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 migrans (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 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 plague 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 treatment and/or medication of 16 children through the New York District. Thank you to the following that have received a Lyme Disease Britanny Fellowship and have made all this possible:

Brox Westchester South Division Paula Angerama, Laura Berardi, Susan Bruculeri, Peter C. Caliendo, Ben Celaj, Don Ciota, Brian Hickey, Douglas Hickey, Maury Kahan, Patricia Mezzancello, Vincent Pistone, Angela Poltano, Cathy Racanelli, Dennis Rosa, Robert Rubinstein, Anato “Tony” Ruggiero, Kurt Schnier, Arlene Soto, Marsha Sulecki, Joseph Wuest, and Virginia Wuest

Brooklyn Division Joseph Corace, Frank DiSanto, Silvio Honovic, Continued on Page 13

As reprinted from Valley Herald

BY ANDREW HOCKMACK

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 Bissed Sacrament and Holy Name of Mary schools, children at those two facilities are in safer hands.

The Crochet Club at the Monica Village Senior 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 kit.

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 Kiwanians 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 John 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 Centure 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 duffle 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.

The Kiwanian Club of LAGUARDIA, Queens West Division – President Doris Mellina reports she had the honor of accepting the NY Mets, “MET’S SPIRIT 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 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 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?”

DPLG Ditkowich Become Brittany Fellow

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

LaGuardia Receives Mets Spirit Award

The Kiwanis Club of LAuardia, Queens West Division – President Doris Mellina reports she had the honor of accepting the NY Mets, “MET’S SPIRIT 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 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 agencies.