

*Kristin P.*

Common Factors® Advocate

*My life at a glance*

I'm married and have a teenage son named Lynden. We live in Vermont, where I work for the Agency of Human Services. We are an active family! We enjoy camping, hunting, riding horses, and skiing.

Lynden and I both have Type 1 VWD, and he also has severe hemophilia A. He was diagnosed with Type 1 VWD when he was 11 months old. Since the condition is genetic, they took blood samples from me and his father, and I tested positive for VWD. I lived 16 years without being diagnosed with VWD!

*As a speaker, preferred topics include*

I speak about psychosocial issues, growing up without a diagnosis, dealing with people's reactions to symptoms, and day-to-day living with VWD, including sensitive subjects such as sexual intimacy.

I also discuss the challenges of living with VWD as a family. My son and I have benefited from mutual support, and I like to share what he and I have learned with others.

Most people don't know about VWD, so advocacy is very important. I remind anyone who has VWD that there is a lot they can do to get involved. It's important to have that personal connection with other people who have VWD.

*My message to you*

*"With education, advocacy, and support, VWD is very manageable and allows for a normal lifestyle."*

*-Kristin***Common  
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COAGULATION