

The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation Dr. Linda 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.

In honor of VBF's 30th Anniversary (1994-2024), Dr. Linda has established a new \$1,000 scholarship. This scholarship is for anyone who has overcome adversity and has brought good out of that experience. VBF is pleased to offer this scholarship that supports students with vascular birthmarks and honors Dr. Linda.

Dr. Linda founded VBF as a result of her own daughter's infantile hemangioma. There was no internet or advanced technology at the time. There were many obstacles. She had to raise money, create a website, assemble a board, and would go on to earn her PhD. Despite the obstacles, she persisted in creating what is today the leading not-for-profit in the world for children and adults affected by various VBARS (vascular birthmarks, anomalies, and/or related syndromes). Her daughter had surgery to remove her hemangioma in 1995. She could have stopped at that point. The hemangioma was gone. But, she did not quit. Instead, she persisted in creating a platform to educate both affected families and physicians regarding the latest treatments and newest breakthroughs.

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