

VITFRIENDS

2026 LEADERS SUMMIT

"THE POWER OF ADVOCACY"

April 11, 2026



BELONG. EMPOWER. LIVE.



www.vitfriends.org/

VITFriends *Belong. Empower. Live*

Message from the Founder:

Valarie Molyneaux



WELCOME – Vitiligo Leaders!

Welcome to our first patient-led Advocacy Training Summit—a space created by and for people ready to lead. Advocacy is not a moment; it’s an everyday practice, and understanding how to use our voices effectively is essential. This summit has been a long time in the making, and we’re proud to offer both in-person and virtual sessions covering critical topics that strengthen our ability to advocate for ourselves and our skin conditions. We are excited to bring this training, with some important session topics, to our community. We remain committed to educating, advocating and empowering our community, so ENJOY!

**Alone
we can do so little,
Together
we can do so much!!
Helen Keller**

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Friday, April 10, 2026

Meet and Greet

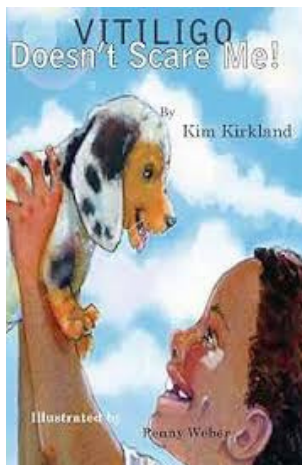
Welcome: Millicent Meadows, CT Leader &
VITFriends Founding Board Member

Valarie Molyneaux: How to create a reading
program in your local schools and libraries.

Valarie will be reading;

Vitiligo Doesn't Scare Me! by Kim Kirkland

Performance: VITI - da Brute



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2026 Leaders Summit

Saturday, April 11, 2026

9:00 Welcome

Prayer Rev Dr Wallace Henry III

9:00 Tonja Johnson: How to create an Awareness Walk Event in your town Q & A

10:00 Rep. Rob Consolvo: How to approach your elected officials Q & A

10:55 5 Min BREAK

11:00 Yan Valle: Discussing National Vitiligo Act / June 25 / Global Update/VIT History Q & A

12noon LUNCH {Performance by VITI - da Brute }

1:30 Alicia Roufs: Apply for LIT4VIT & Proclamations. Prepare for Vitiligo Awareness Q & A

2:00 Vicki & Todd Tiahr: Lobbying for Vitiligo & update-Medicare Coverage Issue

3:00 SPEAKERS PANEL: Rob, Tonja, Yan, Alicia, Todd, Vicki - Question & Answer

4:00 - 5:00 - FREE Time

5:30 - 6:30 Mixer Hour at Skyline Restaurant

6:00 - 8:00 - Dinner

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Valarie Molyneaux

Wife, Mother, Coach, Author, Educator, Poet, Advocate, Notary, Deacon, Humanitarian, NIH Coalition Member, Mass Rare Disease Council Member, MLK Community Builder Award recipient, Comm of MA Heroin Award recipient 2023, Incyte Innovator and Ingenuity Award recipient.

Rev. Dr. Wallace R. Henry, III

Rev. Dr. Wallace is currently the Senior Pastor of Inner Light Ministries United Church of Christ where he has served in the ministry for 26 years. His ministry is rooted in a desire to fulfill a divine purpose through the education of the individual as well as the community. He is an engaging teacher/leader and dynamic preacher who believes in giving his all and walking a transparent journey. As a leader, his greatest asset is the willingness to see and to create a vision supported by action and commitment. He believes through the practical application of God's word and faith the impossible is always seen as possible. In his field of education and in ministry, he has helped many individuals to discover and fulfill their purpose and looks forward to replicating this for many others.

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2026 Leaders Summit

Tonja L. Johnson is a respected patient advocate, speaker, and consultant who brings a clear voice and a steady commitment to advancing change in the vitiligo community while building supportive, empowered spaces for people with many skin conditions. She is the Founder of Beautifully Unblemished Vitiligo Support Group, Inc. in Tampa, Florida, where for more than seven years she has developed programs that educate, uplift, and connect individuals living with vitiligo and other visible skin conditions.

Diagnosed with vitiligo in 2014, her personal journey evolved into a mission to reduce stigma, expand awareness, and strengthen support at local, state, and national levels. With a background in healthcare operations and public health, Tonja bridges lived experience with practical solutions that improve patient care, community engagement, and health equity.

Alicia Roufs has been living with vitiligo since she was three months old and has become a passionate advocate for the vitiligo community. She founded a Minnesota vitiligo support group in 2014 and now serves as Vice President of Vitiligo Support for the Global Vitiligo Foundation. Alicia has spoken at the U.S. Capitol for World Vitiligo Day and continues to work to build community, raise awareness, and help others feel confident in their own skin.

Yan Valle is a medical researcher and global patient-advocacy leader specializing in vitiligo. Combining clinical education, digital health, and community engagement, he bridges pharma, research, and clinical practice to transform innovation into accessible care. With a background in engineering and business, he develops shared infrastructure — AI-driven platforms, real-world data systems, and multilingual learning tools — turning complex scientific insights into everyday clinical solutions.

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2026 Leaders Summit

Rob Consalvo started his career in public service nearly 30 years ago as an aide to Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Rob also served as a Legislative Aide in the office of Massachusetts State Representative Angelo M. Scaccia.

Rob's experience in public service inspired him to launch his own bid for public office. In 2002, he was elected to the Boston City Council in a special election. He served 12 years as the City Councilor from District 5, after serving on the Boston City Council, Rob became Deputy Director for the City of Boston's Boston Home Center. Rob also worked as Senior Advisor to the Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools. Rob serves as the State Representative for the 14th Suffolk District.

Rob is the proud father of three, Amanda, Anthony and Austin lives in Boston with his children and wife Michelle.

Todd Tiaht is a former state Senator and US Congressman, representing Kansas in DC for 16 years. He has been married to Vicki Tiaht for nearly 50 years. While in Congress, Todd advocated for vitiligo research funding, procured money for grants for AVRf and VSI and sponsored a resolution for vitiligo awareness. He has spoken at vitiligo conferences and he and Vicki remain active contributors to VITFriends for awareness and treatment covered by Insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare.

Vicki Tiaht has had vitiligo for over 40 years. Vicki worked as a public school speech therapist. She went to DC when her husband served in Congress and was President of the DC Spouses 2005-2006 . Vicki was Board President for VSI in 2015. In 2017, Vicki served as Co Chair of GVF, representing people with vitiligo until 2022. She is a member of VITFriends DC, and was on the planning committee for World Vitiligo Day 2016. Currently, Vicki is a member of the NOVATIS Patient's Board, is an advisor to the VITFriends Board and serves on VITFriends Advocacy Committee.

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Senator Doug McCrory, Deputy President Pro Tempore, Chair of Education, Vice Chair: Housing and the Ranking Member of Internship.

Member: Banking; Finance, Revenue & Bonding; General Law; Judiciary

For Doug McCrory, giving back has always been a top priority. He was elected 2017 to represent parts of Bloomfield, Hartford and Windsor. He was first elected to the General Assembly in 2004 to represent the 7th House district, which he served for six full terms. Even before his service as a legislator, Doug has been committed to strengthening neighborhoods through education, development and civic engagement. Doug has also been involved in politics at the grassroots level, serving as a Democratic Town Committee member in the 7th District for several years. Recognizing the importance of participation among people of color in the political process, Doug has continuously encouraged young people to become engaged civically, to register and vote.

A scholarship basketball player at the University of Hartford, Doug has shared his love for the sport with young people by coaching for Hartford's Northend Little League, the Hartford Hurricanes and the Boys & Girls Club. He believes in teaching children the value of academics combined with the physical discipline of sports. Doug graduated from the University of Hartford with a Master's in Business Administration, after completing his Bachelor's degree there. He also earned his Master's Degree in Elementary Administration from Sacred Heart University and is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Due to his strong will to better our community coupled with his academic and political success, Doug has been recognized and awarded for many accomplishments. He is a member of the Connecticut Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.

As Senate Chair of the Education Committee, Doug led the approval of a 2019 law creating an African American and Latino studies course available to high school students. Doug continues to champion equity in education through advancing minority teacher recruitment and retention, increased education funding, and supporting youth mental health.

Doug is a Blue Hills resident of Hartford.

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SPEAKERS



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2026 Leaders Summit

ADVOCACY ARTIST



My name is Patricia Rossy, and I was born and raised in New York City. I am a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. I am also an artist.

In 2009, I assisted in the launch of VITFriends and served as a Founding member and Vice President. I also serve as Assistant Treasurer and helped to launch the inaugural WVD celebration in 2016 in Washington, D.C. Additionally, I lead the NYC VITFriends Group, which is a VIPOC Representative.



VITI da Brute (associated with the label XOTCSKN) is a musical artist and performer recognized for the 2025 release "SKN Prophet," promoting themes of being "born twice" in flesh and purpose. They are active in the gospel/experimental music scene, emphasizing unique, artistic expression.



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2026 Leaders Summit

CT Leader/ Founding Board Member



Millicent L. Meadows was born in Hartford, Connecticut, where she currently resides. She is the proud parent of one son Nicholas (Aliana) Meadows of Middletown Connecticut. At age fifteen, Millicent had a life-changing experience when she was diagnosed with Vitiligo. Even though there were many storms and trials she faced during this transition, she knew that God was always there to guide and protect her. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts, graduating Magna Cum Laude and serving as class representative. She later earned a Master of Science in Human Services with a concentration in Organizational Leadership from the same institution. Ms. Meadows remains committed to strengthening the Vitiligo community through advocacy, resilience, and leadership. She strives to leave a lasting legacy that encourages present and future generations to remain steadfast and unwavering while promoting awareness and understanding of Vitiligo.

EMERALD QUEEN PRODUCTIONS



Emerald Queen Productions; we assist you in creating and coordinating your event to your vision. Planning of weddings, Birthdays, Bridal Shower, Baby Shower, Conference, Summit, and more. We Officiate weddings, Speaking engagements, and the Mistress of Ceremony. melt@emeraldqueenpro.com



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VITFriends would like to thank Incyte:

None of this would be possible without the 2024 Incyte Ingenuity Awards in Vitiligo. We were awarded the Grant for this project; Legislative and Advocacy Training Weekend. Our vision for this initiative was to unite individuals with vitiligo and their supporters for a weekend of advocacy training focused on both healthcare and public awareness. We hope all participants will learn how to influence vitiligo-related legislation, advocate for better access to treatment, and address barriers within the healthcare system. They will also gain skills to educate their communities, raise awareness, and foster understanding of vitiligo. Together we can do more!

VITFriends would like to thank everyone that has supported us: The Power of Advocacy 2026 Leaders Summit. Emerald Queen Productions * Millicent Meadows * Viti - XOTCSKN * State Representative Consalvo * Rev. Dr. Henry * Alicia Roufs * Vicki Tiaht * Todd Tiaht * Yan Valle* Tonja Johnson * Alonzo Beckett * Patricia Rossy * Roy Molyneaux, VITFriends Assistant * Richard Rossy, VITFriends Photographer * Emily Carrara, MA Legislative Aide * Senator Doug McCrory

