

The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation Frank Catalanotto Perseverance Scholarship

The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation (VBF) is an international charitable organization that networks families affected by a vascular birthmark, anomaly, or related syndrome (VBARS) to the appropriate medical professionals for evaluation and/or treatment, provides informational resources as well as sponsors physician education, mobilizes medical missions, 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 offer the Frank Catalanotto Perseverance Scholarship which honors Frank Catalanotto and his wife Barbara for their tireless efforts in raising awareness and funds for VBF. This award also recognizes Frank's accomplishments 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 a 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.

Scholarships will be limited to \$1,000 each. The VBF Scholarship Committee will evaluate each of the applicants and make their decision in the spring of each calendar year. It is at the discretion of the VBF Scholarship Committee to determine how many scholarships will be awarded each year. GPA is not a prerequisite.

Criteria:

- Applicants must be enrolled or anticipate enrollment as a full-time student in an undergraduate or graduate degree program (freshman or greater status).
- Applicants must have a vascular birthmark and provide documentation of their birthmark.
- Applicants must be a US citizen or legal resident living in the US and enrolled in an accredited US university.
- Applicants will be required to conduct a Day of Awareness campaign on their college campus to advocate and raise funds for VBF.

Requirements:

- Applicants must provide a Personal Statement (maximum of 800 words), including brief personal history about their life with a birthmark, educational/career goals, extracurricular activities, and reasons why they should be selected by the VBF Scholarship Committee.
- Applicants must provide two (2) Letters of Recommendation (one must be from a teacher, employer, or academic advisor).
- Applicants must provide a copy of their high school/college transcript.
- Applicants must agree to allow VBF to use their name, picture, and story in future scholarship materials.

- A photograph of the applicant's birthmark must accompany their application.

How to Apply:

Apply online at www.birthmark.org/scholarship/. You may also attach your application, supporting materials, etc. and email to Chris at chris@birthmark.org or mail to:

Scholarship Committee
Vascular Birthmarks Foundation
PO Box 106
Latham, NY 12110