



**Vascular Birthmarks Foundation
International Day of Awareness
May 15**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Linda Rozell-Shannon, vbfpresident@gmail.com, 877-823-4646
Local Contact:

**May 15 - Day of Awareness Raises Hope for Individuals with a Vascular Birthmark
Local Family Marks Day in a Special Way**

May 15th is the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation International Day of Awareness, as officially recognized by the US Congress in 2004. Participants all over the United States and the world will be telling their story of how a vascular birthmark has affected their lives. They will also raise funds through their own grass roots events. Locally, the Day of Awareness will be marked by:

Each year 40,000 children are born in the United States with a vascular birthmark that requires the opinion of a medical specialist. Of these 40,000 children, nearly 70% will require some form of medical intervention. Very little accurate and comprehensive information existed before 1994.

Linda Rozell-Shannon founded VBF in 1994 out of frustration over the lack of information for families affected by a vascular birthmark. Her daughter was born in 1994 and soon after developed a large problematic hemangioma. Since that time, VBF has networked over 80,000 children and adults into medical treatment by providing the affected families with the most current information on treatment options and by providing a list of international physicians trained in the accurate diagnosis and treatment of these lesions.

Each month, the VBF website receives an average of 3.2 million visits from people seeking one of the VBF's services. There is the "Ask the Experts" feature where patients, family members and physicians can contact world-renowned experts in vascular birthmarks. There are "Find a Doctor" and Parent Resource Lists as well as Discussion Forums and the latest news concerning vascular birthmarks. The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation also sponsors an annual conference/clinic where patients can receive an accurate diagnosis and informal treatment plan from a team of experts.

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The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not for profit international charitable organization that networks families affected by a vascular birthmark, tumor, or syndrome to the appropriate medical professionals for evaluation and/or treatment, provides informational resources as well as sponsors physician education, mobilizes medical missions trips, and supports research and programs that promote acceptance for individuals with birthmarks.