

CENTRAL NEW YORK  
**LYME & TICK-BORNE**  
DISEASE ALLIANCE



## GROWTH & PROGRESS

### Two words succinctly capture the work of the CNY Lyme & Tick-Borne Disease Alliance – "Growth" and "Progress."

As I begin my new role as Chair of the Board, I am honored and grateful to build upon the vision and leadership of Anne Messenger, Founding Chair, Royale Scuderi, Executive Director, and our incredibly committed board members.

We began a mere four years ago knowing that we were on the cusp of a health care crisis and needed to bring together researchers, clinicians and Lyme and other tick-borne disease patients and prevention experts. It was then that we learned "no one was doing it like this in the country," according to Scott Santorella, former Executive Director of the Global Lyme Alliance.

We haven't taken that comment lightly, and have moved at a feverish pace to raise awareness, drive education and offer support to those affected by Lyme disease. You will see in this report that much has been done. There is still so much more to do, and we need your support, your energy and your commitment.

#### How can you help? Easy ~

- **Learn about Lyme** – visit our website often ([cnylymealliance.org](http://cnylymealliance.org))
- **Help spread the word** – follow us on social media and share our content
- **Donate to our organization** – easy to do on the website
- **Join us** at the Legs Against Lyme Walk on June 1
- **Follow us** at the Lyme Summit 2024
- **Invite our educators** to your work or community groups
- **Join or refer** Lyme patients to our support group
- **Volunteer** to help raise awareness

#### Growth and Progress!

I guarantee that after reading this report, you will respond as one of our newest board members did — "Wow, so much accomplished. Go Team!"



Danielle Cummings  
Board Chair

## PROGRESS

### Look how far we've come in a few short years with your support

# 10

In 2020, we started with 0 staff members; in 2023, we added another **FT Educator + PT Development Coordinator, bringing us to 4 staff, a PT communications consultant and 5 education volunteers.**



In 2020, during COVID, we conducted 18 events for 531 individuals. We've experienced so much growth since, that in 2023, Lyme Alliance staff and volunteers conducted **71 events and provided hands-on education for 7,500 individuals.**



From 2020-2023, we have **distributed a combined total of 17,000 copies of our English/Spanish educational handout** throughout our three-county region with the help of area businesses, nonprofits and community partners.



In 2021, we met with elected officials and started building relationships; in 2022, we advocated for awareness and funding, receiving an award of \$68,000 in NYS funding. In 2023, we continued to **expand our advocacy efforts with a resulting \$50,000 NYS award and a \$75,000 award from Onondaga County to continue our crucial work.**



In 2021, we started a summer camp program for 500 children in Onondaga County, and by 2023, we **expanded our youth education program to 2,500 youths in three counties.**



In 2021, we designed and distributed 500 tick kits, and in 2023 we improved our tick kit design and **distributed 2,500 tick kits plus added 1,000 youth bags and flashlights for our young participants** in our youth education program.



In 2022, we held our first-ever Lyme Summit with 50 attendees. In 2023 we held our second Lyme Summit here in Syracuse with **nationally recognized speakers to provide education for healthcare providers with 131 attendees.**



In 2023, we held our second annual successful Legs Against Lyme Walk with nearly **200 registrants and a 60% increase in funds raised.**



In 2023, we continued to increase visibility and awareness with interviews, PSAs, an expanded social media following, **increasing website visitors and multiple billboards in more than 1 million impressions annually.**

## THANK YOU

*Anne Messenger*

YEARS OF  
LEADERSHIP AND  
VISION AS CHAIR



*Congratulations*

**on BOARD CHAIR!**

**DANIELLE E.  
CUMMINGS**



CENTRAL NEW YORK  
LYME & TICK-BORNE  
DISEASE ALLIANCE

## SECOND ANNUAL LYME SUMMIT

### 2023 LYME & TICK-BORNE DISEASE SUMMIT GROWTH

We were thrilled to have had a full house at our Second Annual Lyme Summit on September 28 and 29, 2023, here in Syracuse with nationally recognized speakers to provide education for healthcare providers. We were joined by 131 attendees, scientists, doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, veterinarians, funders, patients and more. So much listening, so many conversations, so much learning!

[cnylymealliance.org/lymesummit](https://cnylymealliance.org/lymesummit)



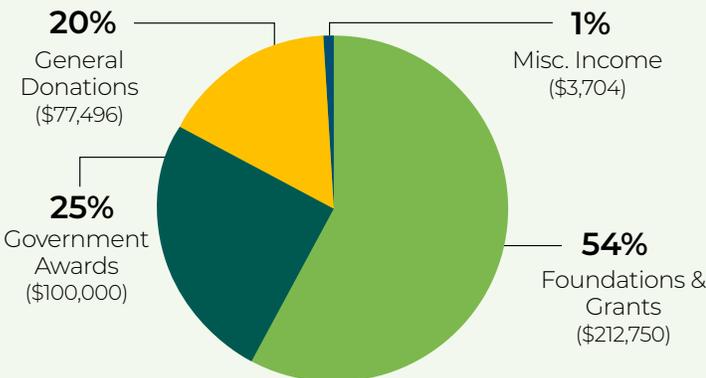
## SECOND ANNUAL LEGS AGAINST LYME WALK

On May 13, 2023, we gathered with Central New York's Lyme Warriors for the second Annual Legs Against Lyme Walk at Long Branch Park! With the leadership of Legs Against Lyme Walk Chair Nicole Sommovilla, this year's walk was another extraordinary, tick-free event!



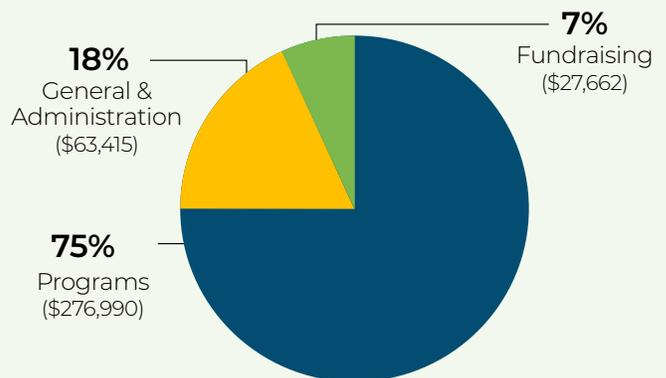
## 2023 FINANCIALS

### WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



**TOTAL: \$393,950**

### WHERE THE MONEY GOES



**TOTAL: \$368,067**

## CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2023

### Foundation Support

Dorothy and Marshall Reisman Foundation  
Frank and Frances Revoir Foundation  
Kinney Drugs Foundation

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation  
Richard S. Shineman Foundation  
Rose Family Foundation



### Corporate Support

Dannible & McKee, LLP  
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield  
Insect Shield  
KeyBank  
Kinney Drugs

Northland Communications  
Pinckney Hugo Group  
Ranger Ready  
SUNY Upstate Institute for Global Health

Velocity Clinical Research  
Warne/McKenna Advertising  
Wegmans

### Gifts of \$1,000+

Fatme Allam, MD  
Eric Allyn & Meg O'Connell  
Catherine Bertini  
J. Andrew Breuer  
Julie Colvin, MD  
Barbara Connor, MD

Elizabeth Etoll  
Kristin Gamble  
Christine Herb  
Michela Hugo  
Zalie & Bob Linn  
Ryan Maness & Virgie Townsend

Anne Messenger  
The Pinckney Family  
Douglas Wojcik, DVM

### Gifts of \$500+

Carla Nielson

### Gifts of \$100+

Advocates Incorporated  
Darlene Babcock  
Danielle Cummings  
Molly Cummings  
William Evans  
Tyler Forbes

Nassib Habayeb  
William Kinne  
Pat Lamb  
Carly Mayenzet  
Emilija Postolovska  
Patrick Riccardi

M. Catherine Richardson  
Michelle Saya  
Royale Scuderi  
Kathy Slattery  
Saravanan Thangamani, PhD  
Stephen J. Thomas, MD

Kristopher Paolino, MD  
Jackie Vercillo  
James Wright  
Douglas Wood

## LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Fatme Allam, MD**  
Clinical Associate Professor of  
Medicine/Rheumatology,  
Upstate Medical University,  
Chief of Rheumatology,  
Syracuse VA Medical Center



**Elizabeth Balfour**  
Education Coordinator,  
CNY Lyme & Tick-Borne  
Disease Alliance



**Julie Colvin, MD**  
Family Medicine, St.  
Joseph's Physicians



**Danielle Cummings**  
Board Chair  
Chancellor, Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Syracuse



**Jonah Cummings**  
Educator



**Nicole Fragnito**  
Development Coordinator



**Joseph Hardick, CPA,  
CCIF**  
Board Treasurer  
Tax Partner, Dannible &  
McKee



**Michael Jennings II**  
Wealth Consultant,  
Brackens Financial  
Solutions Network



**Wesley D. Kufel, PharmD,  
BCIDP, BCPS, AAHIVP**  
Chair, Governance  
Committee  
Clinical Assistant Professor of  
Pharmacy Practice, SUNY  
Binghamton School of Pharmacy



**Shantina Hines Kyles**  
Board Secretary  
Spinal Cord Injury Manager



**Brian Leydet, MPH, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, SUNY  
College of Environmental  
Science and Forestry (ESF)



**Ryan Maness**  
Director and Counsel, Tax  
Policy, MultiState Associates



**Anne Messenger**  
Chapter Chair, Women  
Presidents' Organization



**Kristopher Paolino, MD,  
MTM&H, FACP**  
Board Medical Director  
Assistant Professor of Medicine;  
Assistant Professor of Microbiology  
and Immunology, SUNY Upstate  
Medical University



**Georgina Pinckney**  
Chair, Development  
Committee  
Tick-Borne Disease Advocate



**Emilija Postolovska,  
MPH**  
Director of Workforce  
Innovation, CenterState CEO



**Elizabeth Ruscitto**  
Private Consultant



**Michelle Saya, RN,  
BSN, MSM**  
VP of Compliance,  
Kur Research



**Royale Scuderi**  
Executive Director,  
CNY Lyme &  
Tick-Borne Disease  
Alliance



**Simone Seward, MPH, PhD**  
Board Vice Chair  
Director, Health Equity  
Research and Programs  
Director, Center for Civic  
Engagement, SUNY  
Upstate Medical University



**Saravanan Thangamani, PhD**  
Director, Vector Biology  
Laboratories, SUNY Upstate  
Medical University; Department  
of Microbiology and Immunology,  
Director, SUNY Center for  
Environmental Health and Medicine



**Douglas E. Wojcik,  
DVM**  
Owner, Liverpool  
Animal Hospital



## WHAT'S NEXT?

We have a long to-do list for 2024. At the top:

1.

**Increase community awareness and engagement** to address differing needs of diverse communities throughout our region.

2.

**Grow our youth education program** to include a K-12 curriculum in area schools. When you teach a child, you teach a generation.

3.

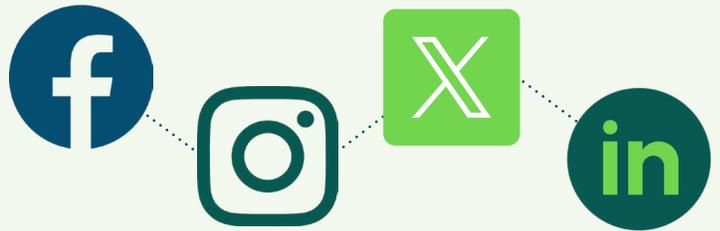
**Expand our provider education program** beyond the annual Lyme Summit to include medical students and provider education year-round.

## HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

There are many ways to support the work of the Central New York Lyme & Tick-Borne Disease Alliance. Visit [cnylymealliance.org](https://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!**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PROFOUND THANKS

When it comes to progress, we send our most grateful thanks to those who've stuck with us! We are ever grateful to our donors, community partners, legislators, media and volunteers. We are encouraged by the groundswell of public support — calls, questions, ideas and stories. They remind us, every day, of the challenges facing our community and the urgency of our work.

**Thank you!**

