Vascular Birthmarks Foundation Launches Ask/Accept Anti-Bullying Campaign Video

Children and Adults around the World Promote Acceptance of Birthmarks

Albany, NY - The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation announces the first VBF ASK/ACCEPT ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGN video. The 5½ minute video of adults and children living with a vascular birthmark from around the world invites viewers to ask and accept them for how they look and who they are. The video can be viewed on www.birthmark.org or on the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation’s YouTube channel.

For people with a birthmark, Ask/Accept means "ask me about my birthmark" and "accept me as I am." It’s a campaign to encourage people to ask about and then accept individuals living with a vascular birthmark. The person who asks about the birthmark gains knowledge and understanding. More importantly, the campaign aims to help end the bullying that many people experience because of a birthmark by promoting compassion for individuals just as they are.

In the video, adults from the UK, Australia, Philippines, Suriname, and Florida reassure people that it’s okay to ask them about their birthmark. Parents of children with a vascular birthmark or syndrome from CT, NY, PA, VA, WV, FL, CO, and CA submitted clips for the video. They enthusiastically declare their hope to be accepted for how they look and who they are. The video begins with a girl declaring, “I’m more than just a little girl with a birthmark.”

Gina, a teenager girl in PA, candidly sums up the campaign, “When you see my birthmark and you wonder what it is, don’t be afraid to ask me ‘cause I’d love to tell you. And accept me for my uniqueness.” The VBF Ask/Accept Campaign has an ongoing program that accepts video clips from people living with a vascular birthmark in order to continue to raise awareness. For more information, see www.birthmark.org/vbfaskaccept.

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The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation is celebrating 21 years of helping families affected by hemangiomas, port wine stains, vascular malformations, Sturge-Weber Syndrome, Klippel-Trenaunay Syndrome and other vascular birthmarks and tumors. Approximately 1 in 10 babies are born with a vascular birthmark. An estimated 1% of those birthmarks become problematic, even life threatening, and require medical intervention by a specialist. VBF has networked the treatment of more than 80,000 children and adults with vascular birthmarks and associated conditions. See www.birthmark.org for more information.