



# **Birth Defect Research for Children**

**Annual Report 2023-2024**

## National Birth Defect Registry

The Registry now has 6550 cases in the online data base. As this research tool continues to grow, we can use it to make more and more connections between environmental exposures and birth defects.



## BDRC at the VVA and AVVA annual conference in Orlando



BDRC's Director was invited to give a presentation at the annual VVA (Vietnam Veterans of America) and AVVA (Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America) conference this year held in Orlando, Florida. BDRC was AVVA's supported charity and they raised over \$45,000 dollars to help BDRC continue to support Vietnam Veterans and their families with disabilities.



## Environmental Birth Defects

BDRC monitors research linking medications, metals, radiation, chemicals and other environmental toxins to birth defects. Through the National Birth Defect Registry, data on these exposures are collected to look for patterns of birth defects that may be associated with these toxins. These data are used for studies, community advocacy and as an early warning system for birth defect prevention.

A photograph of a young child with blonde hair, seen from the back and side. An adult's hand is gently holding the child's arm. The background is a solid blue color.

# Parent Support Services

Birth Defect Research for Children has over 100 fact sheets on structural and functional birth defects that parents can download from BDRC's website. This year, these fact sheets have been downloaded more than 147,000 times. Parents can also find connections to other families who have children with the same conditions by visiting BDRC's Support Center or by participating in BDRC's Parent Matching Program when they fill out the questionnaire for the National Birth Defect Registry.

A close-up photograph of a young girl with long, wavy blonde hair. She is looking slightly to the right with a gentle expression. She is holding a dandelion seed head near her mouth, and several seeds are captured in mid-air, floating around her face. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage.

## Outreach and Education

Each month BDRC sends out Birth Defect news to nearly 5,000 subscribers.

Every day, we post timely news items on Facebook to over 8,000 friends. These news articles report on the latest research on birth defects and their preventable causes.

# Birth Defect Registry **PARENT FORUM**



CLOSED GROUP



**One of our new projects is the National Birth Defect Registry Parent Forum. This is a closed group designed to bring together parents who have filled out the National Birth Defect Registry so they have a place to discuss their child's conditions. Currently we have 415 parents in the forum with more being added everyday.**



### **New Community Resource Center**

Thanks to a grant from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, BDRC developed an on-line resource center that offers communities a step-by-step plan to investigate concerns about increases in birth defects and disabilities in their area.



### **The Major General Hugh Casey Trust**

Dorothy Casey Miller, wife of Major General Hugh Casey, bequeathed a generous endowment to BDRC in her husband's name. Major General Casey was a decorated WWII engineer who worked on many vitally important projects during WWII before passing away in 1981 at age 83.

## INCOME

■ Donation Inc 1.8m   ■ Loan 50,000



## EXPENSES

■ Program 82,194 ■ Mng/Gen 2,696 ■ Fundraising 1,040

