



B THE DIFFERENCE®

THE BRANDON MERRITT CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Making a difference, one family at a time.

B the Difference was formed by Jessica Roberts and Stephanie Johnson in 2011 to honor the memory of their brother **Brandon Merritt**. Brandon passed away from complications due to Neurofibromatosis (NF) when he was 22 years old.

“Some people don’t need as much time on this earth to make an impact.” - Drew Leathers

ABOUT BRANDON

Brandon was the embodiment of a “Gentle Giant.” After growing up in South Florida, Brandon traded the heat and humidity for the mountains of Colorado. His mountains were his happy place—people accepted him for who he was despite his physical limitations, and although he missed his best friends from childhood, he found his second family out west.

In the days following his passing, “B” snow sculptures started popping up all over the mountain, hand-carved by co-workers. He truly was loved by all who were blessed to have known him and touched so many of our lives during his short time with us.



B HAPPY

Derived in Brandon's memory and stemming from his love of adventure. The Merritt family saw firsthand that even the smallest escape brought so much joy to Brandon. The ability to step away from life with NF, even for just a few days, was monumental. Their mission was to provide similar experiences to other NF families.

*"Thank you doesn't seem to be a big enough expression to articulate the level of **gratitude** we have for everyone involved. This trip isn't only about Hannah but it's **honoring Brandon** as well."*

- Jennifer, Hannah's mom



Hannah's B Happy Trip, 2022

B HAPPY DETAILS

- B Happy is a five-day all-expense paid vacation for selected NF recipients and their families. All expenses (flights, meals, activities, souvenirs, etc.) are covered, providing a stress-free vacation.
- From experience, we know that NF affects not only the person afflicted but also the other family members who make multiple sacrifices. Trips are limited to a total of five people, including the recipient.
- B Happy is a hosted vacation. Think of your B Happy host as a chauffeur, tour guide, photographer, shoulder to lean on, and friend to talk to.
- Young adults with a Neurofibromatosis diagnosis (NF1, NF2, or Schwannomatosis), age 13 and up, living in the United States are eligible for this program.
- **We do not accept self-referrals or referrals from immediate family members.**

*"I sit on numerous national boards for NF, **there is not one organization like B the Difference.** They let them forget about the symptoms and just be a family. That can't be done with research and clinical care."*

Dr. Frank Buono
Associate Research Scientist in
Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine

B KIND

B Kind provides relief to NF families through food assistance and medical and educational needs. Examples include grocery store gift cards, travel expenses for out-of-state surgeries and appointments, co-pays, medical procedures, treatments and specific equipment, laptops, and more.

Our committee works with NF physicians, social workers, and the NF community at large to refer individuals and families for this program. Email us directly if you know a family or individual who can benefit from B Kind assistance.



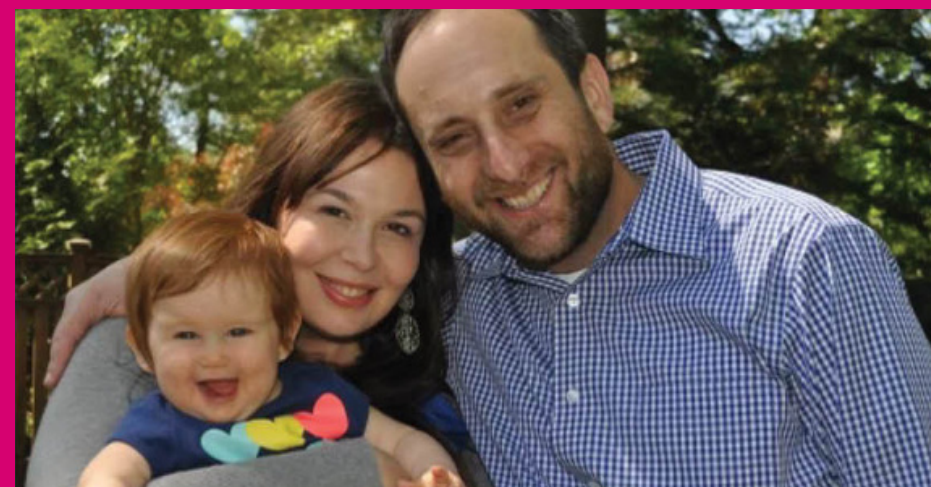
“This means we can have actual meals. Not just scraps of food found in the freezer or something in the cupboard to eat. This is one less stressor – trying to figure out how to come up with money for the basics like food.”

- Tracy Peterson, B Kind recipient



B KIND FOR THE HOLIDAYS

A program that runs from Thanksgiving to Christmas and sends **\$250 gift cards** to referred families to help spread holiday cheer.



*"This year has taken so much from my family. The B Kind holiday gift put a **smile on all my children's faces** and reminded us there is still joy in the world."*

- Amber, B Kind for the Holidays
2022 recipient

**For more information, email us at
info@BtheDifference.org**



[@bthediff](https://www.instagram.com/bthediff)



[@BtheDiff](https://www.facebook.com/BtheDiff)



[@bthedifference](https://www.youtube.com/bthedifference)



BtheDifference.org