



May 2025

“When I was in hospice, I thought I was writing my final chapter. Thanks to the VF’s connections, I was actually just beginning a new one.” —Joshua Roberts, EGPA.

Dear Friend,

In 2019 Joshua Roberts was given just months to live. Today, Joshua is thriving, thanks to a crucial diagnosis, a new treatment plan and the life-changing connections made through the Vasculitis Foundation (VF). His journey from terminal diagnosis to renewed hope illustrates our vital mission.

While traveling for work in 2018, Joshua found himself in and out of ERs across the country, unable to walk or use his hands, experiencing respiratory failure, and battling devastating symptoms that forced him to leave his career. By 2019, he was in hospice care, with doctors believing he had a terminal motor neuron disease. But Joshua’s story wasn’t over. Through a remarkable turn of events, he inexplicably began to improve. It would take until 2023 for an attentive allergist to suspect EGPA (Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis). This led Joshua to the VF website, where everything changed.

Through the VF, Joshua found more than information - he found a community. He was no longer alone. Our virtual support groups became his lifeline, connecting him with others who understood his journey. These connections proved invaluable:

- Through VF support groups and webinars, he learned the vital importance of having a “team captain” to coordinate his care - before this, his specialists were working in silos, each treating individual symptoms without seeing the complete picture. He learned about Dr. Peter Merkel, a vasculitis expert at the University of Pennsylvania. With several people advocating for him, Joshua was able to get an appointment.
- The VF’s educational resources provided information in a clear, non-alarming way, helping him understand EGPA and giving him hope when he learned that with effective treatment, he could live a normal life.
- Fellow support group members, Cheryl and Lynn, became his “big sisters,” even greeting him at the airport with snacks and a welcome sign when he traveled across the country to see Dr. Merkel. Lynn even accompanied Joshua to his appointment as his wife was back in Washington with their children.

After six years of uncertainty, Joshua finally received his official EGPA diagnosis in 2024 and began a new treatment plan. Through the connections made by the VF - to expert doctors, support groups, and critical resources - he now rides his bike up to 10 miles, reduced his meds from fifteen to two and is pursuing seminary school - a future he never thought possible before finding the VF.

There are countless others still searching for answers, still feeling alone in their journey with vasculitis. Your gift to the Vasculitis Foundation today will help us create more life-changing connections. Every dollar enables us to connect patients with support groups, link patients to vasculitis experts, provide educational resources and webinars, and fund research for better treatments. Together, we can ensure that no one faces vasculitis alone. Your support today means someone else will find hope tomorrow.

With gratitude,

Joyce A. Kullman
Executive Director