



Vascular Birthmarks Foundation

2017 Annual Report



2017 AND INTO THE FUTURE

Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon, President and Founder

2017 was a **HUGE YEAR** for VBF!

From getting **accredited by the Better Business Bureau and GuideStar**, to launching the **first-ever multidisciplinary online course in vascular anomalies, A Foundation in Vascular Anomalies**, we have been busy putting every dollar of your donation to work helping our birthmark families. This year, your support has allowed us to offer 145 clinical appointments, and host more than 275 individuals at our **annual Conference & Clinics in Irvine, California**, making it one of our largest and most successful conferences to-date.

We also worked to raise **100K this year to celebrate 100,000 lives given new hope by VBF** since our founding nearly 23 years ago. My **Facebook Live Sessions** with our team of VBF expert physicians have exploded, garnering nearly 80,000 views to-date and reaching people around the world. Our newly-launched **VBF Global Ambassador's Program** already has 40 international ambassadors in every corner of the globe, and our new **Stories of Hope** series has allowed families to share their stories of inspiration and hope with others.

Our community also hosted over **50 Vascular Birthmark Awareness events** this year, including the hugely successful **Purple Polka Dot Run** and **Catalanotto Golf Classic** that benefit VBF's mission and spread our message of awareness and acceptance. We are grateful to our community for hosting events, putting on their birthmarks, and participating in our **Buddy Booby Read-Alongs** to celebrate our month of awareness in May and to spread awareness all year long.

This year, VBF was also represented for the first time ever at the **World Congress of Pediatric Dermatology** meeting, fostering

connections with families and medical providers from all over the world. I also partnered with the **AAP on a webinar and article** on the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, which marked a huge win for our families, as it was the first time that the APP publicly recognized that babies need to be referred for treatment at the four-week well-baby check up if a vascular birthmark is still present, does not appear to be resolving, and has the potential to become disfiguring and/or problematic so that treatment can begin early.

VBF made huge strides for vascular birthmarks in 2017, and we have even BIGGER plans for 2018 as we count down to our 25th anniversary.

To ensure that every patient has an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan, our 2018 **Done by One** program will focus on starting every baby born with a vascular birthmark on a treatment program by the four-week well-baby check-up. We also look forward to expanding our **Anti-Bullying program** to provide expert resources to help bullied children and adults cope with a vascular birthmark.

In 2018, we also look forward to hosting our **VBF I-Team's first-ever international mission trip to Italy** in June, as well as our second annual **VBF International Physician Education Program** in October with invitations to physicians from the Philippines, Mexico and India to come to the US to learn from our VBF expert physicians.

Mark your calendars for our annual **2018 VBF Conference and Clinics** scheduled for **October 6, 2018** in New York, New York, and the **Purple Polka Dot Race** in **Shelby Township, Michigan** on **August 12, 2018**. Stay tuned for **BIG PLANS** for our Month & Day Awareness for Vascular Birthmarks in

May and on May 15, which will kick off in January and extend through the entire year with new ways you can help raise awareness shared each month through May!



Mei Podvojsky (before and after multiple treatments)

Most of all, we'd like to thank you for making our very important work possible. Every dollar you donate to VBF will go towards our mission of spreading awareness and sharing informational resources with our birthmark families across the globe. To continue the huge strides we made in 2017, we ask you to consider a **recurring gift of just \$10 to honor yourself or someone you love who is affected by a vascular birthmark**. Every dollar makes a difference in the lives of our families. [Contact us](#) to set up your recurring donation today!

We hope you enjoy reading more about how we put your donations to work this year in the articles that follow in our 2017 Annual Report. I look forward to continuing our very important work in 2018 and into the future thanks to your help.

2017 CONFERENCE & CLINIC ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKER

VBF CONFERENCE OFFERS 145 FREE CLINIC APPOINTMENTS WITH VBF EXPERTS

Together with [Dr. J. Stuart Nelson](#) and the [Beckman Laser Institute](#), VBF hosted the **2017 Annual VBF Conference and Clinics in Irvine, California on Saturday, October 7th**. The Conference was a huge success and one of our largest to date, serving nearly 100 patients and close to 300 individuals with presentations on the latest in medical research, individual clinic appointments with teams of leading medical experts, dental and orthodontic exams, laser treatments, and special sessions that included navigating insurance issues, make-up sessions, and family support groups.

The conference kicked off on a high note with VBF Founder & President Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon's presentation of the 2017 VBF Awards. Dr. David Darrow, DDS, MD, FAAP was honored as the **VBF Physician of the Year**. Dr. Darrow is founder and Co-Director of the EVMS Center for Hemangiomas and Vascular Birthmarks and Professor of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia. He brings a vital service to the VBF Conferences — dental exams for patients with a vascular anomaly that affects the oral cavity, and VBF remains grateful for his unwavering service to our families.

The 2017 VBF Service Award recipient was Vaiola Jalomo, a member of the admitting team at Beckman Laser Institute. She was recognized for championing patient's rights, and for her dedication and tireless energy in support of families affected by a vascular birthmark. Viola was unable to attend due to work training, proving her even more deserving of the service award.



David Darrow, MD, DDS receives the 2017 Physician of the Year Award.

The VBF 2017 Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Anton Hasso, MD, Chief of Neuroradiology, Professor of Radiological Services, and Director of

Neuroimaging Research at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. He was honored in recognition of his outstanding research contributions to the diagnosis and treatment of vascular anomalies.

After the morning kick-off, families attended faculty lectures on the latest in the field of vascular anomalies, while children enjoyed some playtime in the child care center. Lectures were given by VBF's team of leading medical experts from across the globe on the latest in cutting edge research and treatment methods designed for those living with vascular anomalies.

After the lectures, clinical patients were met by the cast of Disney's *Star Wars* at

- Francine Blei, MD, MBA
- Anne M. Comi, MD
- David H. Darrow, DDS, FAAP, MD
- Kamiab Delfanian, MD, MPH
- Carrol Fenn, DDS, LLC.
- Leslie Garson, MD MIHM
- Maria Gnarra, MD PHD
- Leslie Graff, MS, CCLS
- Anton Hasso, MD
- Steven A. Kane, MD, PHD
- Gregory M. Levitin, MD
- **Martin C. Mihm, Jr., MD***
- **J. Stuart Nelson, MD, PHD***
- Teresa O, MD
- Anna L. Pinto, MD
- Robert J. Rosen, MD
- Linda Rozell-Shannon PHD
- Benjamin Aziz Talei, MD
- Milton Waner, MD, BCH, FCS (SA)*
- Carla Mannix, Insurance
- Andrea F. Giancarli, CPC, Insurance
- Kimberly Heintzman, Makeup

***CONFERENCE CO-DIRECTOR**



the Beckman Laser Institute, where children and adults got to play with light sabers while receiving invaluable information from teams of the leading experts in the field. Patients attended individual clinic and special sessions appointments designed to target their area of need, and get their questions answered by the experts.

After the conference, the VBF family of faculty, staff, and volunteers drew the winner of the Disney vacation package. Our sincere congratulations to VBF patient Erin Roddy, who won the raffle for a 3-night, 4-day Magic Your Way® Disney Vacation Package for four. We appreciate all those who contributed to our mission by participating in the raffle and donating to VBF.

Along with the conference co-directors, Dr. Linda gratefully acknowledges the doctors who donated their time and expertise as speakers and clinicians at the Conference including Francine Blei, MD, MBA; Anne Comi, MD; David Darrow, DDS, MD; Kamiab Delfanian, MD, MPH; Carrol Fenn, DDS; Leslie Garson, MD, MIHM; Anna L. Pinto, MD; Robert J. Rosen, MD; Benjamin Talei, MD; and Milton Waner, MD, BCH, FCS (SA). In addition, Dr. Linda thanks those who donated their time for the special sessions including Andrea F. Giancarli, CPC; Carla Mannix; Kimberly Heintzman; and Leslie Graff, MS, CCLS.

Through the generous financial support of the host organizations and our dedicated sponsors: Dr. J. Stuart Nelson, Dr. Anton Hasso, Beckman Laser Institute, Inc., Cutera, Cynosure, Syneron-Candela, UCI Health, The Williamson Family, Terumo Systems, Dr. Paula & Mr. Bay Miltenberger, and Pierre Fabre, all attendees received complimentary admission to the faculty lectures, clinical appointments, special sessions/support groups – as well as free meals and one night of free lodging at the beautiful Island Hotel in Newport Beach. VBF remains the only organization known to provide such a comprehensive slate of free services to patients with vascular birthmarks.

Most of all, we wish to thank the patients and families who attend our conferences. Your enthusiasm, comradery and support make it all worthwhile!



VBF expresses its sincere appreciation to Dr. Nelson, Medical Director of the Beckman Laser Institute and Co-Medical Director of the VBF, for hosting the 2017 conference and serving as its primary sponsor.



Above: Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon and Dr. Milton Waner
Below: Staff and Board Members, ready to begin registrations.



VBF SPREADS GLOBAL AWARENESS

May marked our International Month of Awareness for Vascular Birthmarks and May 15th the official Day of Awareness.

In May and throughout the entire year, VBF joined with people across the country and around the globe to promote acceptance of birthmarks and raise funds to bring those who need treatment together with the experts who help them. This year was our most successful awareness campaign to-date, as our community hosted awareness events to spread our message of acceptance to every corner of the globe.

Our 2017 [Put on Your Birthmark Campaign](#) was a huge success! VBF Founder & President Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon lead the awareness effort with an AAP [article on the importance of early intervention she published in the AAP's official newsmagazine](#). Dr. Linda also featured [awareness and informational videos](#), hosted an AAP [webinar for pediatricians with Dr. Bernard Cohen](#) of Johns Hopkins Center on the importance of early intervention, and even brought DOA to the air on the [Ehealthradio network](#). We were thrilled that [Buddy Booby's](#)



The Catalanotto Family Put On Their Birthmarks for awareness

[Birthmark Read-Alongs](#) were held in 4 countries and 28 states, making this our largest read-along to-date!

A promotional poster for the Hornindal Rundt mountain race. It features four photos of participants: Jason (a man with a backpack), Jake (a person on a cliff), Luke (a runner), and Tobias (a soccer player). The text includes 'HORNINDAL RUNDT', 'Norway's toughest mountain race', and the 'Give2myVBF' logo.

On 8 July, along with two close friends Jake and Jason, and brother-in-law Tobias, Luke Kellgren tackled the highest mountain in under 15 hours to raise money for VBF to organize more events in Europe. Coined as the toughest mountain race in Scandinavia, [The Hornindal Rundt](#) is a 75km ultra endurance event over 20 mountains (Fjell) ascending 5,600m.

VBF AND FRIENDS CELEBRATE GLOBAL AWARENESS

This year, our community walked, ran, biked, and even participated in Norway's toughest mountain race – all to raise awareness for vascular birthmarks! Outreach stretched from Lebanon, where the [Assi Family shared their story and book Respect and Accept](#), to Europe where [Alonso's sup-](#)



5K RUN
Results & Awards
Live Music & Fun

MARKED FOR GREATNESS
5K Run/Walk to Benefit the Vascular Birthmarks foundation

Vestal Coal House
May, 13, 2017
10:00am

More Info & Registration:
MarkedForGreatness5K.Eventbrite.com
Or Print Form at TripleCitiesRunnersClub.org 607-221-3727

[porters biked from Paris to London](#) in just under 24 hours to increase awareness of vascular birthmarks throughout England and France. In Norway, John Kellgren ran for VBF and his daughter Florence Sofie in the [Hornindal Rundt](#) - Norway's toughest mountain race.

Back in the US, Jody Lee and her daughter Meghana's supporters hosted [the 2nd annual Purple Polka Dot Race](#) in Michigan, raising over \$22,000 for VBF. The inaugural [Marked for Greatness 5K in New York at Vestal Coal House](#) was also a lot of fun, and another great opportunity to raise awareness.

Our community of physicians, families and patients also joined together to celebrate birthmarks this year. Dr. Ana Duarte and the team at the Children's Skin Center raised awareness by hosting a [#PutOnYourBirthmark party in Florida](#). The [Annual Birthmark Bash of North Texas](#) was also a huge success, as was the Muscarella Family's Italian Night Dinner and Dance back in New York.

In Rochester Hills Michigan, Jody Lee painted for birthmarks at [Painting With a Twist fundraiser](#), and Andria Downey hosted [Oliva's Bingo for Birthmarks](#) in Bensalem.

The [Art by Dr. Linda VBF calendar](#) series was also a huge success, as 100% of donations went to VBF and calendars were given as FREE gifts to thank our wonderful supporters.

Every birthmark tells a story. If you, your child, family member, or a friend has been affected by a vascular birthmark, let others know how it impacted your life. Post the logo to your social media accounts, join our [#PutOnYourBirthmark](#) social media challenge, participate in a Buddy Booby Read-Along, or take your own steps to raise awareness. Whatever action you take - on whatever day - is an important step



2ND ANNUAL PURPLE POLKA DOT RACE
5K • VIRTUAL 5K • FAMILY FUN RUN

5K ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:
RACE ENTRY, TECH SHIRT & SWAG BAG
FULL OF GOODIES
WWW.PURPLEPOLKADOTRACE.COM

PROCEEDS GO TO
THE VASCULAR BIRTHMARKS FOUNDATION

AUGUST 13TH 2017 @8:30am
STONY CREEK METROPARK

towards raising awareness of all types of vascular birthmarks.

[Contact us today](#) to host an awareness event of your own in 2018!



Visit birthmark.org/awareness for ideas and to sign up

Together, we can make a difference

THANK YOU TO OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS AND FRIENDS WHO HELPED RAISE AWARENESS

Alabama

Dec. 6 Gabrielle Lane hosts a fundraiser at Frutta Bowls in Tuscaloosa

California

[Diana Mendoza shares the story of her daughter Emely](#)
[The Maddox Family - Happy 5th Birthday to Carson! fundraiser page](#)
[VBF scholarship recipient Julianne Wood posts acceptance speech](#)
[Port wine stain, Vascular Birthmark Awareness month, challenge on YouTube by Aysia](#)
[Professional photo shoot with Paige Lauren Billiot \(691 likes\)](#)

Connecticut

[Eric Pixley shares how he became Port Wine & Proud](#)
Kara Leake volunteered to be a [VBF Parent Representative](#)

Florida

[Dr. Ana Duarte with the Children's Skin Center and Gables Skin Center office #PutOnYourBirthmark party](#)

Illinois

Sheehan Family's [Bravelets \(Be Brave bracelets\) fundraiser](#)

Kentucky

Ethington Family's [Buddy Booby's Birthmark book Read-Along](#)

Michigan

July 12 [Painting With a Twist](#) fundraiser in Rochester, MI
Aug. 13 [Purple Polka Dot 5K Walk/Run at Stony Creek Eastwood Beach](#)

New Jersey

Jessica Baskin donates [20% of sales of original Bright Heart Card](#)

New York

May 13 [Marked for Greatness 5K at Vestal Coal House](#)
Capital District NY [Day of Awareness Give2myVBF Appeal](#)
Boulton Family's [Vascular Awareness for the Future](#)
April 21 Muscarella Family's Italian Night Dinner and Dance in Bronx
[Dr. Linda talks about DOA on Ehealthradio network on Podbean](#)
[Story by Olivia Grant, \(Miss Thousand Islands 2017 \)](#)

North Carolina

Sept 25-28 Heather Funk - the first Rock the Dots: LuLaRoe Fundraiser for VBF

Pennsylvania

Mannix Family created [Give2myVBF page for daughter's birthday](#)
May 20 Andria Downey's [Olivia's Bingo for Birthmarks in Bensalem](#)

Tennessee

[Alice Cooper Rocks her Hemangioma! Let's Roll in Donations for Research](#)

Texas

May 20 [Annual Birthmark Bash of North Texas Family Fun Day in Dallas](#)

Washington

April 15 - 30 Corinne Barinaga's [Crystals for a Cause](#)
Nov 15-29 Heather Rivera - the first [Facebook Birthday Fundraiser for VBF](#)

Canada

Ashley Dao reads [Buddy Booby's Birthmark book](#) in Alberta
Lyndsey Berlett reads Buddy Booby Birthmark book in Ontario

Norway

[July 8 Luke Kellgren runs for VBF in the Hornindal Rundt](#)

United Kingdom

[Buddy Booby's Birthmark Read-Alongs in Wakefield and Southampton](#)
[Biking for Alonso from London to Paris in 24 hours!](#)
[Birthmark Support Group posts on Twitter](#)

Mexico

Castellanos family made the cutest video: [Alonso tells 5 things about his PWS"](#)
Escobar de Gomez family [posts their #PutOnYourBirthmark photo](#)

Lebanon

Assi Family [shares the story and photos](#) of their book Respect and Accept

VBF AWARDS FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS TO DESERVING STUDENTS WITH VASCULAR BIRTHMARKS

The VBF Scholarship Program awarded four scholarships this year to deserving students with vascular birthmarks. Our Scholarship Program supports young adults living with a vascular birthmark, and is a way to celebrate their accomplishments and triumphs.

Please join us in congratulating this year's scholarship winners:

Casey Charles - Carson-Newman in Tennessee
Casey Chase – Coastal Carolina University
Gabrielle Lane – University of Alabama
Harrison Wile – Clemson University in South Carolina

We're excited to work with each recipient on their own day of awareness events this year. We're so proud of Gabrielle Lane, who raised \$121 for VBF at her Frutta Bowls Fundraiser in December. Every awareness event makes a difference.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WITH A VASCULAR BIRTHMARK

Watch [birthmark.org](#) for guidelines and details about the next CALL FOR APPLICANTS. 2018 Scholarship Applications will be accepted online from February – April, with decisions made in June 2018.

VBF RECEIVES ACCREDITATION FROM THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU & GUIDESTAR

Since our founding 23 years ago, VBF has been dedicated to transparency, holding ourselves to the highest internal standards for charity conduct. In 2017, our team worked with the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and GuideStar, two organizations nationally recognized for charity accountability, to help formalize our commitment to the highest standards of charity conduct.

With President & Founder Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon leading our efforts, VBF was accredited by the Better Business Bureau in 2017, receiving its highest rating by meeting all 20 standards for charity accountability. VBF is now recognized in the BBB's [2017 - 2018 Upstate New York Giving Guide](#), which is published to help donors make informed giving decisions and to help charities showcase transparency. VBF is also featured on its own BBB homepage, allowing donors to review our accountability standards themselves. We encourage you to check out [VBF's BBB Non-Profit Profile](#) today.



This year, VBF was also recognized for transparency with the award of a Silver Seal of Transparency on our GuideStar Nonprofit Profile. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. More than 8 million visitors per year and a network of 200+ partners use GuideStar data to grow support for nonprofits. In order to get the Silver Seal, VBF shared important information with the public using our profile so that our community members and potential donors can find in-depth financial information about VBF. Check out our [GuideStar Nonprofit Profile](#) and tell us what you think.



With both the BBB and GuideStar national accreditations, we continue VBF's commitment to being good stewards of every donation! [Donate today](#) and let us put every dollar of your donation towards helping families affected by a vascular anomaly.

DR. LINDA'S FACEBOOK LIVE SESSIONS REACH OVER 80,000

On January 9, 2017, VBF Founder & President Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon launched the [VBF's Facebook Live series](#) to educate our international community about birthmarks. VBF Facebook Live gives people from all over the world a chance to reach out and have their questions answered in real time by experts in the field of vascular anomalies – all from the comfort and privacy of their own homes.

Dr. Linda kicked off the series with a [Live session in January on early intervention](#), followed by a session with [Dr. Milton Waner in February on "Hemangiomas: when to treat, and when not to treat"](#). Since then, VBF has hosted a total of eight, 1-hour sessions with such expert physicians as [Dr. Stuart Nelson](#), [Dr. Roy Geronemus](#), [Dr. David Darrow](#), and [Dr. Anne Comi](#) on such topics as "laser therapy: when to start and stop", "treating gums and teeth in port wine stain patients"; "general hemangioma treatment issues" and "SWS and PWS relationship and treatment", among other topics of interest to our community.

Since our first session back in January, our VBF Facebook Live sessions have exploded with viewer participation! These sessions have garnered over 80,000 views to-date. Within 48 hours of our July 19th [Live session with Dr. Linda and Dr. Stuart Nelson](#), our video had over 6,000 views. We have also received many messages from families who are so thankful for this service that VBF provides, especially from the parents of newly diagnosed infants, who are filled with unanswered questions.

To coincide with our Facebook Live sessions, we also launched [Dr. Linda's Blog](#) this year to bring supporting informational resources and other VBF news to our community. To date, Dr. Linda's blog posts have covered such topics as early intervention, treating hemangiomas, laser therapy, month of awareness activities, and our stories of hope series.

We are excited that our Face-

book Live sessions and Dr. Linda's Blog have become such important resources to share with our community throughout the world, and look forward to continuing to offer these services well into 2018 with your continued support.

Check out our [archive of Facebook Live Sessions](#) and watch our homepage (www.birthmark.org) for details about our next Live session so that you can tune-in to have your questions answered.



100,000 FAMILIES GIVEN HOPE

This year, VBF set an ambitious goal to raise \$1 for each of the 100,000 patients that we helped network into treatment since our founding more than 23 years ago. With your help, we have achieved that goal! Every dollar we raise helps VBF **GIVE NEW HOPE** to those who depend on us for support.

In December 2016, three-year-old Brianna Brewer became the 100,000th patient that the VBF has helped to network into treatment. Following the removal of a large hemangioma on her upper lip, she's been on a fast track for recovery. Brianna's success story is one of many that can help to ease the worry of parents whose child has been diagnosed with a vascular birthmark or give new hope to an adult or family struggling with how to manage treatment and ongoing care. We are grateful that your support helped make Brianna's success story possible.

Each birthmark is a story, and each family or individual shares a common bond. Yet each story is exceptional. As part of our 100K Campaign, we also launched our **Stories of Hope Series** to help our community share stories to help raise awareness and hope for other patients and families. Our series features stories of inspiration from those from all walks of life, with all types of birthmarks, including the personal story of our [Board Chair Sherry Parrish and her daughter Paige](#), along with her message that "You are doing your best. You are in the right place. No matter what, it will be okay."



Stories of Hope

Help VBF raise awareness of vascular birthmarks and build a supportive community. Your personal story might ease the worry of a new mother, inspire a father to seek earlier treatment, or give new hope to an adult or family who has been struggling with how to manage a difficult birthmark. Every birthmark is unique, so every person has a unique experience. We want to hear yours!

[Take time to read the stories](#) that have been submitted by others over the years. Then log on to birthmark.org/shareyourstory to tell us about your birthmark and how you

became involved with VBF.

Our community is already 100,000 strong but your words will help us extend our reach and give even more lives new hope.

If you or a loved one has been helped by VBF, we ask that you pay it forward by making a gift to our 100K campaign. Your support will help us **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in the lives of others who have been diagnosed with a vascular birthmark. [Make a gift today in honor of yourself or someone you love who we have helped.](#)



VBF LAUNCHES FIRST EVER MULTIDISCIPLINARY ONLINE COURSE IN VASCULAR ANOMALIES

VBF is thrilled to announce that, on October 5, 2017, we launched the first ever online course in vascular anomalies called, "[A Foundation in Vascular Anomalies](#)." We are grateful to our dedicated team of medical experts, the Post Graduate Institute for Medicine (PIM), and others who worked tirelessly to develop the course and raise the standard of medical information in the field, both at home and abroad.

The FVA course online consists of 16 different modules written by such world-renowned experts as Dr. Milton Waner, Dr. Steven Fishman, Dr. Francine Blei, Dr. Roy Geronemus, Dr. Stuart Nelson, Dr. Robert Rosen, Dr. Martin Mihm, Dr. Patricia Burrows, Dr. Anne Comi, as well as seven other leading experts in the field. The course covers everything from surgery, laser, radiology, genetics, pathology, and focuses on every type of vascular anomaly and related syndromes such as hemangiomas, port wine stains, venous malformations, lymphatic malformations, arterio-venous malformations and all related syndromes, such as Sturge-Weber, Klippel Trenaunay, PHACES, and other related syndromes.

The FVA course is open to physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, psychologists, dentists and social workers. One CME credit is provided per module. There are 16 modules in the complete course, but combinations can be taken (referred to as bundles). Learners have one year to complete the modules they sign up for. CME credits are awarded for the successful completion of the module, the quiz, and the course evaluation form. The full 16-module course is \$199.

The CME credits are being awarded through a partnership between VBF and the Postgraduate Institute for Medicine (PIM). This institute has been providing trusted independent continuing education for healthcare professionals for over thirty years, and is a recognized leader for jointly provided continuing education activities. PIM is nationally accredited to certify education and issue continuing education credit to a multidisciplinary audience of learners. They specialize in joint provider ships with outcome measurements.

International physicians and non-physicians based in the US may also take the online course for medical credit. International physicians based outside the US may take the course for medical credits if their country accepts CME credits and they provide the completion certificate as proof. Non-physicians taking our course may also receive medical credits if their State allows them to use AMA credits towards state requirements, as their completion certificate will indicate that they participated in an activity that was awarded AMA credits. Again, it would be up to the participant to maintain a record of the credits, and to determine if their state or country accepts CME or AMA credits toward their national or state accreditation requirements. We will also allow anyone who qualifies to take the course, and who is in a financially challenged country, to take the course for free.

Let's work together to share the course with our medical networks everywhere so that we can bring the latest in the field to all patients and medical professionals: ybfeducate.org



We couldn't have done it without the gracious support of the authors who dedicated their time and expertise and our co-directors, Francine Blei, MD and Robert Rosen, MD. Thank you to everyone who made this a reality.

A Foundation in Vascular Anomalies Authors: Alejandro Berenstein, MD; Labib Zakka, MD; J. Stuart Nelson, PhD, MD; David Darrow, MD, DDS; Andrei Rebarber, MD; Anne Comi, MD; Milton Waner, MD; Leslie Graff, MS; Patricia Burrows, MD; Linda Rozell-Shannon, PhD; Robert Rosen, MD; Steven Fishman, MD; Roy G. Geronemus, MD; Francine Blei, MD; Julia P. Neckman, MD; John G. Pappas, MD; Anton Hasso, MD; Martin C. Mihm, Jr, MD; and Terry Amaral, MD

VBF GLOBAL AMBASSADORS SPREAD AWARENESS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Vascular Birthmarks Foundation AMBASSADOR

We are proud to have launched our VBF Global Ambassadors Program in late August of this year. VBF Global Ambassadors are a global network of advocates who are working together with VBF to build awareness of vascular birthmarks and funnel support to every corner of the birthmarks community. In most cases, Ambassadors are not medical professionals. Many of our VBF Global Ambassadors are themselves an adult with a vascular birthmark, or a loved one of someone with a vascular birthmark, who have stepped forward to offer assistance to others and spread awareness.

Lead by VBF Lead Ambassador Air Force First Sargent Scott Cupples, the VBF Global Ambassadors Program has garnered a huge following since August, with nearly 40 registered Global Ambassadors from the Philippines to the UK. Our Ambassadors have been working diligently to actively post and share VBF social media information and events with their individual networks. 15 profiles have been loaded to the VBF Ambassador landing page, allowing our community members to find ambassadors and share their stories.

In addition to the [landing page directory of VBF Global Ambassadors](#), we also created a [VBF Global Ambassador Facebook group](#) as another channel for discussion and to distribute information. Through Facebook, we have highlighted an Ambassador profile once a week to get the word out about this very important resource to our community.

If you or someone in your family has a birthmark and you'd like to speak with others who have had a similar experience, the Global Ambassadors can help you identify a Parent or Adult Representative who has volunteered to provide personal support to other patients and families based on their own unique experiences.

To become a VBF Global Ambassador follow this link to register now. If you need help registering or would like to speak to others with a similar experience, [Scott Cupples, manager of the VBF Global Ambassador Program, would love to hear from you today!](#) With your help, we look forward to growing our network of Global Ambassadors in the years to come so that we can spread our message of awareness and comradery to all corners of the globe.



VBF Lead Ambassador
Scott Cupples

VBF ATTENDS WORLD CONGRESS OF PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

This year, VBF was happy to accept an invitation to attend our first-ever World Congress of Pediatric Dermatology meeting.

VBF Founder & President Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon and VBF's Lead Global Ambassador Scott Cupples attended the 13th annual World Congress of Pediatric Dermatology meeting in Chicago on July 6-9, 2017.



During the world congress meeting, Dr. Linda and Scott met with pediatric specialists from around the globe, attended several working sessions with other skin-related advocacy groups in order to share our best practices, and participated in lectures addressing the latest innova-

tions in the diagnosis and treatment of vascular birthmarks.

We were blown away by the VBF display booth that was created to help us get the word out about VBF's services to the pediatric community. We are grateful for being included at such an important event, and look forward to sharing what we learned with our VBF community, and to more partnerships with the World Congress in years to come.

FOLLOW US!



FRANK CATALANOTTO FOUNDATION HOSTS ANNUAL GOLF EVENT

VBF Honorary Chairpersons Frank and Barbara Catalanotto hosted the 7th Annual Frank Catalanotto Foundation Golf Classic on October 17, 2017 at the prestigious Old Westbury Country Club in Woodside Acres, New York.

The event was another great success with a huge showing for a rescheduled rain date!

Now in its 11th year, the Catalanotto Foundation is dedicated to raising awareness and aiding with the early intervention of vascular birthmarks. Its 2017 Golf Classic and related fundraising efforts contributed \$55,000 in support of VBF programming.



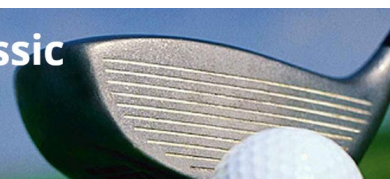
The Catalanotto Foundation was formed in honor of their daughter, Morgan, who was born with a hemangioma. We thank the Catalanottos for their longtime commitment to serving VBF's families.



Frank Catalanotto with Dr. Linda Rozell-Shannon

Annual FCF Golf Classic

Playing 'Fore' a Cause



MEGHANA'S SUPPORTERS RUN FOR BIRTHMARKS AT THE PURPLE POLKA DOT RACE

VBF's own board member Jody Lee, the Lee Family and her daughter Meghana's supporters hosted the 2nd annual Purple Polka Dot Race in Michigan, raising awareness for vascular birthmarks and over \$22,000 for VBF!

The Lee family organized the Purple Polka Dot Race to honor their daughter, Meghana, who was born with a vascular birthmark. Their goal is simple: to raise awareness and promote acceptance for those who have vascular birthmarks. All of the proceeds from the Purple Polka Dot Race go to help sponsor a family to attend the annual conference, where they have opportunity to meet with physicians who can help provide them with an informal treatment plan, and receive one night free lodging, meals, conference registrations and other clinic appointments during the conference weekend. VBF thanks the Lee family and Meghana for providing such a necessary service to our families.

You can RUN FOR BIRTHMARKS with Meghana and the Lee family next year for the 2018 Purple Polka Dot race – even “virtually” from your own home! Mark your calendars for the 2018 Purple Polka Dot Race on August 12, 2018 and visit <https://purplepolkadotrace.com> for more information.

Our DREAM is to have a Purple Polka Dot race in all 50 states in the year's to come! Please contact Jody Lee today to host a race in your state on behalf of VBF. You can raise awareness and

make a difference in the lives of someone affected by a vascular birthmark today.



John and Jody Lee with their daughter, Meghana are all smiles after the 2017 Purple Polka Dot Race.

You can find information about the 2018 Purple Polka Dot Race by emailing Jody Lee at purplepolkadotrace@gmail.com or by clicking below:



The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization. Gifts to VBF are tax deductible under the fullest extent of the law.



The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation

PO Box 106, Latham, NY 12110

(518) 209-9591

www.birthmark.org

- If you need to find a doctor, click on the icon at the top of every page.
- If you would like a medical opinion, please use our Ask the Expert feature.
- If you need to determine the type of birthmark you have, please click on “Birthmarks” and then “Determine Type.”
- If you would like to donate to the VBF, use our secure online donation feature. If you prefer to mail your donation, please use the address above.
- If you'd like to contact someone at VBF, make a comment, or share your story, visit the [Contact the VBF](#) page.
- If you would like to “pay it forward” by hosting a VBF awareness event, contact VBF from our [Day of Awareness](#) site.

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