



# Vascular Birthmarks Foundation Annual Appeal

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

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

## VBF Russia Attends Conference



**Dr. Tatiana Belysheva, Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon, and Olga Bachuk at the 2011 Conference.**

Representatives from VBF Russia attended the 2011 Port Wine Stain and Vascular Birthmarks conference in California.

VBF Russia Chapter Representative Olga Bachuk and VBF Russia Medical Director Dr. Tatiana Belysheva were special guests at the 2011 conference. Dr. Belysheva attended the clinic sessions at the Beckman Laser Institute and was able to consult with physicians regarding treatment for vascular birthmarks in Russia.

VBF President and Founder Linda Rozell-Shannon is also coordinating with Dr. Belysheva on plans to hold a treatment clinic in Moscow, Russia in June of 2012.

On April 2, 2011, patients with port wine stain birthmarks were treated by laser free of charge at the Russian Cancer Research Center of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences (RCRC).

-See RUSSIA, Page 2 -

## Catalanottos Hit Homerun for VBF

Former Major League player Frank Catalanotto and his wife Barbara, hosted "The First Annual Frank Catalanotto Golf and Tennis Classic" to benefit the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (VBF).

The event was held on October 3, 2011 at the Cold Spring Country Club in Cold Spring, New York. In addition, a reception and dinner followed the golf and tennis tournaments.

The Catalanottos became involved with the VBF following the birth of their daughter Morgan in 1999, who had a facial hemangioma. The VBF assisted in finding the proper treatment for Morgan. Through their connection with VBF, they formed the Frank Catalanotto Foundation to raise awareness for vascular birthmarks and to also help raise funds to support the VBF. Frank and Barbara also serve as the Honorary Chairpersons of the VBF.

-See CATALANOTTOS, Page 2-



**VBF Chairpersons Frank and Barbara Catalanotto lead the 1 mile VBF Annual Walk.**

## Letter from VBF President

Dear Families and Friends:



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

2011 was an amazing year for VBF. Our Conference in Irvine was a huge success and every family that requested a free scholarship was able to attend due to your support. We had our largest clinic with over 100 appointments.

Despite the economy, last year was a year for developing new initiatives for VBF. After many of you requested that we start a program to help individuals bullied because of their birthmark, we are proud to announce that we are launching VBF's Anti-Bullying Program in 2012. Our goal is to educate everyone about birthmarks and to promote tolerance and acceptance for being different.

We are also extremely excited to announce our launch of VBF Russia. This newest chapter of VBF means that we are now on every inhabited continent in the world. To coincide with the establishment of this new chapter, we have also initiated another new program called the VBF iTEAM. This team is comprised of VBF surgeons, laser experts, and specialists who will travel outside the USA to educate physicians about the diagnosis and treatment of vascular birthmarks and will also perform free treatments. Our first VBF iTEAM trip will be in June of 2012 where we will be going to Moscow. Our next trip will be to India. If you have been looking for a program to sponsor within VBF but have not found one that suited you, maybe this program will be the one. We hope to sponsor one VBF iTEAM trip to outside of the USA every 9 months.

This past fall we were thrilled to have a 5k Run and 1 Mile Walk for Birthmarks in Boston. We are hoping to add one or two more states this year to the list of annual Walks and Runs for Birthmarks. Let us know if you are interested. We will be hosting our 4th Walk/Run for Birthmarks in Albany, NY in May.

If we have helped you we are hoping you will join our annual DOA (Day of Awareness) team. Tell your story, raise awareness and raise desperately needed funds to continue our programs.

Send us an email and we will give you many ideas for some fun and creative fund raising events you can host for VBF.

Keep searching on our website to see what new and exciting programs we are adding to VBF and if you have a suggestion for a service that we should be adding to help support our families affected by a vascular birthmarks, please just drop us a line via our website at [www.birthmark.org](http://www.birthmark.org).

God Bless

## VBF 2012 Conference in New York

The 2012 VBF Conference will be held at the campus of New York University (NYU) in New York City. Dr. Roy Geronemus and Dr. Gregory Levitin will be the co-chairs for the conference.

In addition to the conference presentations, private clinic sessions will be offered to patients and families. The clinic sessions are divided between teams of doctors who specialize in certain types of vascular birthmarks and syndromes. The sessions help provide a correct diagnosis and treatment options for hemangiomas, port wine stain, malformations and syndromes of the head and neck, and malformations and syndromes of the extremities.

The conference is scheduled for November 9 and 10, 2012. Please visit the VBF website for more details regarding the conference as they become available.

### RUSSIA|From Page 1

The laser, a Candela VBeam device, was recently purchased by the RCRC. More than 10 patients were accepted for treatment, and were from distant areas, such as Ekaterinburg, Tatarstan, and even the island of Sakhalin.

### CATALANOTTOS|From Page 1

The Catalanottos also attended VBF's 3rd Annual Challenge 5K run/community walk and kid's fun run, which was held on May 13, 2011, at the Crossings of Colonie, in Colonie, New York. Frank signed autographs and Barbara was a participant in the 5K race.

**VBF 8th Annual  
International Day of Awareness  
May 15, 2011**

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

**2011 VBF Day of Awareness Events**

- JoAnna Laws - Scentsy Fundraiser For Vascular Birthmarks
- Jan and Andrew Dreger, in honor of Owen Dreger  
Campbell's Boat House Restaurant Fundraiser
- Jim Murphy – Restaurant Fundraiser
- Kathy Wyrick – SWSC Representative – newspaper article
- Teresa Barroqueiro – Dress-down to Make a Difference Friday
- Beth Enriquez - Pampered Chef Party- May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Sarina Patel - Car Wash
- Amanda Jenkins – Yard/bake sale and Power Point presentation at church
- Lauren Vasquez – Bank collection
- Lily Mollencott – VBF bracelet sale
- Joanmarie Dimirco – Join Me Page – in honor of Danielle
- Anna Whipple – Join Me Page
- Jeremy and Heather Stone – Birthday Party for VBF
- St. Cornelius School – Buddy Booby Read-Along
- Randi DeWall – Bake Sale
- Kevin Sharyn – 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at HAFTR Middle School
- Brian and Natalie Bolinger – Angel Kiss Gala
- Dr. Linda Rozell- Shannon and Basia Joyce – VBF Annual Challenge 5K run/walk – NY
- Danielle Vlhos – Boston 5K run/walk

***Michael Dylan Politzer  
June 27, 1993 - February 17, 2012***

Condolences and prayers for the Politzer family on the recent passing of Michael Politzer. Michael was born with Klippel-Trenaunay syndrome. Although he faced many obstacles, he was very active in raising awareness and in supporting those with KT and other vascular birthmarks.

**Make Plans to Join the 2012  
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](mailto:basiajim99@nycap.rr.com). Please put "Join Me Page" in the subject line.

**VBF Texas**

VBF Board members Brian and Natalie Bolinger hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Angel Kiss Gala to benefit VBF on September 17, 2011, at The Speedway Club at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas.

The gala included cocktails, dinner, silent and live auctions, Texas Hold'em Poker, and dancing to the Downtown Fever Band.

The Bolingers are the VBF Representatives for VBF Texas, and serve on the Board of the VBF. Brian is the Vice President of the VBF, and Natalie serves as a VBF Parent Representative. The Bolingers became involved with the VBF following the birth of their daughter Nicole, who later underwent surgery to remove a hemangioma near her eye.

Visit the VBF Texas website at:  
<http://birthmark.org/vbftexas/>

## Bout Babies to Benefit VBF



Breanna and son  
Kyan

Bout Babies, featuring organic and all natural products for babies, was established by Breanna George. Her son, Kyan, had a hemangioma above his right eye. She found the VBF website while searching for information on her son's condition.

Her desire to provide eco friendly clothing and natural cleansing products for a baby's skin inspired her to start her business. Breanna also wanted to find a way to support and help other families who have children with birthmarks. With every purchase of their exclusive onesies, Bout Babies will donate a part of the proceeds to the Vascular Birthmark Foundation.



The onesies are made from 100% all natural organic cotton, have nickel-free snaps, and nontoxic azo-free dyes. The onesies are shipped in a milk carton package and includes a sample of their all natural goat's milk soap.

Please visit the Bout Babies website for more information on their products and exclusive specials at: [www.boutbabies.com](http://www.boutbabies.com)

## VBF Anti-Bully Program

VBF is proud to launch a new educational program that will hopefully reduce incidence of bullying individuals with vascular birthmarks or other physical differences and at the same time raise awareness about vascular birthmarks and other birth defects.

Since VBF was founded in 1994 we have been aware of the suffering of many individuals, especially children, with vascular birthmarks due to taunting and bullying from individuals who we believe are not educated about birthmarks or how to respect individuals who are different.

In the past, VBF has focused its efforts on networking individuals into proper treatment for birthmarks and has been greatly successful. However, with the increase in awareness of bullying, VBF has now

established guidelines to help reduce the bullying of individuals with birthmarks through education about birthmarks and the related syndromes, as well as working to raise awareness about treating these individuals with respect.

## VBF Live Chat

VBF has reinstated "Live Chat" for parents and patients. There will be free call-in sessions once a month on a Sunday night where families call in and speak to our Experts regarding questions pertaining to vascular birthmarks.

Due to the cost, we are limited to 50 telephone lines each month. The first 50 registrants will be admitted to the chat session. If you receive an email that we are over quota, we will give you priority for any future LIVE CHAT session.

For complete instructions on how to register, please visit the VBF website and click the link for "Live Chat".

The first 2012 Live Chat session took place on January 8, with Dr. Stuart Nelson and Dr. Gregory Levitin answering questions regarding "PWS and Hemangiomas – When and How to Treat".

The remainder of the 2012 Live Chat Sessions are as follows (NOTE - all sessions are 9:00-10:00pm EST):

- February 12 – Dr. Roy Geronemus and Dr. Anne Comi – "SWS – Treatment and Management"
- March 11 - Dr. Aaron Fay and Dr. Martin Mihm – "Hemangiomas and Malformations of the Orbit"
- April 15 – Dr. Stuart Nelson and Dr. Roy Geronemus – "PWS - Laser Treatment"
- May 20 – Dr. Anthony Chang – "Propranolol – Treatment of Hemangiomas – What Parents Should Know"
- June 24 – Dr. Robert Rosen and Dr. Kami Delfanian – "KTS - Treatment and Management"
- July 22 - Dr. Gregory Levitin - "Diagnosing and Treatment of Hemangiomas and Malformations"
- August 19 – Leslie Graff – "Psychosocial Issues Surrounding Hemangiomas and Malformations"
- September 9 – Basia Joyce and Corinne Barinaga – "Insurance Issues for Covering Treatment of Hemangiomas and PWS"
- October 14 – Dr. Robert Rosen – "Peripheral Vascular Malformation Treatment"
- November 18 – Dr. Orhan Konez – "Diagnosing and Treatment of Hemangiomas and Malformations"
- December 16 – Dr. Steven Fishman – "Treating Internal Hemangiomas and Malformations"

## 2011 Port Wine Stain and Vascular Birthmarks Conference

The VBF and Beckman Laser Institute hosted the 2011 Port Wine Stain and Vascular Birthmarks Conference on November 4 and 5, 2011, in California. Dr. J. Stuart Nelson and Dr. Martin Mihm, Jr. were the conference co-directors. The conference was held at the Island Hotel in Newport Beach, and the patient/family clinic sessions were held at the Beckman Laser Institute in Irvine.

Dr. Anne Comi was awarded the VBF 2011 Physician of the Year Award, for her work with patients with Sturge-Weber syndrome and PWS. Other awards were presented to Nicole Hadley, the VBF Service Award; Lauri Firstenberg, the Patricia Beckman Excellence in Philanthropy Award; and Dr. Wangcun Jin, the Dr. Michael W. Berns Achievement Award.

The 2012 VBF Conference will be held at NYU in New York, NY. Details for registration and lodging for the 2012 conference will be posted soon to the VBF website.

### VBF Boston 5K Run/Walk

The first annual VBF Boston Walk/Run took place on September 25, 2011. VBF board member and Parent Representative Danielle Vlahos helped to organize the event, which raised over \$10,000. Danielle became involved with the VBF following the birth of her son Cole, who had a hemangioma.

The "Legacy 5K Road Race" to benefit VBF was held at Legacy Place in Dedham, Massachusetts. The event was presented by Subaru of New England with additional sponsorship by Solid Body Fitness, Whole Foods of Dedham and Legacy Place, and was hosted by Therapeutic Systems & RaceMenu.



**Dr. Linda with the Podvojsky Family at Boston 5K. Twins Mia and Charlotte Podvojsky (front left) were featured on the cover for the 2010 VBF Conference in New York. Mia was born with a facial hemangioma.**

### VBF Walk Run

The 3rd Annual VBF Challenge Walk/Run for Birthmarks was held May 13, 2011 at the Crossings of Colonie, in Colonie, New York. Kaylee Rippy was the 2011 Walk/Run Birthmark Champion for the event. Kaylee was born with a facial hemangioma.

Other activities included a bouncy bounce, tumbling tykes, face painting, music, food, and vascular birthmark "Experts" who were on hand to answer questions for free about the diagnosis and treatment of hemangiomas and vascular malformations. There was also a "Kids Fun Run" for the children.

For the second year in a row the event was sponsored by Mirkovic, Lambert & Teal, A Financial Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.



**Buddy Booby makes an appearance at annual 5k run and 1 mile walk - with VBF President's daughter Christine and her friend Naiomi**

**VASCULAR BIRTHMARKS FOUNDATION, INC**  
**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009**

**ASSETS**

Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$147,270	\$130,191
Prepaid Expenses	-	250
	-----	-----
Total Current Assets	147,270	130,441
Fixed Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment, Net	1,777	2,496
	-----	-----
	\$149,047	\$132,937
	=====	=====

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$1,073	\$16,414
	-----	-----
Total Current Liabilities	1,073	16,414
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	142,974	111,523
Temporarily Restricted	5,000	5,000
	-----	-----
	149,047	\$132,937
	=====	=====

### 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/>**

#### **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

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

### **Dr. Anne Comi VBF 2011 Physician of the Year**



Dr. Anne Comi received her medical degree at the SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine, then completed a residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Buffalo and a pediatric neurology residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Currently, she is an associate professor in the Division of Neurology and Developmental Medicine at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins Medicine. Dr. Comi is also the Director of the Hunter Nelson Sturge-Weber Center at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

She began her clinical and research interest in Sturge-Weber syndrome during her Pediatric Neurology residency and research training. Her clinical expertise is in the diagnosis and treatment of the neurologic aspects of Sturge-Weber syndrome.

Her research interests center on studying the pathologic processes involved in the neurologic complications of Sturge-Weber syndrome, including the effects of chronic hypoxia and glucose deprivation on brain tissue and neurons, as well as the interactions between seizures and impaired blood flow in the brain. Through both clinical and basic research, she hopes to determine approaches to preventing neurodegeneration resulting from chronically impaired blood flow in Sturge-Weber syndrome.



**VBF**  
**P.O. Box 106**  
**Latham, NY 12110**  
**(877) 823-4646**  
[www.birthmark.org](http://www.birthmark.org)



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

