwhelmed by schoolwork plaque a child with Lyme disease. Pain and impaired cognitive function make it difficult to sustain attention and to learn and recall material.

When Lyme disease is a possible diagnosis, the children should be evaluated by a Lyme knowledgeable physician, such as Doctor Jones, who will continue antibiotic therapy until all Lyme symptoms resolve. This past year the Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Emergency Fund Foundation paid out approximately \$75,000 to help pay for the treatment and/or medication of 16 children throughout the New York District. Thank you to the following that have received a Lyme Disease Brittany Fellowship and have made all this possible:

#### Bronx Westchester South Division

Paula Angerame, Laura Berardi, Susan Bruculeri, Peter C. Caliendo, Ben Celaj, Don Ciota, Brian Hickey, Douglas Hickey, Maury Kahan, Bill Kenny, Brittany mezzancello (who the Fellowship is named after), Mark Mezzancello, Patricia Mezzancello, Vincent Pistone, Angela Politano, Cathy Racanelli, Dennis Rosa, Robert Rubinstein, Amato "Tony" Ruggiero, Kurt Schneider, Arlene Soto, Marsha Sulecki, Joseph Wuest, and Virginia Wuest

#### Brooklyn Division

Joseph Corace, Frank DiSanto, Silvio Honovic,  
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MAKING THE WORLD A LITTLE SAFER

# Valley Stream Kiwanis and Crochet Club Team Up to Provide Trauma Kits to Schools

As reprinted from Valley Herald  
By ANDREW HACKMACK

Two elementary schools in Valley Stream have been equipped with life-saving equipment thanks to a pair of community organizations. With the addition of pediatric trauma kits at Blessed Sacrament and Holy Name of Mary schools, children at those two facilities are in safer hands.

The Crochet Club at the Monica Village senior housing complex and the Valley Stream Kiwanis Club worked together to make it all happen. By selling a variety of items its members knitted, the Crochet Club was able to raise the necessary funds to acquire the trauma kits.

Lucille Moran, executive director of Monica Village, is also a member of the Kiwanis Club. She was familiar with the organization's past efforts to outfit local emergency vehicles, and knew that Kiwanis officials wanted to expand the availability of the trauma kits to schools. She also knew the ladies of the Crochet Club wanted to do something special with the money they were raising from selling their items "They came to me just for suggestions," Moran said. "It was really that simple."

With that, the idea was born. On Jan 9, Kiwanis officials presented a trauma kit to Holy Name of Mary School Principal JoAnn Vitiello and Msgr Tom Harold before members of the Crochet Club. Last May the two groups made a similar donation to Principal Mary Earvolino and the Rev. Gerald Cestare of Blessed Sacrament School. "I think this is a wonderful addition to our nursing program," Vitiello said of the trauma kit, adding that she hopes it never has to be used "We're just very grateful to the Kiwanis Club and the residents of Monica Village for their thoughtfulness."

The Crochet Club raised \$1,000 per trauma kit. The actual duffel bag and supplies were donated by the Friends of Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center at North Shore University hospital in Manhasset. The money raised by the residents of Monica Village goes toward education in the use of the pediatric trauma kits. Robert Coppola, president of the Valley Stream Kiwanis, explained that the nurse at Holy Name of Mary School would be invited to an upcoming training seminar



Members of the Crochet Club at Monica Village with officials from the Holy Name of Mary School and the Valley Stream Kiwanis Club.

"It's the education program that is saving lives, along with the kit," Coppola said. Al Bevilacqua, past governor of the New York Kiwanis District, said that in a 1991 study by Kiwanis, it was discovered that 25,000 children were dying each year from trauma related injuries. Bevilacqua explained that treatment within the first few minutes can often mean the difference between life and death.

In the 17 years since then, EMTs have become better trained and trauma kits have been provided for emergency vehicles for children. "It's not just us giving a duffel bag full of equipment," Bevilacqua said. "It's an entire process." The number of trauma related deaths has decreased by more than 30 percent, he explained. Kiwanis chapters all

across the country have worked to provide this life-saving equipment and training. "This is how we help the community," Bevilacqua said "If you need it, it's there. What better thing can you do then save a child's life?"

Dorothy Lambiaso-Artemisio is president of the Monica Village Crochet Club. She has six grandchildren of her own, and, she says, anything that can be done to make the world safer for children is meaningful. "We wanted to do something that would really help," Lambiaso-Artemisio said, adding that all members of the club think this is a good use of the money they raise.

Bevilacqua praised the ladies' hard work. "I have to give them a lot of credit," he said. "It's wonderful when you have a group that is so community-minded."

## LaGuardia Receives Mets Spirit Award

The Kiwanis Club of LAGUARDIA, Queens West Division – President Doris Mellina reports she had the honor of accepting the NY Mets, "METS SPRIT AWARD" given to a Kiwanis Club that has supported public awareness of KPTC. Accepting the award allowed her to praise and thank Rich DeCastro for his dedication to Kiwanis and KPTC. Rich has served as President of KPTC for the past two years. Immediate Past NY Governor Joe Corace is currently the President of KPTC.

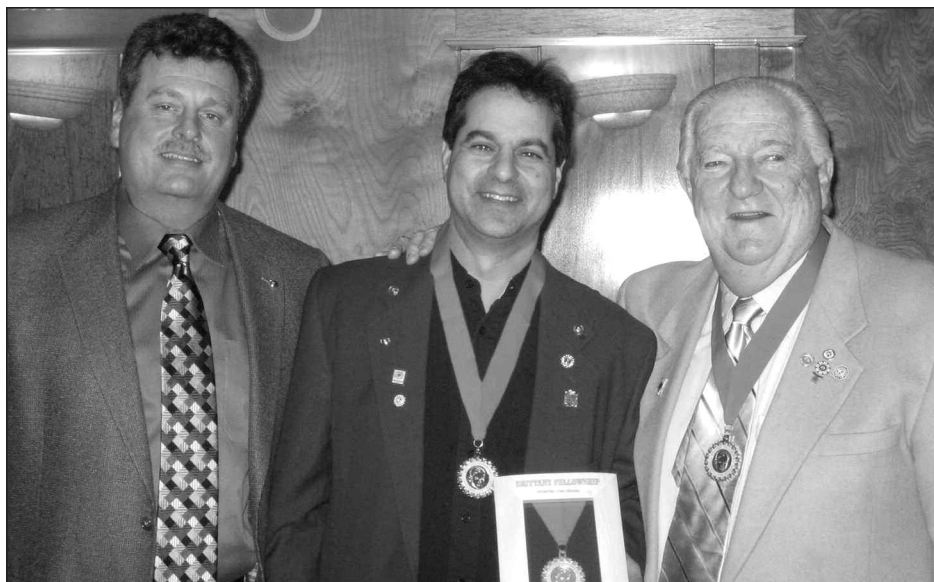
Since 1991, the New York District of Kiwanis International has created and supported the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center

at Schneider Children's Hospital at North Shore.

Through a variety of fundraising efforts, Kiwanis has also worked closely with the North Shore-LIJ Health System's Department of Health Education to provide funding for educational, safety and health programs, as well as informative literature for the schools and community.

In every serious injury there is a small window of time before a child suffers irreversible damage or dies. Most emergency care systems place the emphasis on adults. Children's needs are very different. For instance; a Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Kit is a child-sized ambulance equipment kit donated by local Kiwanis Clubs to local fire departments, ambulance corps, EMT units and police ambulances.

## DPLG Ditkovich Become Brittany Fellow



Kiwanis Club of FIVE TOWNS, Long Island Southwest Division – On March 13, 2008 the Five Towns Kiwanis Club held it's Award Night. The event took place at Mezzanotte Restaurant in Hewlett. Over 60 people were on hand to join in the festivities. DPLG Daniel Ditkovich was awarded the coveted Brittany Fellowship Award. The award is presented to a Kiwanian who contributes to the Brittany

*Pictured above left to right: Five Towns President Edward Monaco, Long Island Southwest DPLG Daniel Ditkovich, New York District Distinguished Past Governor John Gridley.*

Fund a program that helps in the research of Pediatric Lyme Disease. Kiwanis Governor John Gridley was on hand to present the award.

## DeMaria

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York District Convention.

This weekend will be under the theme "New York District ... Celebrating 60 Years" and will be one of the best yet! I encourage you to come to the Nevele Grand Resource March 28-30th and see what it is all about! Please speak to your clubs to ensure that they have registered. This year, registration forms will not be accepted upon arrival so please ensure that your clubs mail their paperwork in ahead of time.

On behalf of the New York District of Key Club International, I thank you for your continued support to our District! I encourage you to continue to strengthen your relations with your Key Clubbers and help our organization to flourish as a result. Remember: separately we can achieve great things, but united the Kiwanis Family is unstoppable. We have done an excellent job improving our K-Family Relations this past year but let's bring it a step further and continue to work together!