

A Time for Lyme holding gala

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Time for Lyme, Inc., a nonprofit Lyme disease prevention, education, research and advocacy group, has announced plans for its fifth gala to raise funds for Lyme disease research and education, including the first endowed Lyme Disease Research Center at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City.

The themed gala, A Rockin' House Party, is Saturday, March 3, at the Hyatt Regency in Greenwich.

Tommy Hilfiger, designer of the one of the most widely-recognized and innovative brands, will be honored with Time for Lyme's Public Awareness Award.

"I am delighted to be honored by the Time for Lyme organization," Hilfiger said. "It is an incredibly important organization that strives to educate people and raise awareness about this disease. I don't think many people realize just how debilitating Lyme disease can really be. But this organization has dedicated itself to the cause, truly making a difference in early detection, prevention, and ultimately helping to ensure a higher rate of cure for this illness."

A cocktail reception and silent auction begins at 6 p.m. Dinner and a live auction with a short program will follow.

The live auction features The Robb Report Car of the Year Experience, which gives car enthusiasts the opportunity to test drive the world's finest 2008 model cars with the Robb Report editors. It all takes place in Napa Valley, Calif. on a fall weekend this year during Napa Valley's beautiful harvest season. Your reviews will help create the Robb Report's February '08 "Car of the Year" issue. Have fun with models such as the Bugatti Veyron, Bentley, Ferrari, Aston Martin, Maserati 2008 model cars, and many more.

Guests will dance to the music of the Jay Prince band. Dress is casual.

"Lyme disease is one of the fastest-growing infectious diseases which effects society today," said Linda Huston, co-chairwoman of the event. "People need to know that we are all at risk for contracting this disease which lurks in our own backyard. Ticks are small and can be dangerous. Symptoms of Lyme disease are not always consistent or obvious therefore the infection can grow to the level of chronic Lyme which can take years to cure, if ever. Time for Lyme's major priority is to understand the science and pathology of this complicated illness."

In partnership with Lyme Disease Association, Time For Lyme created the first center in the world dedicated to the study of chronic Lyme disease. Through successful fund-raising efforts, Time For Lyme has been able to donate almost \$3 million to open the Columbia Lyme Disease Research Center. The center's research mission includes studies of new diagnostic tests, clinical and immunological challenges of Lyme, markers for genetic vulnerability and predisposition to tick-borne illness, the study of tick-borne co-infections, functional and structural brain imaging, and well-controlled studies of new treatments.

Tickets for the gala begin at \$400 per person, with various levels of support and corporate sponsorships available. For tickets and information, call 212-763-8592.