



The Sturge-Weber Foundation

The stronger the wind, the tougher the trees.

To Whom It May Concern,

Sturge-Weber syndrome (SWS) is a rare and complex neurological and vascular condition characterized by a facial port-wine birthmark and varying degrees of glaucoma and/or seizure disorder. Individuals living with SWS may experience a wide range of symptoms including seizures, developmental delays, glaucoma, paralysis, migraines, stroke-like episodes, tissue overgrowth, endocrine complications, organ irregularities, and visual field loss. Because of its rarity and variability, patients often require care from multiple specialists and may never meet another person with the same condition.

The Sturge-Weber Foundation (SWF) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals and families affected by SWS and related port-wine birthmark conditions through global education, advocacy, support, and research—ultimately working toward a cure. A cornerstone of our work is the biennial SWF International Family Conference, a 2½-day event that brings together patients, caregivers, clinicians, and researchers from around the world.

As a small nonprofit organization with fewer than five staff members and an annual budget under \$500,000, the logistics of planning a national conference can be overwhelming. That's why our partnership with Debbie Ravenscraft of HelmsBriscoe has been invaluable.

Since first connecting with SWF, Debbie has provided expert guidance in site selection and contract negotiation—at no cost to our organization. Her deep industry knowledge, responsiveness, and genuine commitment to our mission have allowed us to confidently plan and execute successful conferences in cities such as Orlando, Denver, Chicago, Philadelphia with continued expansion to new locations.

Debbie is professional, organized, and incredibly easy to work with. She takes the time to understand our unique needs, budget constraints, and community priorities, ensuring that each conference location supports both our mission and our families. Her ability to simplify complex decisions and advocate on our behalf has been critical to our success.

We highly recommend Debbie Ravenscraft and HelmsBriscoe to any organization seeking knowledgeable, reliable, and mission-driven support in conference planning.

Sincerely,

Julia Terrell

Director of Community Relations

The Sturge-Weber Foundation

www.sturge-weber.org



**THE CLIMATE
REGISTRY**

January 9, 2024

To Whom This May Concern,

Debra Ravenscraft saved the day again navigating a venue in Dubai for US state government officials during COP28. When we experienced roadblocks with the venue, she quickly jumped in and helped to get things back on track. She always provides the best client service to us as she is highly responsive, responsible, and reliable.

Thanks, Deb!

Amy Holm
Executive Director
The Climate Registry



CCHS NETWORK

FAMILY • FOUNDATION • SCIENCE

Just wanted to drop a quick note of appreciation for your hard work and perseverance. We appreciate your understanding of our unique situation and budget restraints since we are working solely with donated funds. Once again, you managed to find us the perfect venue for our organizations meeting. The hotel was the perfect destination location and the staff at the resort was amazing. As always, we appreciate you always being available to assist us every step of the way from preplanning to completion. Look forward to working with you on the next family meeting.

Marne Harvich-Chergi

Summer 2020

To whom it may concern:

For over a decade, Debbie Ravenscraft has guided the Marfan Foundation in all of our meeting planning needs, including our Annual Conferences and International Science Symposiums.

Debbie helped ensure we have experienced the best rates, concessions and contract clauses through HB's unparalleled buying power. In addition, she helped us with post meeting challenges and billing issues which happen from time to time. Debbie has also kept our meeting planners updated on industry trends which has helped ensure successful events and meetings.

Most recently, we successfully navigated every COVID-19 challenge because of Debbie's relationships and professionalism.

Working with Debbie is like having an additional, informed member of your team at your side. Talented, thoughtful, enjoyable to work with and dedicated to our success! We could not be happier!

With appreciation,



Michael L. Weamer
President & CEO
The Marfan Foundation



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February 22, 2018

Debbie Ravenscraft
Manager, Global Accounts
HelmsBriscoe

Subject: Feedback using HelmsBriscoe

Dear Debbie,

Client: Aventics

Client Contact: Frankie Jimison

Program: Aventics Feb. 2018

Program Date: 02/12/2018

Property: Hilton – St. Petersburg Bayfront

Property Review: All associates enjoyed the meeting and everything went well, did not have any complaints.

HB Testimonial:

Enjoyed working with Debbie, she was a big help in finding the hotel and giving contact names, which helped the meeting go well. I will use her expertise again.

Regards,

Frankie Jimison

Frankie Jimison
Senior Executive Assistant

The Sturge-Weber Foundation

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To whom it may concern,

Sturge-Weber syndrome (SWS) is a rare medical condition characterized by a facial Port Wine birthmark and varying degrees of glaucoma/and or seizure disorder. One or more of the following symptoms may result: seizures, developmental delays, glaucoma, paralysis, migraines, ischemic stroke, tissue overgrowth, endocrine issues, organ irregularities, and/or partial loss of visual field. As you can surmise, many doctors are involved in the treatment of SWS, those affected may never meet someone else with their disease, and no one's SWS is the same.

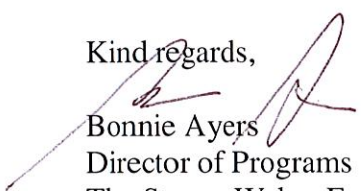
The Sturge-Weber Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with a port wine birthmark related conditions through worldwide education, support, and research leading ultimately to a cure. One of the programs supporting our mission is the biennial Sturge-Weber Foundation International Conference which brings together families, clinicians and scientists for a 2 ½ day conference. The disease is rare, the office staff is under 5 people, funding is under \$500,000 and the need for services is HUGE!

It was a wonderful day when Debbie Ravenscraft of HelmsBriscoe called me to offer her hospitality expertise in 2010. How did she know I was lost? How did she know I didn't know HelmsBrisco existed? A no-charge site selection service and contract negotiation? I had just been assigned the conference planning responsibility and don't know what I would have done without Debbie. Finding the right location is the key for everything else to fall in place. Her knowledge and professionalism got me up to speed quickly and the working relationship has been easy ever since (at least for me). I don't have to be shy to ask questions or let her know what our true conference needs are within a limited budget. Debbie is friendly, outgoing, knowledgeable, organized and efficient. Debbie has negotiated our conference hotel contracts and given us the tools and confidence needed to host successful conferences around the country to include Orlando, Denver and Chicago. As we begin to think about our 2017 conference, it is a comfort to know Debbie is on our team. Yes, she does remind me when it is time to get started!

HelmsBriscoe, Debbie Ravenscraft and the Sturge-Weber Foundation. Perfect Together!

It's time you contact HelmsBriscoe and Debbie Rasvenscraft.

Kind regards,


Bonnie Ayers
Director of Programs
The Sturge-Weber Foundation