

LymeAid 4 Kids: Lyme Disease Association & Amy Tan, Partners



Internationally acclaimed author Amy Tan said the following this week to LDA in continued support of its LymeAid 4 Kids fund “My heart goes out to undiagnosed children who face not only the painful and debilitating effects of this disease but are at risk for a lifetime of poor self-esteem.” Ms. Tan, herself a victim of chronic Lyme disease with neurologic symptoms, approached the LDA in 2003.



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resident, Pat Smith at the Lyme Disease Association/Columbia Conference 2008 in San Francisco, California

We worked together with the LDA attorney and a Lyme literate physicians to devise a fund which we named LymeAid 4 Kids (LA4K). We announced the fund's creation with Amy Tan at the LDA/Columbia 2003 Philadelphia Lyme & Tick-Borne Diseases scientific conference. She presented the initial check on stage to the LDA President.

Thanks to continued support from Ms. Tan and from people like you, since that time, the LDA has awarded \$338,400, including \$45,000 in 2016, for children from states all across the country, enabling children whose families face financial hardship to begin the process of a Lyme diagnosis and Lyme treatment.



NY Times Bestselling Author Amy Tan presenting check for LymeAid 4 Kids to Pat Smith, President, Lyme Disease Assoc. Money is available for diagnosis/treatment of children who have no insurance coverage for Lyme Disease.
Amy Tan LymeAid 4 Kids Presentation

In 2015, according to CDC statistics, almost 400,000 new cases of Lyme occurred in the US. Children ages 5-9, 10-14 are at the highest risk of acquiring the disease, and the LDA has calculated that 30% of CDC reported Lyme cases are children ages 0-19, with 5% of the cases children ages 0-5. These are children who struggle every day to get out of bed, to shower or bathe, to do school work. Sometimes, children with chronic Lyme are unable to do one or more of those things for weeks, month, or years of their lives. Many grow up not remembering a time they were well and were unable to have friends, to play, or to attend school due to their Lyme disease symptoms.

The fund is almost depleted. LA4K applications to help our children continue to arrive. Your help is needed now; your donations of any amount are welcome. Join us in our fight to provide an early diagnosis and early treatment for the hundreds of thousands of children afflicted with this debilitating disease. Together, we can help prevent children across the United States of America from living **The Eternal Nightmare**.

[Click on Video Below](#)

The Eternal Nightmare

We stand here...and wonder
why it is dark,
A haze covers our lives,
severing us from the world.
We search, grasp—there's nothing to support us.
No longer do we laugh; we only cry grown up tears.
Our childhood is shattered, our souls stung and wounded.

Will sun rays ever reach the children with Lyme?

This poem, written by a teen who had chronic Lyme & seizures, paints the bleak picture children who develop chronic Lyme often face. Together, author Amy Tan and the Lyme Disease Association (LDA) have worked to bring those "sun rays" to the children of Lyme.

Click here to read in East Brunswick Sentinel News: How a child helps other children with Lyme disease