



Alumni, Family & Friends

DFRC NEWSLETTER - 2010 EDITION

MAY 2010



Reflections on the DFRC Blue-Gold experience

CELEBRATING MICHAEL

By Jerry McNesby

Earlier this year our family and friends celebrated my brother Michael's 50th birthday. On top of that, this year's DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star Football Game will mark the 40th anniversary since Michael was chosen as the All-Star Buddy back in 1970. An anniversary year such as this leads one to reflect and examine life and how far we have come.

The 1960s were a time of uncertainty in terms of how society was going to address the needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities. My parents, Margaret and Joseph McNesby, made a brave choice back in a time when there was a great deal of confusion on what to do and pressure to institutionalize or

"give up" children like Michael who had Down Syndrome or any other intellectual disability. We were blessed with parents who made the correct decision. What had seemed like such a challenge fifty years ago has truly proved to be a blessing in the years since.

In our home with five siblings, Michael was the baby of the family and our world revolved around him. Growing up in a small row house in Cleland Heights, our street was filled with kids who were always accepting of Michael as they themselves tried to figure out what was different, yet so special about him.

Our relatives, including numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins,

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A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK TO THE GAME THAT GAVE SO MUCH TO ME

By Bill Collick

Every high school football player in the state of Delaware dreams of concluding their high school football career by being selected to play in the DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star football game.

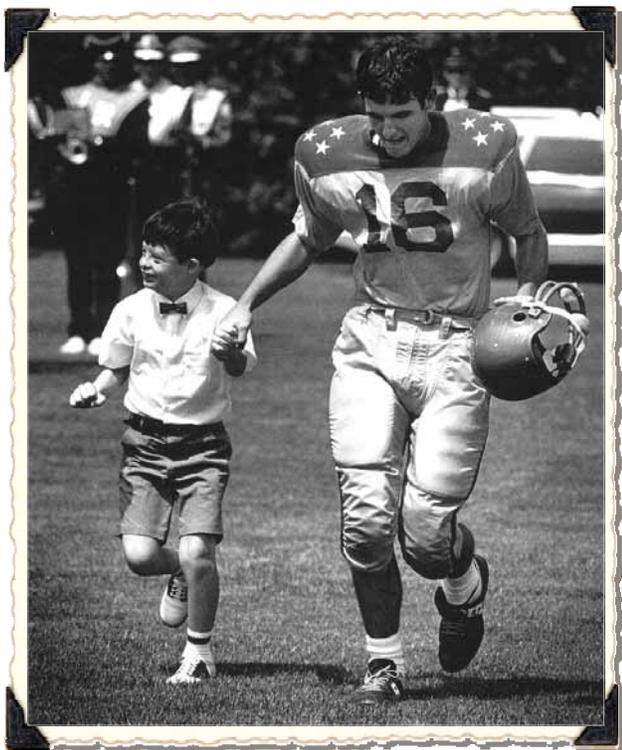
As I grew up on Burton's Avenue in Lewes, Del. - Perry Reese, a Blue-Gold All-Star participant - was not only my neighbor, but also someone who I looked up to. Although Perry was 10 years older, I remember him playing football at Jason High School (Georgetown, Del.) with teammates, Bill and Henry Coursey, two brothers and

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Join us for the 55th DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star Football Game on Saturday, June 19, 2010!

Reflections on the DFRC Blue-Gold experience È continued

From p. 1 - McNesby



Michael McNesby runs onto the field with his brother, Jerry McNesby (Henry C. Conrad High School) at the 1970 DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star Football Game

along with many caring friends, also understood just how special Michael was then, and remains today. Many of these people were part of the group of 200 who attended Michael's 50th Birthday on February 20. We were truly blessed by their presence and appreciative of their generosity in helping us raise over \$4,500 for DFRC in lieu of birthday presents.

There is no doubt that Michael has had much help and love along the way. And how could he go wrong? He attended the Meadowood School as a child and his first teachers were Barbara and Winnie Spence. Barb and Winnie were much more than teachers - they often took Michael home with them on summer weekends to swim in their pool. Barb and Winnie have been lifelong friends of the family and we love them dearly.

In 1970, when Michael was the All-Star Buddy, I was also honored to play on the Gold team with this year's Gold Head Coach, Bill Collick. Unfortunately, there was no Hand-in-Hand program back then to give the high school

participants the opportunity to truly appreciate the real reason they were playing in one of Delaware's richest and longest standing traditions. This tradition continues to exist because of the hard work of devoted and caring volunteers throughout the state, the financial support of DFRC's valued donors, and the leadership provided by the Executive Director, and the small, but dedicated, staff in the DFRC office.

Michael has truly benefited from the game and DFRC's beneficiaries. Among many other organizations, DFRC supports Special Olympics Delaware where Michael has been a member of the Thunderbears bowling and bocce teams.

“This tradition continues to exist because of the hard work of devoted and caring volunteers throughout the state, the financial support of DFRC's valued donors, and the leadership provided by the Executive Director, and the small, but dedicated, staff in the DFRC office.”

While I congratulate all of the participants in this year's game, I can only hope that the players, cheerleaders, band members, and ambassadors who participated in the Hand-in-Hand program will take away lifelong memories of the special people they've met along the way.

I am eternally grateful for all of the people who have been involved in Michael's life and have no doubt that their lives have also been touched by knowing him - which hopefully has helped shape the way they view and treat other people.

We could learn so much from Michael and his buddies who are simply not intellectually disabled, but rather EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT. If we could all view the world through Michael's eyes, even for just one day ... where people are not short or tall, rich or poor, black or white ... the world would be a better place for everyone. He simply cuts through all of that and sees people for what they really are ... as human beings.

Complete information on page 6 to sponsor a Buddy or Participant, be a Yearbook Ad Patron or to order Game Tickets -OR- go online at www.dfrc.ticketleap.com!

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, MAY 16

DFRC Blue-Gold Hand-in-Hand Buddy Picnic at the DSA Buddy Walk
South Campus athletic complex
University of Delaware, Newark, DE

MONDAY, JUNE 7

DFRC Blue-Gold All- Star Golf Classic – New Castle County
Delaware National Country Club
Wilmington

Visit dfrcfoundation.org/golf for all Golf Classic registration information.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

DFRC Blue-Gold All- Star Golf Classic – Sussex County
The Peninsula Country Club, Millsboro

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

DFRC Blue-Gold All- Star 5K Run/ 1-Mile Walk
Irish Eyes in Lewes - 8:00 am

Visit dfrcfoundation.org/run for registration information.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Media Day - 1:00 pm
University of Delaware Football Stadium

MONDAY, JUNE 14

DFRC Blue-Gold All- Star Golf Classic – Kent County
Maple Dale Country Club, Dover

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

DFRC All- Star Football Scrimmages
Open to the public – free admission!

⌆ Gold Squad Scrimmage
Milford High School - 5:30 pm

⌆ Blue Squad Scrimmage
Tower Hill School - 5:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

55th ANNUAL DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL- STAR FOOTBALL GAME

Gates open at 5:00 pm. Ticket information on page 6.

From p. 1 - Collick

neighbors who would also serve as mentors and role models to me. The one thing that all of them would do which provided a tremendous spark for me, was that they never hesitated to bring me along to their Saturday morning football games in Georgetown.

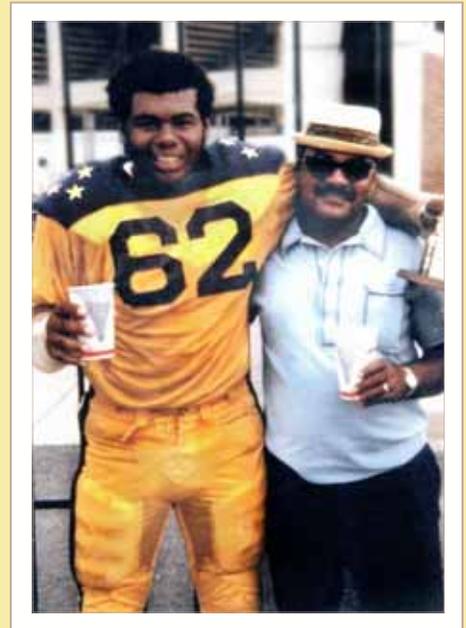
It was during the 1969-70 football season that the late Frank Coveleski (head coach at Cape Henlopen High School) nominated me to play in the Blue-Gold game, scheduled for August. Although at this point in time Perry had married and moved away, he would attend the game, and Bill Coursey would give me a nice pair of cleats to wear in the game.

While I knew that the game was played to support and benefit Delaware's children who had disabilities of the intellectual nature, I must admit that I really had no clue as to the impact that this game would have on the lives of everyone who was fortunate enough to become involved.

Specifically, the game would be the foundation that would teach me much about the importance of giving back and reaching out. In fact, participation in this game would allow me to see that no matter how much our differences may seem, we all truly have the same needs. Furthermore, this game would help me understand the benefits and results of individuals coming together for the cause.

The game would set the stage for me to attend college, serve my community and reach back, placing an emphasis on improving the quality of life for all during my 35 years spent working as an educator. Some 40 years later, I am thankful to have played, and to have experienced the honor of seeing my son (Billy) as a participant, and now, to have the privilege of coaching in this year's 55th DFRC Blue-Gold All- Star Football Game.

When I look at the effect that my neighbors (Perry Reese and the Coursey brothers - William and Henry) had upon me, I cannot say enough about the benefits of the caring and giving back which we as human beings have the ability to do for one another. Therefore, I encourage all of us to remember that "to whom much is given, much is required and expected of." Therefore, let us all continue to reach out and give back in the spirit of the game for this mighty cause!



Bill Collick (left) representing Cape Henlopen High School on the 1970 Gold team, shown with his friend, Herman Lawton (right). Collick is the head coach for the Gold Squad in the 55th Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All- Star Football Game.



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Open your mind ... fill your heart



Why does DFRC have a very special place in my heart? I enjoy the family atmosphere of the organization. Every meeting, each event, and every task is so enjoyable – it never feels like work.

When I had the honor of being chosen to chair the 2010 Blue-Gold game, the words that came to mind were “Open your mind, fill your heart.” This is how I have felt since I started volunteering with DFRC about 12 years ago. A good friend took me to a Holidazzle meeting and like most that come to one meeting with this organization, I never left. Once you are part of this family, you never want to leave.

Even though our family’s events may stay the same year after year, the atmosphere of the events is constantly changing and reflects the character of each year’s group of participants. Every year is special, but 2010 is personally extra special for me. While I have the opportunity to be game chair, equally important is the opportunity to share this experience with my niece, Samantha, a Senior Ambassador from Red Lion Christian Academy. For years I had to tell her she was too young to volunteer. When she finally was old enough to help out on game day, she became “hooked” just like so many others. Being able to share this experience with someone - and have them understand and embrace the importance of DFRC - well, that’s just priceless!

And speaking of priceless, we had a great kick-off meeting in January with our participants and parents. The threat of snow made us nervous for the Hand-In-Hand party in March, but it went off without a hitch. As always, it didn’t take long for our participants and buddies to interact with each other. The relationships being built and the understanding that happens between these young adults are always impressive to me. I keep reminding them, as long as they are willing to open their minds to understanding others, their hearts will be filled by June 19!!

- Mary Lenhoff, 2010 Game Chair





BENEFICIARY SPOTLIGHT

DFRC gives KSI startup funding in 1962

Kent-Sussex Industries, Inc. (KSI) has had a relationship with DFRC since 1962 when DFRC showed enough confidence in a grass roots organization to provide a \$10,000 seed grant to the founding members of KSI. Originally founded as the Golden Opportunity Center, Inc. (GOCI), the mission was to serve the employment needs of individuals with disabilities. In a 500 square foot facility that first year, we served 15 individuals.

Through employment, KSI has been able to enrich a person's life in a variety of ways. In the 2009 fiscal year, KSI paid its employees in excess of \$1,690,000. In addition to wages earned, we saw individuals gain confidence and strive for new goals. We've met families who are very proud of their loved one's accomplishments, and thankful that KSI offers transportation and other supports that have allowed that individual to achieve a degree of independence.

Today, KSI operates from a 72,000 square foot facility in Milford and serves more than 275 individuals annually, with more than 100 of those individuals working in the community.

KSI provides several different employment options designed to best meet the needs of the individuals we serve. We have a strong work force in our Milford facility, which completes sub-contracts for a variety of businesses. These jobs are constantly changing as deadlines are met and new contracts arrive.

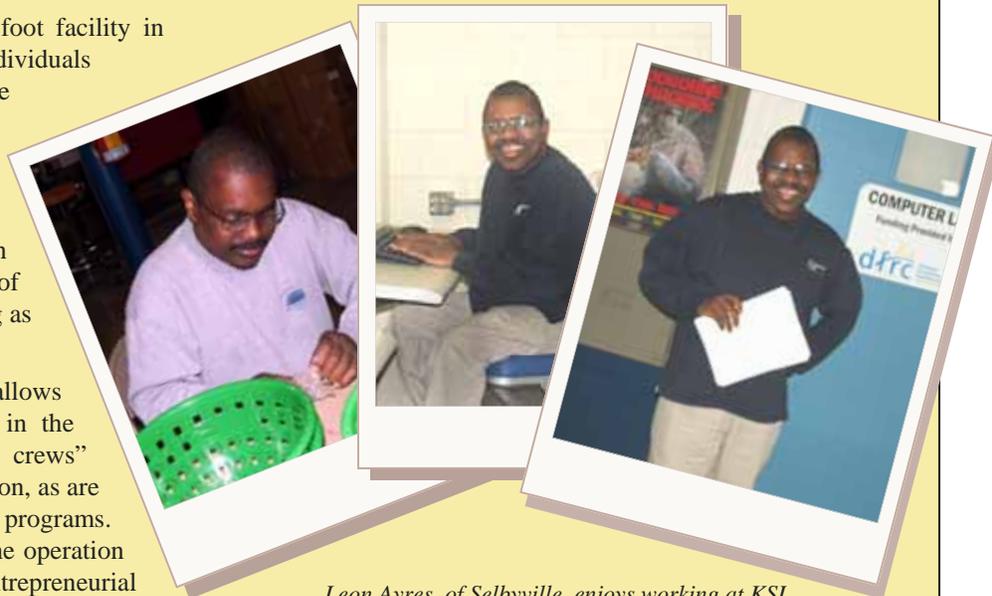
Another employment option offered at KSI allows individuals to work at a business location in the community. These "community based work crews" are supported with KSI's staff and transportation, as are the individuals employed in KSI's facility programs. One of these work crews is responsible for the operation of KSI's Cartridge Service business, an entrepreneurial venture started in 1995.

The most independent employment option offered by KSI is our Supported Employment Program. Individuals in this program need minimal supports and work very independently. While KSI does not provide transportation to these individuals, we do provide continual, on-going support services. KSI staff maintains a relationship with the hired individual and the employer so that a successful working relationship can remain strong.

KSI's relationship with DFRC is strong and continues to grow, as we both enjoy providing quality services to the individuals with disabilities who participate in our programs. Over the years, DFRC has provided funding to KSI, enabling us to begin a music therapy program, open a computer lab, and provide training to our staff. In addition to providing

employment opportunities, KSI has broadened its scope recently to include volunteer opportunities and more community involvement.

We find it heartwarming that KSI was founded with funds earned through one of the first DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star Football Games. It touches our heart because some of our employees have talked about their experiences as buddies in the Blue-Gold program. Some of our supporters and business associates also participated in the game as athletes. In 1974, DFRC started the Hand-in-Hand Program, which was developed to partner young buddies who have a disability with high school game participants, like athletes, band members and cheerleaders. DFRC is widely known in the community as the sponsor of this game and the opportunities it provides.



Leon Ayres, of Selbyville, enjoys working at KSI.

Like many of the other individuals KSI serves, Leon not only looks forward to the paycheck he earns, but he also likes to learn and socialize with his friends.

How could we have known that both organizations would touch the same families in different ways? DFRC continues to touch individuals and families in a variety of ways through its support of various organizations. KSI continues to meet the employment needs of individuals who have a disability. KSI's mission is to assist people with disabilities in the pursuit of their potential in employment and meaningful participation in their communities." If you would like to reach a KSI representative, please call Alicia Hollis, KSI Director of Community Relations, at (302) 422-4014 ext. 3015.

SUPPORT THE DFRC BLUE-GOLD PROGRAM

As we celebrate 55 years of the DFRC Blue-Gold All- Star Football Game, here are 3 ways that you and your family can give back to the game that means so much to so many. Alumni, family and friends can support DFRC's Blue-Gold program using either the form in this newsletter or by going online to www.dfrc.ticketleap.com - *thank you for your support!*

1

SPONSOR A BUDDY OR PARTICIPANT.

Each year there are more than 300 high school participants and more than 100 Hand-in-Hand buddies who participate in the DFRC Blue-Gold program. As always, there is never a charge or a fee to participate.

DFRC encourages our alumni, family and friends to join other donors in supporting this most unique program.



2

BE A BLUE-GOLD YEARBOOK PATRON.

Since the first game in 1956, thousands of individuals, businesses, and other organizations have assisted in our fundraising by becoming Blue-Gold Patrons. Patrons will be listed in the 2010 Game Day Yearbook.

3

PURCHASE TICKETS TO THE DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL- STAR FOOTBALL GAME ON JUNE 19th.

Alumni, family and friends are encouraged to attend. General Admission Tickets are only \$10, and there are discounts available for groups of 25 or more.

Tickets may also be purchased online at www.dfrc.ticketleap.com. There is no extra charge to buy and print tickets online. DFRC thanks Grotto Pizza, the official ticket sponsor of the 55th DFRC Blue-Gold All- Star Football Game.

Call the DFRC office at 302-454-2730 for reserved box seating information.

Please visit www.blue-gold.org/football for more details on the Blue-Gold All- Star Football Game.



DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL - STAR FOOTBALL GAME
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First-Class Postage Required. Post Office will not deliver without proper postage.

 *dfrc current beneficiaries:*

In 2009, DFRC funded 38 grants for a total of \$200,000.00

Since 1956 DFRC has provided more than \$5 million in funding to programs serving Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES

Arc of Delaware
Wilmington/Statewide

Art Therapy Express Program
Hockessin/Belvedere

Autism Delaware
Newark/Statewide

Bear Babe Ruth
Bear

Best Buddies Delaware
Wilmington/Statewide

Brain Injury Association of Delaware
Dover/Statewide

Center for Disabilities Studies:
University of Delaware
Newark/Statewide

The CENTER for Therapeutic
and Educational Riding
Townsend

Collaborative Effort to
Reinforce Transition Success:
C.E.R.T.S.
Newark

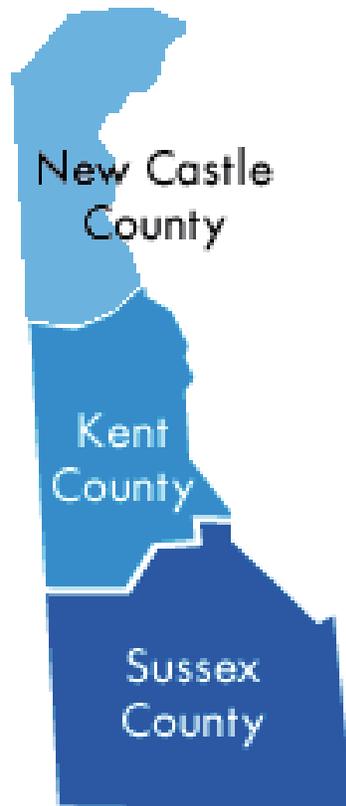
Delaware CarePlan
Wilmington/Statewide

Delaware Theatre Company-
Wilmington/Georgetown

Delaware Developmental
Disabilities Council
Dover/Statewide

Down Syndrome Association
of Delaware
Middletown/Statewide

Easter Seals of Delaware and
Maryland's Eastern Shore
New Castle/Statewide



Independent Resources
Wilmington

Intensive Learning Center:
Milford School District
Milford

KenCrest Centers
Dover

Kent-Sussex Industries
Milford

Mary Campbell Center
Wilmington

Nemours/Alfred I. duPont
Hospital for Children
Wilmington

Pet-Assisted Volunteer
Visitation Services, Inc.
(PAWS for People)
Hockessin

Pilot School
Wilmington

Practice Without Pressure
Newark

Southern Delaware
Therapeutic & Recreational
Horseback Riding
Nassau

Special Olympics Delaware
Newark/Statewide

Variety/Delaware Division
Rockland

VSA arts of Delaware
Dover/Statewide



enriching the lives of
Delawareans with
intellectual disABILITIES

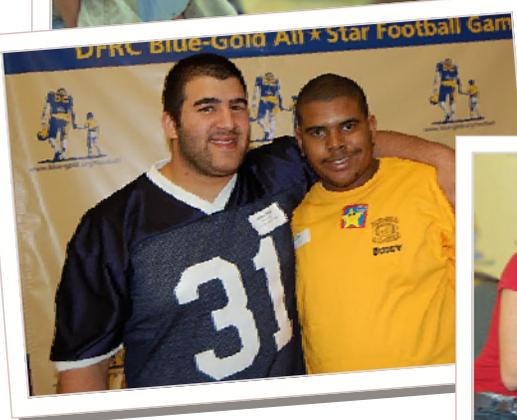
THANK YOU TO OUR 2009 ALUMNI, FAMILY & FRIENDS SUPPORTERS

who generously donated funds last year in support of our
2009 DFRC Blue-Gold buddies and high school participants:

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2010-2011 EVENTS

DFRC Blue-Gold New Castle County Golf Tournament

June 7, 2010 at Delaware National Country Club

DFRC Blue-Gold Sussex County Golf Tournament

June 10, 2010 at Peninsula Golf & Country Club

DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk

June 12, 2010 at Irish Eyes, Angler's Road in Lewes

DFRC Blue-Gold Kent County Golf Tournament

June 14, 2010 at Maple Dale Country Club

DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star Football Game

June 19, 2010 at UD Football Stadium in Newark

DFRC Holidazzle

October 2010 – location and date TBA

DFRC Sussex Auction

March 2011 – location and date TBA

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Open your mind, fill your heart



*Join us in supporting the hundreds of
high school students, volunteers and
community members who make
this game happen every year!*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19
at 7:00 pm**

University of Delaware Stadium
Newark

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Parking Opens - 3:00 pm
Kids' Games - 4:00 pm
Stadium Gates Open - 5:00 pm
Opening ceremonies - 6:00 pm
Game Kickoff - 7:00 pm

DFRC THANKS OUR 2010 BLUE-GOLD ALL- STAR FOOTBALL GAME SPONSORS

