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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NRFTD raises \$25,000 for Research into Lyme and Other Tick-Borne Diseases**

WILTON, CT – April 12, 2006 – The National Research Fund for Tick-Borne Diseases, Inc. (NRFTD) today announced it raised \$25,000 for scientific research into Lyme and other tick-borne diseases at a cocktail party hosted by Wilton residents, Jay and Mark Lux. The event, which kicked off a year long campaign, “New Research, New Hope and New Friends”, attracted over 50 concerned citizens from throughout Fairfield and Westchester counties. Guests, some of whom had experienced Lyme disease personally and some of whom were there to support sick friends, listened carefully as Chairman of the Board, Leo J. Shea, III, Ph.D., of New York University Medical Center, described the urgent need for credible scientific research.

“The rapid spread of Lyme disease, which area residents know all too well can have devastating effects if not caught and treated promptly, is now complicated by the rise of other serious tick-borne infections,” Dr. Shea reported. “It’s not just Lyme disease anymore. The tolls these infections exact are high, not just physically, but also emotionally and economically. Individuals, families, school systems and employers all feel the effects. Scientific research is critically important to improve testing, diagnosis, and treatment of these insidious diseases.”

Dr. Shea, together with 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 strictly to funding research in the field of tick-borne diseases. With the help of its world-class Scientific Advisory Board, the NRFTD has launched an unprecedented research effort using a rigorous grant review process modeled on National Institutes of Health criteria. Brian Fallon, MD, a nationally known researcher at Columbia University and a NRFTD Scientific Advisor, reinforced the rigorous ethical and scientific standards utilized by the NRFTD in awarding its grants. The NRFTD has succeeded in attracting grant applications from many of the best investigators in the world.

With as many as half of all households affected by Lyme in some endemic areas, and with Lyme case reports rising dramatically, the need to understand tick-borne disease has never been greater. The NRFTD is determined to find answers as quickly and as credibly as possible by raising funds efficiently and putting them to work immediately. Projects are chosen carefully for maximum impact in peer-reviewed medical journals or at

scientific conferences. In this era of budgetary cutbacks, funding from private sources is urgently needed to relieve the suffering of thousands of patients, and prevent the suffering of thousands more at risk as tick-borne diseases spread through the nation.

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

The NRFTD, founded in 1999, is a nonprofit organization devoted to funding scientific research in the rapidly expanding field of tick-borne diseases. It aims to advance scientific understanding of these complicated infections by sponsoring innovative research at premier institutions throughout the world.

For more information about the NRFTD, or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit [www.nrftd.org](http://www.nrftd.org).

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