



# B THE DIFFERENCE™

THE BRANDON MERRITT CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



**At B the Difference we are changing the lives of individuals with Neurofibromatosis (NF).**

B the Difference was founded in 2011 by Stephanie Johnson and Jessica Roberts to honor their late brother Brandon, or “B,” as his friends affectionately called him.

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

# ABOUT B THE DIFFERENCE

The Brandon Merritt Charitable Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization formed to support individuals battling NF and their families through our B Happy program and provide funding to medical research organizations dedicated to finding a cure for NF.

When Brandon was eight months old, he was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis, a disease that targets the nervous system by developing tumors on nerve endings throughout the body.

## ABOUT NF

NF is more prevalent than Cystic Fibrosis, Muscular Dystrophy and Huntington's Disease combined. NF is worldwide, affects both sexes equally and has no particular racial, geographic or ethnic distribution...NF can appear in any family.

NF causes tumors to grow anywhere in or on the body which can lead to blindness, bone abnormalities, cancer, deafness, disfigurement, learning disabilities, excruciating and disabling pain.



*A few of our most recent B Happy trips to Florida and Colorado*

**NF can occur both spontaneously or genetically and affects 1 in 3,000 births.**

# B HAPPY

Brandon was fortunate enough to be given diversions from his life with NF, and it didn't take much for all of those who knew him to see how important those diversions were to him and his family. Our mission is to bring this happiness to other individuals and their families.

B Happy provides an all-expense paid vacation of a lifetime to places that Brandon loved.

Here is what our first B Happy participant, Jonas had to say about his B Happy experience:

“I am short for words to express my gratitude for the spectacular trip with my family. The trip was four wonderful days, and they did it...I **forgot that I was sick!** I hope other young patients can experience this dream come true like I did.” - Jonas Puig, June 2015



*Jonas and his family on their B Happy trip to Walt Disney World.*

**“Doctors can heal their bodies but programs like B Happy heal their souls.”**

Dr. John Ragheb, Chief of  
Pediatric Neurosurgery at Miami  
Children's Hospital,  
November 2014