



## MISSION

The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (VBF) is an international charitable organization that networks families affected by a vascular birthmark, tumor, or syndrome to the appropriate medical professionals for evaluation and/or treatment, provides informational resources as well as sponsors physician education, mobilizes medical mission trips, and supports research and programs that promote acceptance for individuals with birthmarks.

## HISTORY

The VBF was founded in 1994 by Linda Rozell-Shannon, Ph.D. when her daughter, Christine, was diagnosed with a hemangioma. The lack of plentiful information and connectivity with medical specialists and other families inspired “Dr. Linda” to establish the VBF.

## TEAM

The VBF Volunteer Board of Directors and our world-renowned Medical Advisors all have personal experience with vascular birthmarks such as hemangiomas, port wine stains, venous/lymphatic/arteriovenous malformations, and associated syndromes.

## WORK

VBF is the leading non-profit providing informational resources to patients and families affected by vascular birthmarks. Our work includes:

### ■ NETWORKING INDIVIDUALS

Since 1994, VBF has successfully networked more than 100,000 children and adults into treatment. Via our extensive social media networks, each week we respond to hundreds of requests for information and guidance and we enable families to directly contact a Vascular Birthmark Expert via a portal on our [birthmark.org](http://birthmark.org) website. Our annual conference and clinics bring together patients and their families with the world's leading physician experts on vascular anomalies. VBF is the only charitable organization for birthmarks that provides free hotel accommodations, meals, conference admission, and clinic appointments to families with financial need. VBF also assists individuals through the insurance appeals process after being denied coverage for treatment and awards scholarships to college-bound students living with a vascular birthmark.

### ■ SUPPORTING FAMILIES

VBF established May 15th as the official Vascular Birthmarks Day of Awareness when families join together to raise awareness and understanding of vascular birthmarks. We promote understanding and tolerance for individuals with facial differences through anti-bullying activities such as the [Buddy Booby's Birthmark](#) book Read-Along and Ask / Accept Campaigns. Throughout the year, our support groups and online forums connect patients and family members with others who have shared experiences and/or are seeking information and education. In conjunction with the annual conference and clinics, VBF also provides on-site psychosocial counseling to families affected by a vascular birthmark.

### ■ EDUCATING PHYSICIANS

VBF organizes annual medical mission trips to promote physician education around the world. VBF's ITEAM experts have lectured and, in many cases, provided free treatments in Russia, India, Israel and Italy. In 2018, VBF developed the first-ever online training course on vascular anomalies called “[A Foundation in Vascular Anomalies](#)” that can be accessed by physicians around the world for continuing medical education credit.

Learn more about the work of the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation at [www.birthmark.org](http://www.birthmark.org)