



Vascular Birthmarks Foundation Annual Appeal

VBF, P.O. Box 106, Latham, NY 12110

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VBF iTEAM Visits Russia



Dr. Linda, Dr. Geronemus, Luba (mother), Baby Guzal, Dr. Rosen, Dr. Belysheva, and Dr. Nelson

The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (VBF), under the vision and direction of President and Founder Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon, has always strived to maintain its commitment to serve patients and families, while promoting education in the medical field and to the public at large. The VBF has always reached beyond the borders of the United States in the effort to share this commitment on an international level.

Dr. Linda noted that over a year ago she was frustrated at the thought of bringing one child at a time to the United States for treatment from countries where physicians were not trained to treat vascular birthmarks. Each surgery and trip to the US could cost upwards of \$20,000-\$30,000. Dr. Linda envisioned using that same amount of money to bring a team of doctors from the USA to each country that needed training.

-See ITEAM, Page 2-

VBF Russia - Baby Guzal



Baby Guzal before surgery

During the VBF iTEAM trip to Russia, one of the patients treated was Baby Guzal. She had a very large hemangioma, which was affecting the function of her heart, as well as obstructing her eye. Baby Guzal was in need of treatment that was not only costly, but required the expertise of a physician experienced with these types of hemangiomas.



Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon, Baby Guzal and Dr. Gregory Levitin

Dr. Gregory Levitin agreed to perform the necessary surgery, and the VBF Russia Chapter director, Olga Bachuck, helped to raise the funds needed for travel, meals and lodging expenses to New York City.

Her first surgery was in August, and she will require a few more procedures in the future.

If you would like to contribute to the Baby Guzal Fund, visit the VBF website for more information.

A video was made featuring Baby Guzal, and can be viewed on YouTube at:

<http://www.birthmarks.com/Index.cfm?Page=1052&Hit=1>

Letter from VBF President

Dear Families and Friends:



Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon
(pictured here with her
daughter Christine)

2012 was an amazing year for VBF. We celebrated our 18th year as the leading not for profit in the world that serves families affected by hemangiomas, port wine stains, malfor-

mations, Sturge-Weber Syndrome, Klippel Trenauanay Syndrome and other vascular

birthmarks and tumors.

We brought our first international team of physicians to Moscow where we lectured for one full day and the physicians treated over 100 patients for free. This new program, called the VBF iTEAM will be traveling to India, China, Dubai, and Paraguay for a repeat performance. We are currently making plans to coordinate one international iTEAM trip every 9 months. All of our attending physicians are volunteers.

We continue to receive over 2 million hits each month on our websites and over 500 families are networked to an expert each month throughout all of our websites.

Our annual conference continues to be our core focus for both family and physician education. We work all year to raise the funds to pay for families to attend our conference. We pay for the lodging, meals, and even waive our conference and clinic fees for families who cannot afford to pay. We are the only birthmark organization that provides this service.

Remember, WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE – and are proud to announce that VBF has reached the milestone of networking over 60,000 children and adults into medical treatment worldwide since 1994.

Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon
President/Founder

iTEAM|From Page 1

The VBF Experts would lecture for one full day, operate for free for one full day, and conduct a clinic.

In June of this year, her vision came to fruition, as she and a team of 6 physicians traveled to Moscow, Russia for VBF's first International Compassion Trip. Not only was this trip an historical event for VBF and for the joint relationship between USA and Russian physicians, but this trip also served to launch a routine vascular birthmarks clinic in Moscow.

A few years ago, VBF had established a chapter in Russia with the help of Olga Bachuck, who serves as Executive Director for VBF Russia. Olga was born with a facial port wine stain birthmark. Also assisting in this endeavor, was Dr. Tatyana Belysheva, the Medical Director of VBF Russia and the physician liaison between Moscow and the USA.

With the help of Dr. Belysheva, the VBF joined with the Pediatric Oncology and Hamematology Research Institute NN Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Center in Moscow to make this compassion trip a reality. The hospital was already conducting an annual conference on pediatric tumors and was willing to add the vascular birthmarks team to the agenda. The VBF Experts were more than happy to volunteer their time and services. VBF was also able to receive a grant for funding of travel expenses and the Research Institute in Moscow covered meals and lodging.

On June 7-8, the VBF International Team, referred to as the VBF iTEAM, gave presentations at the conference and performed free treatments to patients. The VBF iTEAM consisted of Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon, Dr. Martin Mihm (VBF Research Director and Co-Medical Director), Dr. J. Stuart Nelson (VBF Co-Medical Director), Dr. Roy Geronemus, Dr. Gregory Levitin, Dr. Anton Hasso, and Dr. Robert Rosen.

As a result of this first international compassion trip, over 100 children and adults were treated for free. In addition, Dr. Linda is working with a team in Moscow to establish a free humanitarian clinic that will do free laser treatments every 6 weeks on a Saturday morning.



**VBF 9th Annual
International Day of Awareness
May 15, 2012**

Visit the VBF Day of Awareness website at:
<http://www.birthmark.org/awareness>

2012 VBF Day of Awareness Events

- 2012 Annual Challenge Walk/Run for Birthmarks, Albany, NY – Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon and Basia Joyce
- 2012 Olivia's Walk for Birthmarks, Tyler State Park, PA – Andria Gottsabend
- City Island, NY Fundraiser – Fran Muscarella in honor of her granddaughter, Julia
- Pampered Chef Party – Kyla Graziane
- 2012 Angel's Kiss Golf Classic – Brian and Natalie Bolinger
- Isaac Family Fundraiser in honor of Annabelle

VBF Day of Awareness Join Me Pages

- Mary Ann Springer
- Joan Marie Dimirco
- Annie Jacob
- Kara Stotler
- Andrea Lockwood
- Laurel McNall
- Shelley Delamarter
- Aneesa Waheed
- Sarla Naik
- Kyla Graziane
- Kari Buser
- Danielle Hagerman
- Rachel O'Neil
- Tara Kozak Lindsay

To Our VBF Day of Awareness Supporters

Your participation in our awareness campaign and all your hard work is appreciated. We would like to include your event in our VBF Day of Awareness Calendar. Please be sure to register your event with VBF, and please send us any pictures or information regarding your event so that we may share your efforts to raise awareness for vascular birthmarks.

**Make Plans to Join the 2013
VBF International Day of Awareness**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Help us raise awareness and desperately needed funds. It's simple, easy, and fun! Go to the VBF website and click on the link "Create Your Own JOIN ME Fundraiser Page" for full details on how to create your page and start raising funds for VBF.

We have created a template that will enable you to create your own person fundraising website page in just a few easy steps! Tell your personal story and how VBF has helped you. You can even include photos if you wish. Once your page is completed, email the link for your fundraising page to family, friends and coworkers.

You can create your personal JOIN ME page to coincide with a special fund raising event such as a VBF Day of Awareness garage sale, car wash, dinner, walk/run, or even just a friends and family appeal where you will raise money to Sponsor a Family and send them to our conference for free – just because of your effort !

Contact Basia Joyce with any questions at: basiajim99@nycap.rr.com. Please put "Join Me Page" in the subject line.



Julia at the City Island Benefit

City Island Benefit

The first annual City Island event to benefit the VBF was held in City Island, New York on October 13, 2012 at Lido's Restaurant. The benefit was organized by Fran Muscarella, in honor of her granddaughter, Julia who was born with lymphatic and vascular malformations that required surgical intervention when she was only days old.

The event included a raffle with the first prize of an Apple 2 iPad, second prize of \$200, and a third prize of a Kindle.

The City Island Benefit for VBF raised over \$20,000

VBF Anti-Bullying Program



VBF is proud to announce its new anti-bullying program, Ask/Accept. The new program is lead by VBF Representative Jennie Legary. Jennie has port wine stain birthmark, and can readily identify with the many challenges that can accompany the stigma that society can place on individuals who are labeled as “different”.

Jennie is now an accomplished vocalist, and serves as an exceptional role model for young children and adults. She has been a strong supporter of VBF, and an advocate for families and patients with vascular birthmarks.

Look for information on the Ask/Accept program on the VBF website.

Employer Giving Program

Please consider the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (VBF) for your Employee Giving Program at Work!

Many companies participate in an Employee Giving Program. You can typically choose from an organization in which to make a single donation or a bi-weekly or monthly donation. Some companies will even match a donation made to a particular charitable organization. This means that your donation to VBF could be increased by having us participate!

If your employer has an Employee Giving Program, please let us know what we need to do in order to become registered as an eligible entity or you may put your employer in contact with us by emailing Basia Joyce at basiajim99@nycap.rr.com. No worries, we will do all the work!

Dr. Martin C. Mihm, Jr. Vascular Birthmarks Foundation Scholarship Fund

Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon and the VBF has established the Dr. Martin C. Mihm, Jr. Annual Scholarship Program in which five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to college bound students who have a vascular birthmark.

The scholarship program will start January 1, 2014. All recipients will be required to host an awareness event on their school campus or within their community. This event will raise awareness about vascular birthmarks and will also help raise funds needed to sustain the program. Applications for the 2014 scholarships will be available on the VBF website after September 1, 2013.

Dr. Mihm is the Co-Medical Director and Research Director for the VBF and is the leading vascular tumors Pathologist in the world.

Catalanotto Foundation Classic

The Second Annual Frank Catalanotto Foundation Golf and Tennis Classic to raise awareness for vascular birthmarks, was held on August 20, 2012 at Cold Spring Country Club in Huntington, NY. The event included brunch, reception, and a dinner buffet. The event raised over \$30,000 for the VBF.

Former MLB star Frank Catalanotto and his wife Barbara became involved with the VBF following the birth of their daughter Morgan, in 1999. Megan developed a facial hemangioma, and while researching the condition, they discovered the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation. The VBF was able aid the family by providing support, information and treatment options for their daughter.

It was through their connection with the VBF that they decided to form the Frank Catalanotto Foundation, with the goal of raising money and awareness to help support the VBF. The Catalanottos also serve as honorary chairpersons for the VBF

2013 VBF Conference

Register now for the 2013 VBF Conference, Saturday, October 12, 2013 in Irvine, CA. Conference Directors are Dr. J. Stuart Nelson and Dr. Martin Mihm, Jr., with sponsors Beckman Laser Institute and Syneron, Inc.

The conference takes place at Island Hotel in Newport Beach, and the clinic sessions at Beckman Laser Institute in Irvine.

For complete information regarding registration and conference itinerary, please visit the VBF website.

Buddy Joins the VBF Family



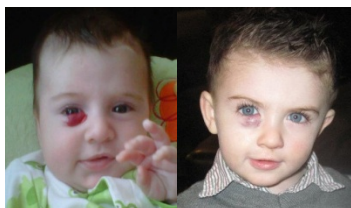
VBF is officially taking over “Buddy Booby’s Birthmark” book and website. The book, by mother and son authors Donna and Evan Ducker, has been a popular Day of Awareness event for schools and organizations worldwide.

Evan was born with a facial port wine birthmark, and was inspired to write a story when he was unable to find a book that addressed the issues facing children with birthmarks. He has a great interest in animals and chose the red-footed booby bird of the Galapagos Islands as the main character. With the help of his mother, Donna, they created a story that children and parents alike can relate to.

Thank you Evan and Donna, for such a wonderful gift: not only to VBF, but to all children with vascular birthmarks.

4th Annual VBF Day of Awareness Walk/Run for Birthmarks Challenge

The 4th Annual Challenge Walk/Run for Birthmarks took place on May 4, 2012 at the Crossings of Colonie in Loudonville, NY.



Chase before and after treatment

The 2012 Birthmark Champion was Chase Manny, a local boy whose parents sought help from VBF for his treatment.

The event included a 5k race, 1 mile walk and a Kids Fun Run for children. Also included were a bouncy bounce, Tumbling Tykes, face painting, music by DJ KrazyKeith, food, and vascular birthmark “Experts” were on hand to answer questions for free about the diagnosis and treatment of hemangiomas and vascular malformations.

The 5k race course is a sanctioned course and certificates were presented to the standard race category winners, as well as a certificate to the largest “birthmark” team. The event raised over \$8,000 for VBF.

1st Annual VBF “Olivia’s Walk for Birthmarks” Newtown, PA

Olivia’s walk for Birthmarks occurred on Saturday, May 19th at Tyler State Park in Newtown, PA. It was a huge success with well over two hundred walkers.



Olivia before and after treatments

Event organizer and VBF Board member, Andria (Downey) Gottsabend organized this walk in honor

of her 4 year old daughter, Olivia who has a port wine stain and has had many laser treatments for her vascular birthmark. Olivia’s walk brought in over \$14,000 for VBF!!! Congratulations, Andria and Olivia! Andria plans to make this a yearly event. The 2013 VBF Olivia’s Walk for Birthmark will be held on May 18th at Tyler State Park.

VBF NEEDS YOU!!!

Be the first in your state to coordinate a walk or run or combination walk/run to raise awareness about vascular birthmarks. By doing this, you will not only raise awareness, you will also help us raise the funds we need so that we can continue to help families affected by a vascular birthmark. We can't continue without your help.

It's simple and easy. We have even prepared a booklet that will instruct you every step of the way. Get your family and friends involved, or even your church, civic groups, and community. May is our Birthmark Awareness Month but you can do an even any time of the year. Our goal is to have a walk and/or run in every state. Sign up today by emailing Basia at basiajim99@nycap.rr.com.

VASCULAR BIRTHMARKS FOUNDATION, INC
 STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

2012 VBF Conference

ASSETS

| | 2011 | 2010 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$184,121 | \$147,270 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment, Net | 1,093 | 1,777 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | \$185,214 | \$149,047 |
| | ===== | ===== |

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses | \$155 | \$1,073 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 180,059 | 142,974 |
| Temporarily Restricted | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total Net Assets | 185,059 | 147,974 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | \$185,214 | \$149,047 |
| | ===== | ===== |



Dr. Linda, Jill Quinn (2012 Service Award Recipient) Dr. Robert Rosen

Lenox Hill Hospital was the venue for the 2012 Vascular Birthmarks Conference in New York City. The event was held on November 10 with Dr. Roy Geronemus, Dr. Gregory Levitin and Dr. Robert Rosen as Co-Directors. Sponsors for the conference were

Syneron, Cynosure, Ethicon, Cutera, and Lenox Hill Hospital.

The Medical Director for VBF Russia, Dr. Tatyana Belysheva, and the Director of VBF Russia, Olga Bachuck, attended. The VBF Chapter had recently hosted a conference in Moscow, Russia.

Dr. Kamiab Delfanian was named VBF 2012 Physician of the Year. Service Awards were presented to Cindy Cucaz, Leslie Graff, and Jill Quinn. The VBF Coco Award was presented to Fran Muscarella in honor of her granddaughter, Julia Mc Grath.

For the first time, VBF was able to offer patients at the Clinic Sessions free laser treatment, made possible by the doctors who volunteer their time and skills to assist VBF. We would like to thank all the doctors for their dedication to the patients and families.

In addition to the conference presentations on a variety of birthmark related issues and the Clinic Sessions, Special Sessions were also offered for Insurance, Makeup, Dental Exam, and Support Group Discussions.



Left: Dr. Linda, Fran Muscarella (2012 VBF CoCo Award Fundraising Recipient), Dr. Gregory Levitin)

Right: Children in daycare with puppeteer



VBF Donor/Fundraiser Registration Form

I would like to host the following VBF Fundraiser (Check all that apply and fill in contact information below):

Awareness Day _____ Kids Who Care _____ Buddy Booby Read-Along _____
Other Fundraiser _____ Fundraiser type _____

~DONATION – Make Your Annual Tax Deductible Donation~

***Please fill in contact information below**

I would like to make the following donation to:

____ Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (VBF US)
____ VBF International Chapter
Chapter Name: _____
____ Sponsor a Family
In Memory or Honor of your Loved One: _____

Return this form to:

VBF/Fund, P.O. Box 106, Latham, NY 12110

***Contact Information**

Fill out form where applicable:

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Principal: _____
Home Phone Number: (____) _____ Work:(____) _____
Email: _____
School Name (Read-Along or other school project): _____
Number of Students or classes participating: _____

SHOP VBF – for VBF merchandise and Day of Awareness fundraiser aids

Shop our website: <https://birthmark.org/secure/>

VBF is a fully approved not-for-profit. Federal Tax ID 16-1515227

**VBF 2012 Physician of the Year
Dr. Kamiab Delfanian**



Dr. Kamiab Delfanian is Medical Director of MN Vascular & Birthmark Center, is a board certified physician with advanced specialty and fellowship training in Vascular Medicine and Vascular Birthmarks of pediatric and adult patients with expertise in the management of childhood hemangiomas, Port wine stains, and congenital vascular syndromes such as KTS and Sturge-Weber syndrome. A frequent guest speaker at national and international vascular birthmark conferences, he is also a clinical consultant to the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (www.birthmark.org).

Dr. Delfanian trained at the Mayo Clinic and Arkansas Children's Hospital Vascular Birthmark Center. He graduated at the top of his medical school class. He is also a graduate of the world renowned Johns Hopkins in International Health. Following his training at the Mayo clinic Dr. Delfanian performed a pediatric clinical fellowship program at Arkansas Children's Hospital vascular anomalies center.

Dr. Delfanian has expertise in the management of complicated vascular birthmarks and vascular wounds. He was the primary investigator collaborating with colleagues at the Mayo Clinic researching the efficacy of Bio-engineered Human skin equivalent in treating complicated leg and foot ulcers.

As a consultant in international health with advanced training at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Delfanian delivers volunteer medical services and is dedicated to educating physician colleagues on annual missions to developing nations. He is fluent in 5 languages and has over 20 years of clinical and teaching experience.



VBF
P.O. Box 106
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Buddy – VBF's Official Mascot
Join the Buddy Booby Read-Along