

Florida, USA

MEDICAL SUPPORT NPO OF THE YEAR

Lyme Treatment Foundation

Launched in 2019, the Lyme Treatment Foundation is a volunteer-led non-profit focused on providing financial medical support to people living with Lyme disease and related tick-borne illnesses. Operating from Boca Raton, Florida, the organisation coordinates testing and treatment grants for patients across the United States, Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom. Founded by Wendy Phillips following her own diagnosis in 2017, the initiative has awarded hundreds of grants while working to reduce the financial burden faced by families navigating complex and frequently misunderstood conditions.

Lyme disease and associated infections remain widely underdiagnosed due to inconsistent testing and symptoms that often mirror other illnesses, leaving many patients without clear treatment pathways. The foundation has responded by combining direct patient support with advocacy, awareness campaigns and strategic partnerships designed to strengthen understanding of tick-borne diseases. Collaboration with organisations including the Avril Lavigne Foundation has broadened fundraising reach and visibility, while engagement with policymakers has highlighted the need for improved diagnostic standards and accessible specialist care. Alongside these efforts, the charity has raised \$900,000 for testing, treatment and research and have awarded more than 500 testing and treatment grants. They have also expanded into research funding, supporting biomedical work exploring new pharmacological approaches to persistent infections in partnership with the University of Oxford.

The judging panel was particularly impressed by the foundation's ability to translate personal experience into structured, measurable impact at an international scale. Its volunteer model demonstrates how focused leadership and clear mission alignment can deliver significant outcomes without extensive overheads, ensuring resources are directed where they are most needed. The organisation's dual emphasis on immediate patient assistance and long-term research reflects a strategic understanding of both urgent and systemic challenges within Lyme care. By addressing financial barriers, promoting awareness and investing in scientific progress simultaneously, the foundation has built a sustainable framework that supports individuals today while contributing to future treatment pathways, reinforcing its reputation as a meaningful force within the global tick-borne illness community.



Lyme Treatment Foundation passionately empowers Lyme patients worldwide through funding, advocacy, and groundbreaking research.



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