



Vascular Birthmarks Foundation Annual Appeal

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

Publisher: **VBF** Volume No.: **12 Fall/Winter** Issue No.: **7** Date: **December, 2008**

Editor: **Glenda Ethington, VBF Chapter Director/Co-Director of PR**

Contributing Editor: **Linda Rozell-Shannon, VBF President and Founder**

Sponsor a Family



Your Holiday Gift to Help Birthmark Families

Each year VBF organizes a conference where families can learn about the latest treatment in vascular birthmarks and tumors. Families receive free night lodging and meals for the conference free of cost. If the family is unable to pay the clinic and conference fees, they are also waived. VBF pays approximately \$500 for each family that attends our annual conference. What a great Holiday Gift Idea for you to sponsor a family. Get your office to pitch in and sponsor a family, or you can make it a family holiday donation. Sponsor an entire family for \$500, or you can give a portion. Your donation can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one and you can include a message to the family that you will sponsor. VBF is the only charitable organization that pays families to attend our conference. We want to continue this valuable service and we need your help to do it. Our philosophy is that no family asks to have a baby with a vascular birthmark and no family should be denied the opportunity to learn about the latest

treatment available. Take advantage of this great opportunity to make a difference in the life of a family affected by a vascular birthmark.

A Year of Firsts for VBF

2008 marks a year of firsts for VBF: The Abby Czirr Education Grant, The Power of One Award, and the first "Mark of Beauty Gala". Each one of these firsts has a special meaning for VBF and our future.

The VBF Abby Czirr Physician Education Grant Application	
Applicant (First, Last Name) _____	
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Country _____	Email _____ (c) _____
Telephone (w) _____	
Date of Application _____	
Month/Year you can travel for training _____	
Current Practice Speciality _____	
Address for current practice _____	
What is your interest in vascular birthmarks? _____	

Who will benefit from this grant if you are selected? _____	

<p>Note: This \$5,000 grant has been established in memory of Abby Czirr and is intended to provide financial assistance to a physician seeking to learn the current diagnosis and treatment information for vascular birthmarks and tumors. It will assist in funding travel, lodging, and expenses related to the period of study. All recipients must provide a written report to VBF within 60 days of completing training. An Award Committee will determine grant recipients. Training duration will vary depending on physician availability but typically consists of one to two weeks of clinical and treatment observation in a multi-disciplinary vascular birthmarks treatment center.</p>	



The first VBF "Mark of Beauty Gala was held at the Hudson Theatre in New York's Times Square. Over 285 people were in attendance. Performing at the gala were Broadway stars Gary Mauer and Beth Southard. Also performing were Stephen Dale, Christine Shannon, and Mia Montenegro, all whom had or have a vascular birthmark.

-See **FIRSTS**, Page 3-

The Hemangioma and Vascular Birthmarks Foundation, Inc.
Statements of Financial Position
December 31, 2006 and 2007

		<u>ASSETS</u>	
Current Assets		2006	2007
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	64,250	162,814
Investments		<u>736,696</u>	<u>417,571</u>
Total Current Assets		800,946	580,385
Fixed Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment Net		<u>1,176</u>	<u>3,886</u>
	\$	<u>802,124</u>	<u>584,271</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$	2,553	2,215
		779,212	577,229
Total Current Liabilities		781,765	579,444
Net Assets			
Unrestricted		20,359	4,827
	\$	<u>802,124</u>	<u>584,271</u>

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Support and Revenues			
Grants	\$	227,788	209,983
Conference Fee Income		5,750	11,201
Contributions		131,070	152,427
Interest Income		887	902
Dividend Income		8,467	6,140
Realized/Unrealized Investment Appreciation		44,304	4,236
Miscellaneous		<u>3,583</u>	<u>23,944</u>
Total Unrestricted Support and Revenues	\$	421,849	408,833
Functional Expenses			
Program Services		314,095	308,487
Management and General		42,347	42,527
Fund Raising		<u>63,891</u>	<u>78,351</u>
Total Functional Expenses	\$	420,333	424,365
Change In Unrestricted Net Assets		1,516	(15,532)
Unrestricted Net Assets, Beginning of Year		18,843	20,359
Unrestricted Net Assets, End of Year	\$	20,359	4,827

2009 Port Wine Stain and Vascular Birthmarks Conference in Irvine, California

The 2009 VBF International Conference will be held in Irvine California the weekend of November 13 and 14, 2009. Dr. Stuart Nelson of The Beckman Laser Institute will chair the conference, which will provide expert speakers and clinic sessions for proper diagnosis and treatment options for patients. Presenters will be announcing some major research findings at the conference. Keep checking on the VBF website for information about the 2009 conference.

MONTEL and Voices Honors VBF Founder



Linda Rozell-Shannon, President and Founder of the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (VBF), was honored on The Montel Williams Show (MONTEL) as one of five finalists of the 2007 Voices

campaign. Voices--One voice can lead to a chorus for change® is an annual campaign that honors women across America for their passion, leadership and achievements as everyday women who raise their voice to create positive change.

The campaign is sponsored by Charming Shoppes, the parent company of Lane Bryant, Fashion Bug, Catherines and Petite Sophisticate.

Rozell-Shannon was nominated for the award by VBF Executive Assistant Barbara Joyce, who accompanied Linda to New York. Linda was chosen as one of the five finalists from thousands of entrants. She appeared on MONTEL on February 22, 2008, where Charming Shoppes CEO Dorrit Bern presented each finalist with a \$20,000 charitable grant for their organization. Each finalist also received a trip for two to New York City to appear on MONTEL, and a four day "Dream Come True" vacation to Walt Disney World® Resort.

FIRSTS| From Page 1

The first Abby Czirr Physician Education Grant, in memory of Abby Czirr, was presented at the "Mark of Beauty Gala". The grant will help educate physicians about the proper diagnosis and treatment of vascular birthmarks and tumors. Abby's parents, Steve and Paige Czirr, were on hand to present the grant in person to VBF President and Founder, Linda Rozell-Shannon

Also presented at the gala, was the first Power of One award to Dr. Milton Waner for his visionary techniques for the treatment and diagnosis of hemangiomas and other vascular birthmarks.

VBF Power of One Award



The first VBF Power of One award was presented to Dr. Milton Waner, November 14, 2008.



The Power of One Award is given to an individual who has made a difference in the lives of patients and families living with vascular birthmarks. One person, whose determination and foresight to affect a positive change has impacted many.

Through his efforts, Dr. Waner has changed perceptions, and advanced the diagnosis and treatment of vascular birthmarks and the related syndromes.

Dr. Waner's surgical techniques have shown that vascular lesions, once considered inoperable, can now be removed or reduced without the fear of great harm to the patient. When the medical community adhered to the conventional and outdated ways of treatment, Dr. Waner had the courage to seek new and sometimes controversial methods to better serve the condition of the patients.

Dr. Waner has shown what the power of one individual can accomplish, while facing the scrutiny, disdain, and objection of peers and laypersons. His will to press forward, even in the face of adversity, shows his strength of character and his unfailing dedication to patients, the medical community, and to the oath he swore as a physician and his obligations to his fellow man.

VBF 2008 Physician of the Year Roy Geronemus, M.D.



Roy G. Geronemus, M.D., is the Director of the Laser & Skin Surgery Center of New York. He is a Clinical Professor of Dermatology at the New York University Medical Center where he has founded its laser program and served nine years as its Chief of Dermatologic and Laser Surgery. He is also the Director of the Skin/Laser

Division in the Department of Plastic Surgery at the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary.

He has been involved with the development of several new laser systems and therapeutic techniques, which are now commonly used throughout the world. He has been listed in New York Magazine's Best Doctors in New York 12 times, three times in Woodward and White's Best Doctors in America and in Town & Country's Best Cosmetic Surgeons. Dr. Geronemus is also the Chairman of the Board of the New York Stem Cell Foundation.

Join Us for the VBF 2009 International Day of Awareness

Join VBF for the Sixth Annual International Day of Awareness 2009. This grassroots campaign has grown over the years to include friends from around the world. VBF Day of Awareness provides education to the public about vascular birthmarks and their related syndromes, and helps to raise funds in support of the work of the VBF. The Day of Awareness officially takes place annually on May 15, but events can be conducted throughout the year.

Past events include lemonade stands, garage sales, jeans day at work, a birthday party fundraiser, awareness bracelets and VBF We Care Bears sales, bake sales, sponsored marathons, Buddy Booby's Birthmark book read-along, a penny drive, and a Texas Hold 'Em.

Make your plans to participate in VBF Day Of Awareness. Get family, friends, coworkers; or a local club, civic, or church group to help. Once you have registered your event, VBF will provide you with supportive materials and offer any assistance we can to make your event enjoyable and successful.

If you are interested in participating, write to VBF Day of Awareness Coordinator, Glenda Ethington, at awareness@birthmark.org or call (859)272-2817

Note: You can pre-register your event by filling out and mailing in the Donor/Fundraiser Form on the inside back page of this newsletter.

VBF International Chapters

- VBF Africa <http://vbfafrika.org>
- VBF Asia <http://vbfasia.org>
- VBF Australia <http://vbfaustralia.org>
- VBF Europe <http://vbf europe.org>
- VBF India <http://vbf india.org>
- VBF Israel <http://birthmark.org.il>
- VBF Latin America <http://vbflatinamerica.org>
- VBF New Zealand <http://vbfnewzealand.org>
- VBF Philippines <http://vbfphilippines.org>
- VBF Poland <http://vbfpoland.org>
- VBF/SWSC-Canada
<http://swscommunitycanada.org>
- Sturge-Weber Syndrome Community
<http://swscommunity.org>

Friend site: Anomalie Vasculaire, the first and only all-French language website for vascular anomalies, founded by Lise Daoust of Canada, who has an AVM of the lip. Lise also helped translate the VBF/SWSC-Canada website into French. <http://www.anomalievasculaire.org>

VBF Board Members and Staff

Linda Rozell-Shannon, President and Founder
Greg Antonelle, Vice President
Barbara Joyce, Executive Assistant
Corinne Barinaga, Administrative Director, Family Services, Physician Liaison
Glenda Ethington, Sturge-Weber Syndrome Community, Director VBF International Chapters, Co-Director Public Relations
Brian Bolinger, Treasurer
Tiffany Ethington, Secretary
Lauren Palmateer, Office Manager
Rose Shea, Patient Advocate/Grants
Jennie Legary, Director Musicians with Birthmarks
Danielle Vlahos, Parent Representative, Daycare Coordinator
Natalie Bolinger, Parent Representative
Lianne Chase, Parent Representative
Elysa Baron, DC, Parent Representative
Dinah Gonzalez, MD, Parent Representative
Marvin Kalafer, MD, Parent Representative
Saige Cavayero, Student Representative
Missy Scott, VBF Web mistress
Barbara Rothaupt, VBF Volunteer Counsel
Martin Mihm, MD, Honorary Co-Medical Chair
Stuart Nelson, MD, Honorary Co-Medical Chair

Congratulations Dr. Linda



Dr. Linda presenting at the
ISSVA meeting

Linda Rozell-Shannon, President and Founder of VBF is now Dr. Linda. She recently completed her PhD studies in Education. Her dissertation "Assessing the Impact of Hemangiomas on Maternal Stress" suggests a strong relationship between

acute stress and the diagnosis of the hemangioma. The data

from this study will hopefully provide support for families who must appeal insurance denial of treatment of a hemangioma. The study results can be viewed on the VBF website.

Dr. Linda presented her dissertation findings in a poster presentation at the 17th International Workshop on Vascular Anomalies at the International Society of Surgeons of Vascular Anomalies (ISSVA) conference in Boston in June. It was Dr. Linda's first presentation since earning her PhD. This international association of physicians, PhDs, and researchers includes members from over 38 countries worldwide.



**VBF 5th Annual
International Day of Awareness
May 15, 2008**

**International Buddy Booby's Birthmark Read-Along
for Tolerance and Awareness**

Evan Ducker, age 14, has been named an "Amazing Kid of the Month" for November 2008 by the Amazing Kids! organization at www.amazing-kids.org.



Evan and his mother, Donna Ducker, wrote Buddy Booby's Birthmark, a book for children with a birthmark. They host the "Buddy Bobby Read-Along for Tolerance and Awareness" on VBF Day of Awareness. The read-along is geared toward schools in a global effort to increase public education, raise birthmark awareness, and increase tolerance for each other's differences. This year over 75 schools from the US, Canada, Panama, Malta, UK, and Australia participated in the event.

2008 International Day of Awareness Events

- Suzanne Koban held a garage sale.
- Joanmarie DiMirco had a birthday party fundraiser in honor of Daniela.
- Barbara Joyce, VBF Executive Assistant, and husband Jim hosted a Home Interiors and candle and body lotion sale for VBF, and collection box at work.
- Andrea Domingues hosted a medical conference in Brazil for patients with hemangioma and lymphangiomas.
- Jan and Andrew Dreger hosted their annual "Campbell's Boat House VBF Awareness Night", at their family-owned and operated restaurant.
- Robin Houwman and the Vascular Birthmark Support Group raised funds for VBF Awareness Day with their ongoing jewelry sale.
- Sharon Freeman hosted a VBF fundraiser at KUDZU.com.

- Gordon McGuire raised awareness through an email campaign.
- Brian and Natalie Bolinger held their annual Texas hold 'Em, auction and dinner.
- Lily Mollencott participated in the Buddy Booby Read-Along.
- JoAnn Campbell, teacher, presented a video montage of her grandson Owen Dreger at the school where her 6th grade class joined in the read-along.
- Miranda Yarrington passed out informational materials to area pediatricians.
- Erika Billerbeck joined in the read-along at a local library.
- Jessica Ball held a jeans day at her work.
- Tiffany Ethington, VBF Secretary, and son Glen of "Glen's Gang", appeared on a local news program to raise awareness.
- Kelly Barkmeier held a barbeque fundraiser.
- George T. Koch donated funds to VBF.
- Zach Rushing and family were featured in an article in their local newspaper.
- Kathy Wyrick, SWSC Rep, was featured in a local newspaper article.
- Corinne Barinaga, VBF Administrative Director, and son Nicholas joined in the read-along and shared photos of Nicholas with his class.
- Jill and Paul Brown gave a generous family donation to VBF in honor of their daughter Aslynn.

We want to celebrate your Day of Awareness project.

If you would like to see your event featured in the newsletter, please don't forget to mail-in your Remittance Form, along with any photos or other event publications.

Visit the VBF Day of Awareness website for information on registering your event, ordering VBF merchandise and to see the great events being hosted worldwide.

VBF Day of Awareness Website
<http://www.birthmark.org/awareness>

Light a Candle of Hope



This Holiday Season, remember to add VBF to your gift list. Help VBF light a candle of hope for all children and adults living with vascular birthmarks. Visit the VBF website for details on lighting a candle, or contact VBF Executive Assistant Basia Joyce at (518) 374-2062 or by email at basiajim99@nycap.rr.com.

VBF Family Scrapbook 2008



Owen Dreger (3rd from left) with his cousins at the Cammell's Boathouse fundraiser.



The Catalanotto family (center) presents a check to VBF. Also pictured, the Ryan family on the left and Bolinger family on the right,



Left to right: Gary Mauer, Stephen Dale, Christine Shannon and Beth Southard after their performance at the gala.



Mei Podvojsky pictured in her Hemangioma Mama T-Shirt to celebrate awareness. Mei was also the "cover-girl" for the 2008 VBF Conference program.



Aslynn Brown (left) with Mom, Jill, and her brothers celebrate awareness.



VBF Chapter Reps Eloisa Evangelista, Australia (left) and Kalpana Sharma, India (right) attended the gala.



Bulletin Board at Parkdale School library in Alberta, Canada for the Buddy Read-Along on VBF Day of Awareness



Peter Kester reads the Buddy Booby book to a class at Mosby Woods Elementary School in Virginia.



Dr. Linda Shannon and Mia Montenegro at the "Mark of Beauty" Gala. Mia performed an original song at the event.

VBF Donor/Fundraiser Registration Form

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

Kids Who Care _____
Buddy Booby Read-Along _____
Awareness Day _____
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: _____

____ Sturge-Weber Syndrome Community

____ VBF/SWSC – Canada

DONATION – CREDIT CARD/CHECK/MONEY ORDER

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Name on Credit Card: _____

Type of Credit card

____ VISA

____ MasterCard

____ Discover

____ American Express

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

____ Check or Money Order: payable to VBF (memo branch)

Mail to: VBF, P.O. Box 106, Latham, NY 12110

*Contact Information

Fill out form where applicable:

Name: _____

School Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Principal: _____

Home Phone Number: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____

Email: _____

Number of Students participating: _____

Please check the box next to your campaign choice.

- VBF Kids Who Care/Pennies for a Purpose** – Individuals/Students can host a penny collection drive. Wrappers will be provided. Please exchange the pennies for cash and mail a check or money order in the self-address stamped envelope.
- VBF Silicone Bracelets** – VBF bracelets are embossed with “VBF Kids Who Care”. Bracelets will be sent in volumes of 50.
- VBF We Care Bears** – Birthmark Buddy We Care Bears are embroidered with the VBF logo. We can send you one bear to use to take orders for and when you are finished taking orders and collecting the money for the bears, we will send you the full supply.
- DIY** - Individuals/Students can host their own “Do-It Yourself” fundraiser (lemonade stand, car wash, garage sale, bake sale, etc.).
Type of DIY fundraiser (yard sale, auction, etc.): _____
- Buddy Booby Read-Along** – Sign up at <http://www.buddyboobysbirthmark.com/>
- Power of One Starter Kit** – Includes 10 postcards, brochures, stickers, bracelets

(For all fundraising campaigns: Please send in the money you collect as a check or money order made out to VBF, and send in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided VBF, P.O. Box 106, Latham, NY, 12110)

Individual Purchases - I would like to purchase the following items:

- VBF Silicone Bracelet - \$3.00 Ea.
Adult size _____ #Youth size _____ Total Amount: \$ _____
- VBF We Care Bear - \$20.00 Ea.
Bears _____ Total Amount: \$ _____
- 2003 PWS Conference 4-Part Video - \$29.99 Ea. + \$5.00 S/H
#2003 Conf. Video _____ Amount: \$ _____
- 2005 PWS Conference 3-CD Audio Series – Donation of \$49.99 Ea. (\$30.00 Ea. is tax deductible).
#2005 PWS Conf. CD _____ Amount: \$ _____

Awareness/General Fundraisers: Contact Glenda Ethington at (859)272-7617 or Email: awareness@birthmark.org
For Awareness Day or General Fundraiser, return form to: VBF/Fund, P.O. Box 106, Latham, NY 12110

____ Please remove me from your mailing/email list (address above).

____ I would like to become a VBF Parent Representative. Please send me more information (address above).

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

THE VBF IS WORKING FOR YOU

The VBF has networked over 25,000 patients into treatment since 1995

Helped to Establish Nine VB Clinics

Website and Discussion Group

Annual Newsletters/Day of Awareness Newsletter

Doctor List and Referral Information

Ask the Experts/Ask-A-Nurse on website

International Conferences – PWS and All Birthmark Types

Family Education and Support/Physician and Public Education

VBF Chapters – Worldwide Support and Education

Sturge-Weber Syndrome Community/VBF-SWSC Canada

VBF Program - VBF Awareness Day/Babies with Birthmarks/Orphans with Birthmarks/Kids Who Care

Glen's Gang Newsletter and Pen Pal Group

Buddy Booby's Birthmark Book Read-Along

Mission Statement

The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation is an international charitable organization that provides support and informational resources for individuals affected by hemangiomas, port wine stains, and other vascular birthmarks and tumors, while sponsoring relevant research and promoting physician education.



VBF

P.O. Box 106

Latham, NY 12110

(877) 823-4646

www.birthmark.org



Buddy – VBF's Official Mascot
Join the Buddy Booby Read-Along

