

## PRESS RELEASE

### LYME DISEASE ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES EASTERN CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

NORWICH, CONNECTICUT, November 6, 2007—The national Lyme Disease Association (LDA) announces the formation of the Lyme Disease Association, Eastern CT Chapter (LDAECC). Says LDA President Patricia V. Smith, “I am delighted to announce the creation of this chapter in an area which contains some of the highest Lyme disease occurrences in the country.” The LDA now has six chapters and ten affiliates across the country helping to educate and raise funds for Lyme disease research.

The Chapter’s formation was initiated by one family, personally affected by Lyme disease, deeply concerned by the prevalence of this disease. “As a Realtor, every day I speak to people who have been affected by Lyme and they are all reaching out for help and information. I want to be their resource”, says chapter director, Kimberlee Pappa, of Sprague, CT. Children are a special concern because they are at the highest risk of acquiring Lyme disease, and have the least ability to communicate their symptoms. Lyme is the most prevalent vector-borne disease in the country and has been joined by other co-infections prevalent in the Northeast including babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and bartonellosis, transmitted by the bite of the same ticks that carry the Lyme disease bacteria.

Chapter director Kim Pappa has 2 children suffering from chronic Lyme, and is aware of the learning difficulties caused by it. One of her children has already been referred for 504 services. Many parents are unaware that Lyme disease can interfere with the learning process, and many students require special accommodations in the classroom as a result. Lyme disease can cause numerous ongoing physical problems involving the cardiac, neurologic, and psychiatric systems, especially if treatment is delayed or incomplete.

The LDAECC can provide information, education, resources, and support. If you are interested in joining a local support group or want to volunteer your services or resources, please contact LDAECC at [easternctlda@yahoo.com](mailto:easternctlda@yahoo.com) or by calling 860-303-9020.

Two support groups have been started recently. One meets at Backus Hospital in Norwich the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. The other is meeting at Day-Kimball Hospital in Putnam, currently meeting the first Monday of the month at 12:00 noon. Call to confirm days/times. All are welcome.

You can find out more information by visiting the Lyme Disease Association’s website at [www.lymediseaseassociation.org](http://www.lymediseaseassociation.org).