



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



Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

I am writing to invite you to take part in the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation's International Day of Awareness on May 15th. This is an international campaign that raises awareness and funds for thousands of children and adults affected by vascular birthmarks. These birthmarks include hemangiomas, port wine stains, venous malformations, lymphatic malformations, and related syndromes such as Sturge-Weber and Klippel-Trenaunay Syndrome.

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. In addition, the protocol for identification, classification and treatment of vascular birthmarks had not been updated in medical schools in more than 75 years.

In 1994, Linda Rozell-Shannon, PhD, founded VBF in order to provide families affected by a vascular birthmark with accurate information on diagnosis and treatment so that they could make the best informed decision for their affected loved one. Since that time, VBF has networked over 80,000 children and adults into medical treatment by providing the most current information on treatment options and a list of expert physicians trained in the accurate diagnosis and treatment of these lesions. The VBF also sponsors physician education, promotes anti-bullying campaigns, and acceptance; however there is more work to do. In order to reach more families with these life-changing resources, more funding is needed.

On May 15, people around the world will celebrate VBF Day of Awareness by:

- joining our "Put on Your Birthmark" Campaign that matches a loved one's mark or drawing a red heart on their face.
- setting up a personal fundraiser page on our website
- sharing their birthmark story with local media
- hosting a fundraiser

I will contact you regarding how you can participate locally in the VBF Day of Awareness. Why am I doing this? Because I, or a loved one, have been affected by a vascular birthmark and together we can make a difference.

I look forward to speaking to you and thank you for your consideration. For more information, go to [www.birthmark.org](http://www.birthmark.org).

Regards,