

HAPPY SEPTEMBER, AMBASSADORS!

Fall is here and I hope everyone had a great summer! We are in the last quarter of 2021 and the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation has many amazing events coming up fast that you will want to be involved in! Check out the highlights of our VBF Global Ambassador Council's committees, upcoming events for VBF, and a sneak-peek into November's VBF Global Ambassador Month of Awareness!

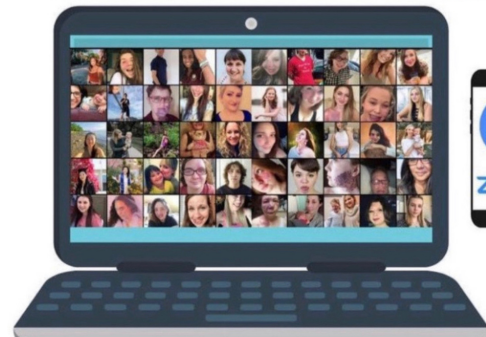
Regional & Virtual Meet-Ups

Led by Chelsea Vincent & Ava Pyles, the purpose of this committee is to organize, facilitate, and encourage members of the VBF Global Ambassador community to connect through channels other than social media. We've held five Zoom calls in 2021. The most recent call on September 23 was a mix of fun and planning, with birthmark trivia during a game of 'Kahoot' and planning our upcoming events and projects. Our next Zoom call will be at 4:00 AM ET to accommodate our eastern hemisphere audience, and that will take place on October 4, 2021. This group also helped coordinate the largest Zoom call in VBF history in May, with over 100 participants during the VBF International Day of Awareness!

Date: Sunday Oct 3rd

Time:

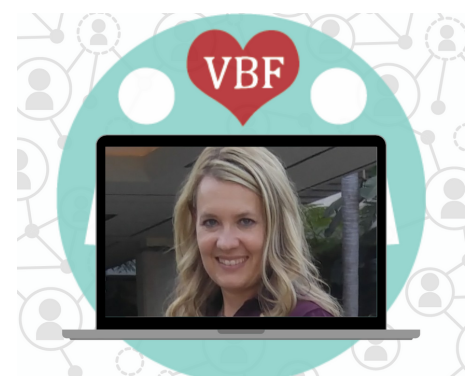
- 4am New York City
- 9am London
- 11am Moscow
- 10am Berlin
- 12pm Dubai
- 1:30pm Mumbai
- 6pm Sydney



Community Support & Connections

This committee continues to change and develop, as we add resources and gain a better understanding of our community wants and needs. We are looking to activate this by November. The Connectors know living with a vascular birthmark or anomaly can be hard; this committee is focused on helping connect people in our community to the communities, networks, role models or medical professionals they may need. Myself and Dr. Linda have met with Leslie Graff, M.S., C.C.L.S., and are working on policies and procedures. This committee is headed by Scott Cupples and Sarah Diaz.

Part of supporting our community is being a resource for the parents of children with vascular birthmarks, and our Director of Patient Advocacy and Board Chair Corinne Barinaga has done just that! You can learn more about PAN by clicking [here](#). On September 26, a panel of VBF Global Ambassadors fielded questions from parents for 90 minutes, giving candid answers about their experiences living with a birthmark. VBF Director of Communications Emily Lang reported over 15 parents attended with overwhelming positive feedback and several requests to host this session again.



VBF Parent Advocacy Network
birthmark.org



Ask/Accept Anti-Bullying & Acceptance

Led by Mr. Port-Wine & Proud himself, Eric Pixley unites our community using the Anti-Bullying pledge. This long-standing VBF program is now part of the Global Ambassadors; we have over 2,000 signatures, and that is because of YOU. The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation is a 'Bully-Free' zone and this committee will raise awareness in regards to handling bullying, acceptance and support. Share the pledge! Sign the pledge!

Tag myself and Eric Pixley in all of your Anti-Bullying posts, so he can share them! Be on the lookout for a video from myself and Eric focused on back-to-school and anti-bullying! If you have new ideas or if you wish to participate, email scupples.VBF@gmail.com.

Fundraising & Awareness

The VBF Global Ambassadors are now on TikTok, Facebook and Instagram, adding hundreds of followers a month! Our Facebook group is closing in on 1,200 members, and we have TikToks that have gone viral with hundreds of thousands of views. However, we need your help! Alana, Sarah and others have created content and are looking to include our community to spread more awareness. We will be hosting a call on November 9th at 8pm ET to discuss social media and look for new ways to spread awareness and promote our mission. In the meantime, if you want to participate in our IG Takeovers, Monday Motivation videos or make content for TikTok, message myself or Alana!

Fundraising is always a hot topic for the Ambassadors, and you all have done an excellent job supporting VBF through various events, from Facebook fundraisers to live events, to supporting our big live events such as the Purple Polka Dot Race. There were multiple VBF Global Ambassadors at the race in Michigan, and it was amazing to connect and meet with you! We also raised over \$1,000 by selling over 100 of our Ambassador t-shirts. The online store is still open, feel free to make a purchase and support VBF! We will be adding VBF Global Ambassador ball caps soon, so look out for them when they are available!

On the horizon is the Wishlist by AM Night of Fashion and Fun on November 18 in Paramus, New Jersey. This event honors Ashley Mortensen, who pioneered her own hand-made clothing line—Wishlist by AM—while battling an arteriovenous malformation (AVM), a lifelong diagnosis.

Ashley and Adrienne Mortensen host this fun-filled evening while guests enjoy a runway show featuring models with birthmarks wearing looks from Wishlist by AM. The ticketed event offers attendees music and dancing, dinner and drinks, raffles, comedy by Eric Lyden, and a photographer. Pieces featured in the fashion show will be on sale after the event. We want to see you there! Click [here](#) to learn more.

An easy way to support the VBF with minimal effort is setting up a Facebook Fundraiser for your birthday. If you need instructions on how to set one up, click [here](#).

Networking & Recruitment

The VBF Global Ambassador program has over 300 registered members and almost 1,200 members in our Facebook group. I see no reason why we can't double in size in 2022 if every single one of you recruits just ONE birthmark buddy to join us. We plan to make a big push to recruit more Ambassadors in November.



Led by Amanda Byram and Scott Cupples, this committee is designed to expand the VBF Global Ambassador program and connect Ambassadors with areas of interest in the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation network. We are always looking to add VBF Global Ambassadors to our team and finding committees and task forces that match their areas of interest. I challenge each and every one of you to teach a friend in your birthmark network about the VBF Global Ambassadors, and get them to join the Facebook group and register by clicking [here](#).

VBF Happenings:

- October 9, [VBF Super Clinic in NYC](#)
- December 4, [VBF Houston Free Laser Clinic](#)
- January 9, [VBF Miami Free Laser Clinic](#)

Closing Remarks

The committees formed by the VBF Global Ambassador Council have started holding meetings and are designed for those of us who have specific interests within the community – if you want to get more involved, email me at ambassador@birthmark.org, or find me on Facebook and Instagram. Dr. Linda created this program for me to lead with a vision of spreading awareness about vascular birthmarks and related syndromes (VBARS), creating connections and friendships within the community, and as a force-multiplier to spread the VBF message – and that is what I am so proud to do along with you all.

Thank you all, for all that you do.

SIGN UP NOW!

Vascular Birthmarks Foundation
AMBASSADOR



www.birthmark.org/ambassador

-Scott Cupples

