

MEDICAL SUPPORT NPO OF THE YEAR

Lyme Treatment Foundation

Based in Florida, the Lyme Treatment Foundation is a volunteer led non-profit organisation specialising in medical support to patients with Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Launched in 2019, the foundation's impactful work has enabled it to offer medical testing and treatment grants to patients based across the U.S., Canada, Germany, and the UK – with more than \$800,000 raised in total towards medical support. Lyme Treatment Foundation's founder, Wendy Phillips, developed the organisation after her own first-hand experience of the devastating effects of these diseases – and discovering how expensive treatment was. As a result, the inspirational foundation has awarded hundreds of testing and treatment grants to patients since it was established and is dedicated to fulfilling its mission of making Lyme disease treatment a reality for all who need it.

Lyme disease – alongside other tick-borne illnesses – are widely misunderstood as their symptoms often mimic other conditions, leading to frequent misdiagnosis or no diagnosis at all. Late-stage diagnosis is common, leading to a condition known as chronic Lyme disease which leaves many patients unable to go to work, school, or care for their families – and unable to pay for the treatment they so desperately require. The strong campaigning that Wendy and the Lyme Treatment Foundation has carried out since 2019 has been staggering, and enabled it to raised hundreds of thousands of dollars through partnerships with organisations such as the Avril Lavigne Foundation, which also supports individuals with Lyme disease. The organisation has met with U.S. senators and congressmen and women to advocate for improved treatment, and begun funding research in collaboration with the UK's University of Oxford.

The judging panel was particularly impressed by the level of fundraising and support that the organisation has carried out over the last 12 months. The Lyme Treatment Foundation raised \$187,000 in 2023 alone, enabling it to offer testing and treatment grants to 103 individuals. The foundation's strong partnership network and commitment to campaigning for improved Lyme disease testing and treatment has raised awareness of this serious condition exponentially, and enabled Wendy and her team to offer grants to patients in multiple parts of the globe.



The Lyme Treatment Foundation's tireless efforts have made Lyme disease testing and treatment more accessible than ever.



**LYME TREATMENT
FOUNDATION**
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