

**Pediatric
Lyme Disease**

**DPG John
Gridley**



The following is a letter that I received from a young person named Stephanie Szymanski in the East Aurora area who has chronic Lyme disease, and that the Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation has been helping.

I was diagnosed with Lyme disease nearly three years ago; but, my symptoms started about a year and a half before that. I went to various doctors, three neurologists, a few chiropractors, an infectious disease doctor and an ophthalmologist to try and have them figure out what was wrong with me. They all did many tests and gave me many different treatments and medications to try and help.

The first neurologist said my problems were psychosomatic. The second one wasn't sure what was wrong with

me; and the third one told me I had a convergence disorder. All those diagnoses were wrong and my parents had the same feeling. A chiropractor gave us a name of a specialist who treats Lyme disease. We got an appointment with her and she diagnosed me immediately.

The doctor put me on a 30 day IV; but, after 28 days I developed an allergy to the antibiotic. Various antibiotics were tried and continued with very little easing of symptoms. The doctor also believes in a holistic approach to healing and prescribed many vitamins, minerals and supplements to help my body heal.

All of this was out of pocket for my family as well as the doctor's visits. My parents used up all their savings, remortgaged our house, accepted money from family and had a fundraiser in September of 2013 to keep up with all of the expenses.

At the same time my illness took a downward turn and my doctor consulted with Dr. Charles Ray Jones in New Haven, CT. It was also at this time we were introduced to the New York District Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation. A member from the

local Kiwanis Club gave us Mr. John Gridley's telephone number. My mom spoke to him about a program that offers financial aid to families with children under 18. The Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation has generously covered our expenses. This has enabled doctor visits, including those to Dr. Jones as well as other doctors' visits to be covered. This has been a great relief to my family.

Words cannot express my gratitude for this help. The financial support from the foundation enabled us to pursue the additional help we needed from experts. The foundation gave my family the ability to carry on when we were desperate and needed it the most.

It is more than the money. By talking to Mr. Gridley, my Mom felt his compassion and understanding. It was heart warming to see the relief on her face when we were told about the financial assistance that we would receive.

Kiwanis has impacted our lives and we are eternally grateful.

The Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation is more than help; it is my lifesaver.

Sincerely, Juliet Szymanski (mom) and Stephanie.

**KPTC North
Shore**

**DPG Joseph
Corace**



Your Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center at Cohen Children's Medical Center ended the 2013-14 service year with one of its most successful Black & White Balls ever.

This annual fundraiser raised more than \$20,000 to support the trauma center's treatments and preventative safety education programs. The foundation board would like to thank all the Kiwanis Clubs and individual Kiwanians who supported the event by taking an ad, presenting a KPTC Fellow or attending the ball.

On behalf of the KPTC Foundation, please accept my thanks to the donors and congratulations to the new KPTC fellows: North Shore: Catherine DeStio, Thomas W. DeStio; East Meadow: Rosa Principato; Massapequa: Susan Febraro; All Island: Sean O'Sullivan; Chinatown: Wing F. Kwong, Sophia Ng, Jimmy Yee; Rosedale-Laurelton: Augusta Van Duzen, Robert Witherspoon; Howard Beach: Steven Sirgiiovanni; Ozone Park: Paul Capocasale

KPTC Diamond Fellows: Riverdale: Bob Rubinstein; Mapleton: Nydia Corace; Five Towns: Rita Bevilacqua;

Flushing: Linda Ng.

KPTC Second Diamond Fellows: Fordham: Dr. Rosemarie DeJulio, Past International President Thomas DeJulio.

In a first for our KPTC, several board members joined other Kiwanians on an extended Labor Day weekend trip to Jamaica to model our programs for our fellow Kiwanians in the Eastern Canada and Caribbean District. This program was coordinated by KPTC Director IPLG Ann Torcivia. More than 120 Jamaican children received safety training. A trauma kit and safety educational materials were given to the Kiwanis Club of Discovery Bay through a donation to KPTC from the Joey Foundation.

Kiwanians in the downstate areas served by the KPTC at Cohen Children's Medical Center are invited to our annual meeting on Nov. 13 at the hospital. This meeting is a great way to learn how your support of the trauma center is saving lives. At the meeting, the KPTC Board of Directors is elected.

Our KPTC Service Leadership Committee has also been especially active. Led by our new Chairperson Nicole Hallett of the WT Clarke Key Club, the committee has created a safety coloring book to be distributed to children who participate in the committee's Safe Kids workshops. The pages which reinforce the safety concept taught during the committee's safety workshops were created by committee members and local Key Clubbers. The Service Leadership Committee is grateful to the many

Clubs, divisions and Kiwanians who supported the project. The committee also thanks the Huntington Kiwanis Club for donating crayons which will be distributed with the books.

The Service Leadership Committee is also holding a fundraiser at Levittown Hall in Hicksville at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2. The International Cook-Off and Talent Show will feature a sampling of dishes from around the world entered by K-family members and their families, and talent that showcases our world's diverse cultures. The Service Leadership Committee is currently seeking entries in either category. For an entry form, please email Service Leadership Liaison Rich Santer at rs2wdd@aol.com. Tickets will be \$15 for Kiwanians and \$10 for SLP members and children.

North Shore Honored

On Oct. 1 the Kiwanis Club of North Shore, Long Island, was honored by the Salvation Army as the Volunteer Organization of the Year.

The Salvation Army, noted for its dedication and commitment in helping the needy and impoverished, has been a cause that is high on the list throughout the year for the club. The award recognizes the tireless and ongoing dedication necessary in helping others who are less fortunate.