



## Vascular Birthmarks Foundation 2015 Fact Sheet

- ✓ Founded in 1994 by Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon after her daughter Christine was diagnosed with a hemangioma.
- ✓ Leading not for profit in the world for children and adults affected by vascular birthmarks such as hemangiomas, port wine stains, venous/lymphatic/arterio-venous malformations, and associated syndromes.

### VBF SUPPORTS FAMILIES

- ✓ Networked over 80,000 children and adults into treatment since 1994.
- ✓ Enables families to directly contact a Medical Expert via a portal on our website [www.birthmark.org](http://www.birthmark.org).
- ✓ The only birthmark charity that sponsors a medical-family Annual Conference and Clinic AND raises funds to provide free hotel accommodations, meals, conference admission and clinic appointment to families with financial need. Sponsored over 500 families since 1999.
- ✓ Works extensively with families through the insurance appeals process after being denied coverage for treatment. Over 100 insurance denials successfully appealed.
- ✓ Responds to over 30 requests for guidance each week in our Discussion Forum and Facebook groups.

### VBF SUPPORTS PHYSICIAN EDUCATION

- ✓ Assembles an international medical missions team (iTEAM) to travel outside the USA and share the latest developments in the management of vascular birthmarks and at the same time provide free treatments. Have hosted programs in Russia, India, and Israel.
- ✓ The iTEAM will also present at the 2016 American Academy of Pediatrics Regional Meeting at Miami Children's Hospital. Sessions will be simulcast to hundreds of physicians throughout Latin America.
- ✓ Launching first CME-accredited online course for physicians to gain up-to-date knowledge in the classification, management, and treatment of vascular birthmarks. (Summer 2016)

### VBF SUPPORTS ACCEPTANCE



- ✓ Promotes hundreds of International Day of Vascular Birthmark Awareness events every May.
- ✓ Awards VBF Scholarships each year for college-bound students with birthmarks, including the Frank Catalanotto Scholarship for Perseverance.
- ✓ Established an anti-bullying program called Ask/Accept for children and adults who are bullied because of their birthmark.
- ✓ Promotes tolerance and discussions with children through the *Buddy Booby's Birthmark* Read-Along