

Celebrating Renée Paper

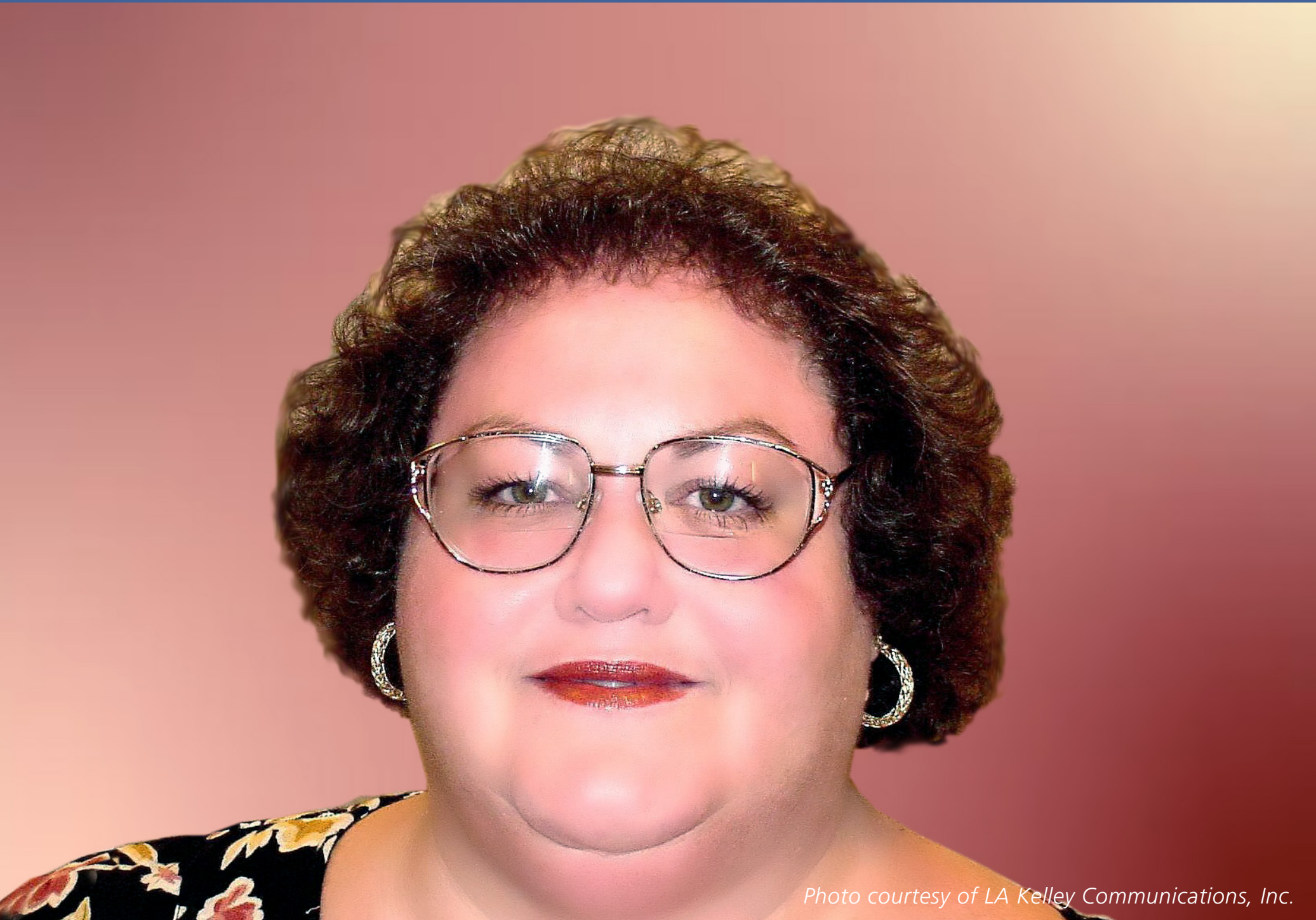


Photo courtesy of LA Kelley Communications, Inc.

Education + Awareness = Advocacy

“Women with bleeding disorders know something’s wrong but they don’t know where to turn for help. And you can’t advocate for yourself if you don’t know what’s wrong. If you don’t know what’s wrong, and you don’t know what the right treatment is for what’s wrong, you can’t advocate for yourself either.”
— Renée Paper

Renée Paper

(1958-2007), was born in California. As a young adult she moved to Reno, Nevada to become an emergency room nurse. She was also a person living with von Willebrand disease (VWD) type 2A.

Like so many women with bleeding disorders, Renée suffered through difficult symptoms, misdiagnoses, misinformation and stigma. Sadly, before Renée was properly treated for her bleeding disorder, her problematic symptoms were handled with a hysterectomy. She was furious that she had been robbed of her chance to have children and channeled her anger into advocacy. Determined to prevent others from experiencing trauma like hers, Renée dedicated herself to service, education, and expanding awareness of women and bleeding disorders, particularly VWD.

Recognizing the need for state-level resources as well as community-based outreach clinics, particularly in underserved communities, she was instrumental in expanding access and health equity for people in Nevada living with bleeding disorders. And she took her mission on the road, advocating for people with bleeding disorders throughout the US and across the world. Tireless, she was a firm believer in living life to the fullest regardless of disorder or disability.

Renée’s Many Contributions



Founder and Champion

In 1990, Renée was instrumental in founding the Nevada Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation and the first Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) in the state. She opened seven locally-based outreach clinics, and increased access to services in rural, Native American, and Spanish-speaking communities.



Ground-breaking Author

Renée, in partnership with Lauren A. Kelley, co-authored [A Guide to Living with Von Willebrand Disease](#), the first book on the world’s most-commonly-inherited bleeding disorder, published in 2002.



Community Builder

Renée hosted numerous events over the years for the bleeding disorders community — bringing people together to increase awareness, facilitate education and networking opportunities, promote fellowship, and just have fun.



Award Winner

In 2007, just before her death, Renée was awarded the Dick James Lifetime Achievement Award at the 59th Annual Meeting of the National Hemophilia Foundation.



Globe-trotting Educator

Traveling throughout the United States and around the world to spread her message, Renée was an impactful presenter and teacher. Her efforts have made a difference to people all over the planet and have been recognized from the US, to Australia, to Bangladesh and beyond.



State Proclamation Honoree

In 2008, in recognition of her many contributions to the state, the governor of Nevada declared November 1st to be Renée Paper Day.

Renée’s Mantra: Stop the Silence

“I would like to ask every one of you, please to help me stop the suffering. Stop the silence.

Help me increase awareness of von Willebrand disease. Stop the silence. Talk to your friends, your colleagues, your family about this disease. If you have patients you suspect might have it, refer them for an evaluation. But please, talk about it and think about it. I need your help.”

— Renée Paper speaking at the May 2002 47th annual meeting of the American College of Midwifery

Factor My Way

Like Renée Paper, Octapharma and the Factor My Way patient support program are dedicated to improving the lives of people living with bleeding disorders. Factor My Way includes resources for patients and caregivers, support for those navigating care, reliable educational materials, and uplifting community connections. Whether you are looking for financial assistance programs and opportunities, personal relationships and mentoring, inspiring and informative live and on-demand events, or a library of practical educational resources, you’ll find it all at Factor My Way.

Learn more about von Willebrand disease at factormyway.com/vweducation.