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NRFTD raises \$80,000 plus for Research into Lyme and Other Tick-Borne Diseases

Greenwich, CT – November 2, 2006 – The National Research Fund for Tick-Borne Diseases, Inc. (NRFTD) today announced it raised more than \$80,000 for scientific research into Lyme and other tick-borne diseases at a cocktail party hosted by Greenwich residents Barbara and Joseph Walsh. The third event in a series of cocktail parties held to support the NRFTD's year-long campaign, "New Research, New Hope, New Friends," attracted more than 60 concerned citizens from Fairfield and Westchester counties. The Walsh's explained to their guests, "We became interested in the NRFTD because of its unique mission and quick turnaround of dollars to funding research. We know that the dollars raised will transform the NRFTD's research into meaningful results for children and their families suffering with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases." Also in attendance was Nikhat Parveen, Ph.D., one of two NRFTD 2005 grant recipients. Dr. Parveen answered guests' questions about the focus of her research and why the NRFTD's unbiased approach to research is so important and attractive to scientists nationally.

Dr. Leo J. Shea III, Chair of the NRFTD's Board of Directors, described the urgent need for credible unbiased scientific research. "The NRFTD's mission is to raise funds and deliver them as quickly as possible to scientific researchers who have been carefully screened by our prestigious Scientific Advisory Board. The Board is comprised of nationally-respected scientists who bring to their deliberations no pre-conceived views about tick-borne diseases. Furthermore, the Board is assisted by an external committee of other scientist-evaluators from prominent medical institutions. The balance of theoretical beliefs allows the Board to take an unbiased view of the research, evaluate all of the grant proposals in an objective fashion and select only those grants that offer the most promising possibilities. The grants selected will have a purity of research that will deter the results from challenge and thus, will be accepted more readily into the nation's most respected peer-reviewed journals."

Cathy Morrissey, NRFTD founder and Chair of its Research Board, explained the unique mission of the NRFTD, which is the only non-profit organization in the nation devoted exclusively to funding research in the field of tick-borne diseases. Its mission to accelerate the advancement of scientific understanding regarding Lyme and tick-borne diseases into tangible results for patients is unique. She said, "What is so remarkable about our funding process is that once we issue a call for research applications, we can put your donations to work in the lab within six months. No other organization can say that or has done that. That's why so many people are beginning to see us as the organization that is on the frontline of expediting research for Lyme and other tick-borne disease."

The enthusiasm of those attending was evidenced not only by the number and quality of their questions but also by \$40,000 offered in matching grants as well as pledges that will exceed \$100,000 by year's end.

About the National Research Fund for Tick-Borne Diseases, Inc.

The NRFTD is a nonprofit organization devoted to funding scientific research in the rapidly expanding field of tick-borne diseases. It is determined to advance scientific understanding of these complicated infections by sponsoring innovative research of the highest quality at premier institutions throughout the world.

The NRFTD was founded in 1999 to address the complex and critical research questions raised by thousands of patients afflicted with emerging tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease, relapsing fever borrelia, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, bartonella and ehrlichiosis. The need for answers has grown markedly as Lyme disease has spread dramatically throughout the country and as other tick-borne infections have been recognized as public health threats. For more information about the NRFTD, or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.nrftd.org.

National Research Fund for
Tick-Borne Diseases, Inc.

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