

The Frank Catalanotto Perseverance Scholarship

Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (VBF)

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. VBF accomplishes its mission through research, education and advocacy on the international, national, state and community levels. Since its inception in 1994, VBF has successfully networked thousands of children and adults into treatment, sponsored significant research, educated physicians and affected family members about the diagnosis and treatment of vascular birthmarks and has established chapters all over the world.

VBF is pleased to announce our newest college scholarship award, the Frank Catalanotto Perseverance Scholarship which honors VBF's co-chair Frank Catalanotto and his wife Barbara for their tireless efforts in raising awareness and funds for VBF. This award also recognizes Frank's accomplishment as a Major League Baseball Player, as the father of a child who had a vascular birthmark and as the author of a book which chronicles his journey in baseball and in life, entitled- "Heart and Hustle". Frank's book details his dream to play in the big leagues and how it all came true. It is also about the importance of persistence, tenacity, and perseverance for anyone that has been told that he or she is not good enough or was left behind and excluded from some team, club, or group. VBF believes that there are a lot of young men and women who share a similar story because of the challenges that they face while living with a vascular birthmark. We want to acknowledge these young men and women by making the Frank Catalanotto Perseverance Scholarship available to them. GPA is not a prerequisite, nor is an extensive list of accomplishments required.

Scholarships will be limited to \$1,000. The VBF Board of Directors Scholarship Committee will evaluate each of the applicants and make a decision in the spring of each calendar year. It is at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee to determine how many scholarships will be awarded each year.

There is also a "pay it forward" component to this award. All recipients will be required to conduct an "awareness" and mini fundraising event for VBF within one year after receiving this award.

The VBF board and staff are excited to be able to offer this program and support the efforts and dedication of students with a vascular birthmark that have chosen to pursue higher education.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CRITERIA

- Applicants must be enrolled or anticipate enrollment as a **full-time student** in an undergraduate or graduate degree program (freshman or greater status) and have a documented birthmark and can provide documentation of their birthmark.

- Applicants must be a US citizen or legal resident living in the US and enrolled in an accredited United States university.
- Preference will be given to students majoring in public health, disability studies, disability research, health promotion or a field related to disability and health.
- Applicants will be required to conduct a Day of Awareness campaign on their college campus to advocate and raise funds for VBF.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must provide a Personal Statement (maximum of 800 words, double spaced), including brief personal history about their life with a birthmark, educational/career goals, extra-curricular activities, and reasons why they should be selected by the VBF Scholarship Committee. This statement must be written solely by the applicant and contain a reference to how they have exemplified the spirit of persistence or perseverance in their life.
- Applicants must provide two (2) Letters of Recommendation (one must be from a teacher, employer, or academic advisor).
- Applicants must provide an unofficial copy of their high school/college transcript, which can be emailed as a PDF with their application.
- Applicants must agree to allow VBF to use their name, picture and/or story in future scholarship materials.
- A photograph of the applicants' birthmark must accompany their application.

Apply online at www.birthmark.org/scholarship/.

You may also attach your application, supporting materials, etc. and email to: info@birthmark.org

Scholarship Committee
Vascular Birthmarks Foundation
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