



CENTRAL NEW YORK
LYME & TICK-BORNE
DISEASE ALLIANCE





BOARD CHAIR THOUGHTS

Two years ago, Central New York faced a tough health challenge and a terrible irony.

The Challenge:

Swiftly growing incidence of Lyme and tick-borne disease.

The Irony:

Multiple, excellent resources to combat the threat, but little, if any, coordination of effort.
In a word, silos.

Who Suffered Most:

Patients, especially those with so-called “Chronic Lyme” — life-changing, life-threatening symptoms hanging on for years, sometimes decades.

It was complicated, but really so simple. We needed answers. And we needed a 1+1 = 3, collaborative approach to finding them.

Fast-forward to today: We face the same tough threat presented by ticks, but silos are disappearing as we connect dots. Doctors, nurses, scientists and community members sit on our board and work together behind the scenes between monthly meetings. Thousands of people engage in our social media posts and conversations. Elected officials have us on their screens. Perplexities of the multiple diseases persist, but we’re tackling them with a rock star team intent on finding answers. “No one is doing it like this in the country,” we’ve been told by Scott Santarella, former CEO of the [Global Lyme Alliance](http://www.cnlymealliance.org).

Please read on. This is our first “annual” report, covering a little more than our start-up year of operation. We’ve had a lot of help from a lot of people, to whom we’re deeply grateful. We’re on our way.

Anne Messenger,
Board Chair



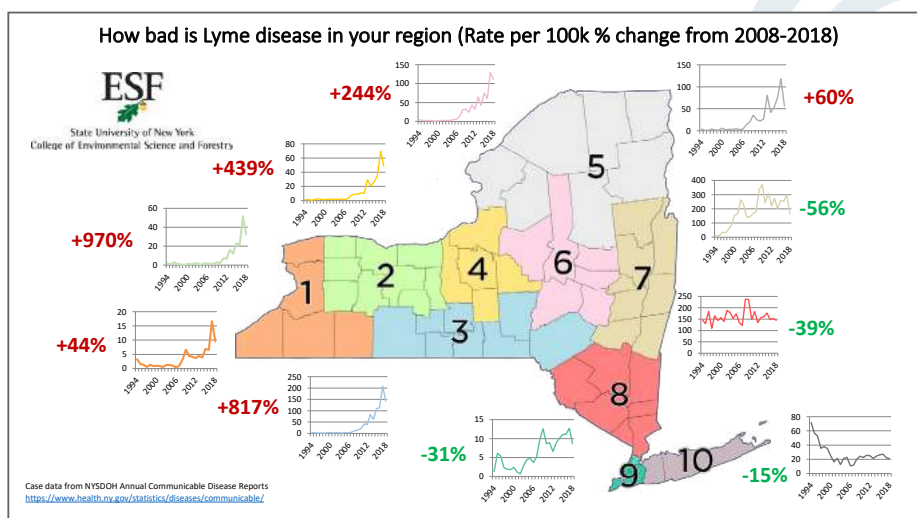
OUR PURPOSE

The CNY Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Alliance is a collaborative of providers, scientists and community members who **support research, drive education** and **promote awareness** to combat tick-borne diseases.

CENTRAL NEW YORK HAS A PROBLEM. A BIG ONE.

Central New York, an epicenter of Lyme and tick-borne disease, is at the edge of a health crisis.

It's logical for CNY to be the epicenter of research and treatment as well. For years, patients and families have spent time, energy and money going hours and miles away for help, many times with little, if any, positive outcomes. Underserved persons have been disproportionately affected to a significant degree.



TELLING THE STORY. IT'S URGENT. IT'S PERSONAL.

Friends have shared the profound challenges of living with Lyme disease. Their experiences keep us on task. We're grateful for their courage in telling their stories.

View the story at: cnylymealliance.org/lyme-stories



WE'VE EVOLVED FROM CONCEPT TO ORGANIZATION



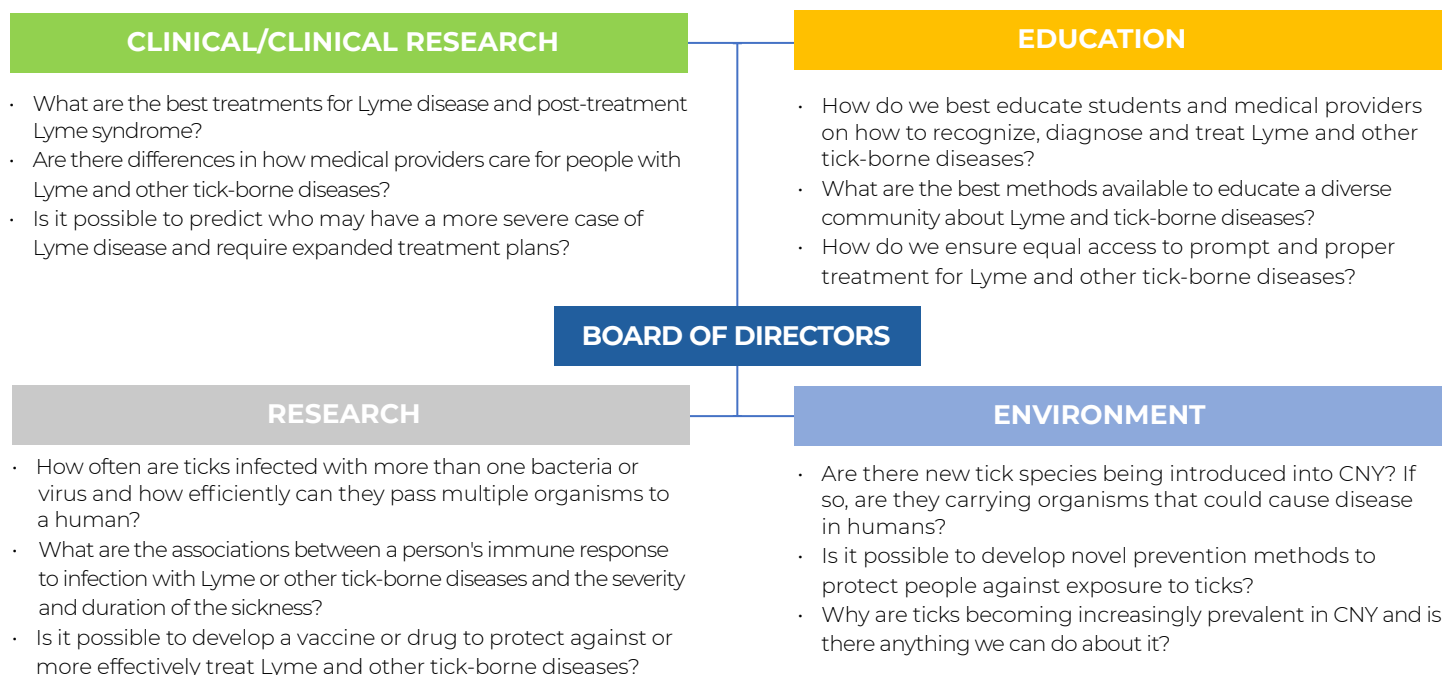
WHAT WE'VE DONE IN ONE SHORT YEAR, FROM START-UP TO OPERATIONAL

We're in the business of dissolving silos and connecting dots. "Collaboration" is the name of our game. *It's our differentiator.*

No one is doing it like this in the country.

- Scott Santarella, former CEO of the [Global Lyme Alliance](http://GlobalLymeAlliance.org)

Along the way, the cross-functional Alliance has been intensely focused on finding effective, evidence-based answers to questions that fall within four foundational pillars – **Clinical/Clinical Research, Education, Research, Environment**.



Assembled a team:

•Board •Board Officers •Executive Director



Adopted a name, bylaws and governance policies and incorporated and attained 501(c)(3) status.

Adopted four operational pillars:

•Clinical/Clinical Research, Education, Research and Environment

Developed a track to the Upstate Medical University's Tick and Mosquito-Borne Diseases Laboratory for free tick tests: <https://nyticks.org>.

Received funds from seven foundations:

•Allyn, CNYCF, Gifford, Mother Cabrini Health, Revoir, Reisman and Shineman

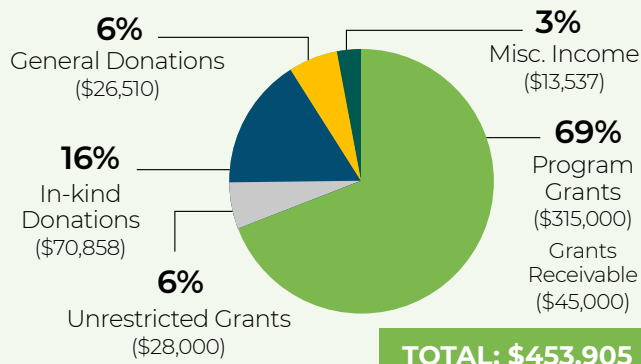
Held education sessions for a broad range of audiences, including community engagement professionals, garden clubs, Girl Scouts and its leaders, community organizations, Rotary clubs, Thursday Morning Roundtable and neighborhoods.

Met with county health departments and local and state elected officials.

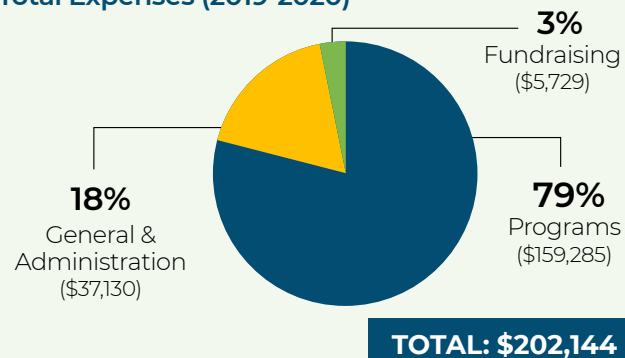


FINANCIALS TO DATE

Total Revenue and Support (2019-2020)



Total Expenses (2019-2020)



CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE



*Thank you to our
donors for their
generous support!*

Foundation Support

Allyn Family Foundation
Central New York Community Foundation
Frank and Frances Revoir Foundation
Mother Cabrini Health Foundation
Richard S. Shineman Foundation
The Gifford Foundation
The Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation

Corporate Support

Bond, Schoeneck & King
Business Document Solutions, Inc.
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Gifts of \$500+

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Gifts of \$100+

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LEADERSHIP TEAM



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Executive Director



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Chair, Communications
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Roman Catholic
Diocese of Syracuse



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Meg O'Connell
Member, Governance
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SUNY Center for
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Biology Laboratories SUNY
Upstate Medical University



Stephen J. Thomas, MD
Vice Chair
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Translational Science Infectious
Disease Associates

WHAT'S NEXT?

We have a long to-do list for 2021. Three items at the top:

1.



Broaden geographic scope
to a three-county area to
include Onondaga, Oswego
and Madison counties.

2.



Design and run
a CME course and/or
symposium.

3.



Hire
an Education Coordinator.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

There are many ways to support the work of the Central New York Lyme & Tick-Borne Disease Alliance. Visit www.cnylymealliance.org to find out how you can help today.

We're adapted for life
in a virtual world!

**Please follow us on
social media!**



<https://www.facebook.com/CNYLymeAlliance>



<https://www.instagram.com/cnylymealliance>



<https://twitter.com/cnylyme>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cny-lyme-and-tick-borne-disease-alliance>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PROFOUND THANKS

We're pleased to have had the guidance and support of the Global Lyme Alliance in helping CNY launch an effort to research, educate, treat and advocate for Lyme and tick-borne diseases. We emerged from its fiscal sponsorship in 2020, but it continues to be a strong collaborative partner. We greatly value its support and are proud to participate in the GLA Lyme Education Ambassador Program.

We would also like to thank the media for helping tell our story.

A 2020 sampling:

APRIL

"[Outdoor Alert](#)" &
MD News article:
"[Targeting Tick-Borne
Disease in Central
New York](#)"

MAY

Dan Cummings' Newsmakers:
"[Lyme Disease](#)" and
Syracuse.com editorial:
"[Watch out for ticks, the bug
you can do something about](#)"

JUNE

Syracuse.com video:
"[CNY scientists collect
ticks to see if rare virus
makes Lyme more
dangerous](#)"

JULY

Syracuse.com article:
"[Upstate, ESF aim to
be national leaders in
fighting Lyme, other
tick-borne diseases](#)"

OCTOBER

Syracuse.com
article: "[Tick-borne
bacteria that causes
symptoms worse
than Lyme disease
found in CNY](#)"

We're very encouraged by the groundswell of public support — calls, questions, ideas and, again, stories. They remind us, every day, of the challenges facing our community and the urgency of our work.

Thank you!

