



EXECUTIVE BIOS



Melissa Bell is a wife, mother, and an attorney at law with a background in finance. Melissa's family has been profoundly impacted by Lyme disease. While very sympathetic to the plight that adults face, what truly fuels her passion for advocacy are the children who silently suffer from ravaging, debilitating symptoms. In 2013, Melissa founded [Florida Lyme Disease Association](#), a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The following year, Melissa recognized the need for the Lyme community to collaborate and formed a Lyme Disease Challenge Facebook planning group, that provided a platform for members of the Lyme community to brainstorm on an effective, grassroots, Lyme disease awareness campaign. The #TakeABiteOutOfLymeDisease campaign went viral in its inaugural year and was embraced by celebrities, athletes, public figures, Lyme patients and their supporters. While Melissa has worked tirelessly on the campaign since its inception, she recognizes collaboration by the Lyme community is what makes the Lyme Disease Challenge a reality.



Ozlem Jones is an entrepreneur, [blogger](#) and professional development mentor. She owns an Information Technology consulting firm, [Hannibal Global](#), providing emerging Network technologies, engineering and consulting services. She is one of the original co-founders of Lyme Disease Challenge Campaign. Ozlem Jones and her family has chronic Lyme disease and its co-infections as a consequences of late diagnosis and lack of awareness. She believes in the importance of awareness for early diagnosis and the power of the social media to raise that awareness. She sees the social media as a platform for collaboration,

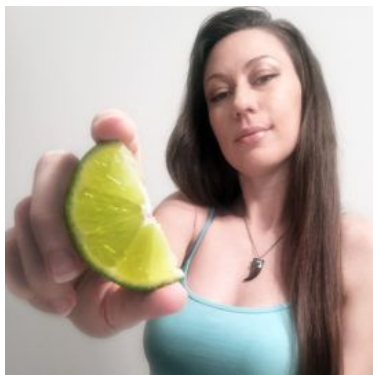


knowledge sharing and building a social support system especially for those who are ill and has no connection with outside world. This is what led her to join this wonderful grassroots campaign.



Jenny Leiwica Buttaccio is a writer, an editor, and an occupational therapist. Her written work has appeared in leading publications like HuffPost, Real Simple, Men's Health, Prevention Magazine, Reader's Digest, and more. In addition to her [blog](#), she's published more than 40 articles on one, specific topic — Lyme disease! After a grueling search to find answers for her declining health, she was diagnosed with Lyme disease in 2012. Jenny is passionate about regaining her health and helping others heal along the way. She joined the Lyme Disease

Challenge team to raise awareness and much-needed, research funds for an illness that afflicts many. Each year, the campaign's positive messaging brings hope and encouragement to those who are struggling all around the world.



Jenny Menzel is an independent graphic artist, certified health coach and student of Ayurveda. As she continues to repair the damage left by Lyme, she aspires to inspire others on the chronic healing journey to keep faith and motivate themselves to pave their own paths of transformation with her blog [Light on Shadows](#). She has been donating her branding and design services to LDC since it's launch in 2015.



Nicki Nysven is a mom on a mission to spread the word. Lyme Disease Awareness has become crucial to Nicki and her husband who are parents of two children who both have been highly affected by tick-borne illnesses. Although she has been raising much-needed awareness locally where she lives, she felt in her heart that more



needs to be done for her children's future and that of all the others suffering from these horrible diseases. Nicki thought that the Lyme Disease Challenge Campaign was a perfect opportunity to spread awareness in a fun and positive way.



Olivia Goodreau is our Junior Ambassador, who is a fierce 12 years old battling Lyme Disease. At the age of 6, Olivia was bitten by a tick in Missouri. It took over 50 doctors to diagnose Olivia with Lyme disease. Olivia started the LivLyme Foundation to raise money for children that cannot afford their Lyme medication and to raise money to find a cure for all of us suffering from Lyme disease. Olivia has successfully challenged state elected officials and the cast of Modern Family to Take a Bite out of Lyme Disease, among others. Olivia

would like for you to remember “you are just one bite away from getting Lyme Disease.”