

VASCULAR BIRTHMARKS FOUNDATION (VBF)

2017 FACT SHEET

MISSION

To network those affected by a vascular birthmark, tumor or syndrome to the appropriate medical professionals for evaluation and/or treatment, educate physicians and affected families regarding treatment options, support relevant research, mobilize medical mission teams, and empower those living with a vascular birthmark.



HISTORY

Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon, PhD, founded VBF in 1994 after her daughter was diagnosed with a hemangioma. The lack of any publicly available information or connectivity with medical specialists and other families gave birth to the organization. Dr. Rozell-Shannon made a commitment to God that if he helped her find a surgeon to remove her daughter's hemangioma she would dedicate her life to this cause. Her vow keeps VBF going today and into the future.

TEAM

VBF's volunteer Board of Directors and Medical Advisors all have personal experience with a vascular birthmark.

WORK

VBF is the leading non-profit providing informational resources to patients and families affected by vascular birthmarks. Our work includes:

■ SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS

Over the past 23 years, VBF has successfully networked more than 100,000 children and adults into treatment. We promote awareness and tolerance for individuals with facial differences through anti-bullying activities such as the Buddy Booby Read-Along Campaign. We also award scholarships to college-bound students living with a vascular birthmark. Via our extensive social media networks, each week we respond to hundreds of requests for information and guidance and we enable families to directly contact a Vascular Birthmark Expert via a portal on our birthmark.org website. Our annual conference and clinics bring together patients and their families with the world's leading physician experts on vascular birthmarks. VBF is the only charitable organization for birthmarks that provides free hotel accommodations, meals, conference admission and clinic appointments to families with financial need. VBF also assists families through the insurance appeals process after being denied coverage for treatment and awards scholarships to college-bound students living with a vascular birthmark.

■ SUPPORTING FAMILIES

VBF established May 15th as the official Day of Vascular Birthmark Awareness when families join together to raise awareness and understanding of vascular birthmarks. Throughout the year, our support groups and online forums connect patients and family members with others who have shared experiences and/or are seeking information and education.

■ SUPPORTING PHYSICIANS

In addition to sponsoring research and developing the first-ever online training course for vascular anomalies, VBF organizes annual medical mission trips to promote physician education around the world. VBF's iTEAM experts have lectured and, in many cases, provided free treatments in Russia, India, Israel and Italy.

learn more about the work of the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation at www.birthmark.org