



B the Difference is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed to provide support to individuals and their families battling Neurofibromatosis (NF) through our B Happy and B Kind programs. It was started by Jessica Roberts and Stephanie Johnson in 2011 to honor the memory of their brother [Brandon Merritt](#), who passed away from complications due to NF1 when he was 22 years old.

B Happy was derived in Brandon's memory and stems from his love of adventure. The Merritt family saw firsthand that even the smallest escape brought so much joy to Brandon. The ability to step away from life with NF, even if just for a few days, was monumental. They wanted to provide similar experiences to other NF families and individuals.

- B Happy is a five-day all-expense paid vacation for selected NF recipients and their immediate families. All expenses (flights, meals, activities, souvenirs, etc.) are covered, providing a stress-free vacation.
- From experience, we know that NF affects not only the person afflicted but also the other family members who make multiple sacrifices. Trips are limited to a total of five people, including the recipient.
- B Happy is a hosted vacation. Think of your B Happy host as a chauffeur, tour guide, photographer, shoulder to lean on, and friend to talk to. If anyone in your community is interested in hosting a trip, they can apply to do so [here](#).
- Young adults with Neurofibromatosis diagnosis (NF1, NF2, or Schwannomatosis) age 13 and up, living in the United States are eligible for this program.
- We do not accept self-referrals or referrals from immediate family members. You can refer a family [here](#).

B Kind provides assistance for individuals and families with NF in a multitude of ways, including food, medical, and educational aid. Our team works directly with the referred individual to identify which area of need can most benefit them. It's important to note that we do not provide assistance in the form of cash or checks. This referral process is closed to the public. We work with members of the medical and NF community to connect us with deserving individuals and families. You can refer a family [here](#).

B Kind for the Holidays is a program that runs from Thanksgiving to Christmas and gifts \$250 gift cards to families that are referred and need a little bit of holiday magic.

Our newsletter is the best way to stay up-to-date with B the Difference.