



To the Honorary Mayor

I am writing to respectfully request that you kindly recognize the 2008 Vascular Birthmarks Foundation International Day of Awareness on or about May 15, 2008. May I suggest a resolution or an appropriate acknowledgement of your choice?

The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation is an international charitable organization that provides support and informational resources for individuals affected by hemangiomas, port wine stains and other vascular birthmarks and tumors, sponsors relevant research and promotes physician education.

Each year the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation helps thousands of families with infants and children get up to date and necessary information and support through our website, conferences, clinics, newsletters and publicity; however, there are thousands more who remain uninformed and are in desperate need of available knowledge and treatment options. Families armed with this valuable knowledge will be able to make the best choice for their child.

Statistics show that 40,000 infants are born each year with a vascular birthmark that requires the opinion of a specialist. Of those infants requiring the opinion or care of a specialist, 80% of them have birthmarks in the head or neck area. The results of those children who go untreated for vascular birthmarks can be devastating; these results range from disfigurement, blindness, to life altering or life threatening situations. Internal vascular birthmarks can grow to such proportions straining organs and putting a child's life at risk. Often by the time families have found a doctor who can offer the best treatment options, their case has become complicated or they have suffered unnecessarily because the opportunity to be normal and healthy had been delayed. With the choice of early intervention, these children can be spared the pain of things like social ridicule, loss of sight or sometimes life threatening crises. The Vascular Birthmarks Foundations seeks to reduce this problem by providing information.

Won't you join me in raising awareness and raising hope this year by acknowledging this international grass roots campaign that will bring hope to thousands of families. Thank you for attention in this important campaign.

Sincerely,

Vascular Birthmarks Foundation, P.O. Box 106, Latham, New York, 12110
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