



ALUMNI, FAMILY & FRIENDS

DFRC Newsletter ★ 2014 Edition

40 Years of Blue-Gold Hand-in-Hand

by Martha McDonough

n mathematics, science, sports, and religion, the importance of the number 40 is universally recognized. From life begins at 40, 40 winks, and a 40-hour workweek, to the American Top 40 and the typical 40-weeks of pregnancy, we share common connections to 40. We find very significant relevance to 40 in the Bible by the frequency in which it occurs. We read about Noah and the flood, as the rains fell for 40 days and nights, and Moses on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights, and nu-

merous other circumstances involving a time period of 40. In this single source, we find approximately 100 references to the significance of 40, but all seem to focus on a period of testing, trial or probation.

trial or probation.

The DFRC family takes great pride in this year's 40th anniversary of the Hand-in-Hand Program. This element of the Blue-Gold experience matches high school participants with buddies who are intellectually challenged to provide

opportunities to get to know each other and celebrate abilities and similarities. We are all differently-abled, but we find commonality in our desires to be involved in the community and have fun and friends.

DFRC was created from the inspiration of two children who had intellectual disABIL-ITIES, and the vision quickly showed us just how much we could learn from each other. In 1974, that understanding took new meaning

and the element of creating these opportunities took flight with the very first Hand-in-Hand Program.

During these 40 years, we have continually confronted our *period of testing, trial and probation* with love and open hearts, and now in 2014, we celebrate the efforts of many who have gone before us to lay the groundwork for what we know is the very heart of DFRC and the Blue-Gold Program.

the Blue-Gold Program.

As DFRC evolved, folks believed there were many lessons to be learned, so each year, volunteers transported children who were intellectually challenged to football training camp to spend a few hours with the players.

For some, this

For some, this was the first time they'd ever interacted with someone with an intellectual dis-ABILITY, and more than one of the big boys admitted anxiety as they anticipated how they would act and what they would do.

Our Executive Director,
Tony Glenn,
played in the
Game in 1973,
one year before
the Hand-inHand Program

was started. He describes his own fear of the unknown, which was very quickly replaced with joy, as he discovered unconditional love from the buddies he met. Even in those early days, it was obvious that there was much to learn from experiences together, but little did we know just how far those lessons would take us

World-renowned cardiac surgeon and host of the nationally syndicated Dr. Oz Show,

"The real reward was what I gained from knowing John."

Dr. Mehmet Oz

Mehmet Oz represented Tower Hill in the 1978 DFRC Blue-Gold Game. Dr. Oz remains connected to DFRC and his buddy, and greatly values the experiences he had in the Hand-in-Hand Program. Dr. Oz tells us, "My times with my buddy, John, were some of the most precious and rewarding times I've ever experienced in any relationship. From John, I learned his perspective on the world, and on life, and the way he related to other people. I learned that one of the best things we can do for other people is to extend ourselves, invest our time, and simply be friends.

The real reward was what I gained from knowing John. It broadened my worldview. It ultimately helped me be a better doctor, but most of all, it opened up my heart. When you extend yourself with love to another human being in kindness, you can never go wrong."

being in kindness, you can never go wrong."

These are powerful words from a man who has truly broadened the experiences he had in Delaware and taken those lessons with him around the world.

Jim Keegan is one who has lived the history of DFRC and served in many capacities. After being involved in the DFRC Blue-Gold Football Game, Jim believed in the importance of giving participants an opportunity to spend time with people with intellectual dis-ABILITIES, but somehow, he felt the need to make the experience deeper and more meaningful than simply meeting for a few hours.

Jim brainstormed with his friend and col-

Jim brainstormed with his friend and colleague, Bob Leconte. Both worked in advertising and marketing at duPont and had a keen interest in sports.

continued on page 4



Dr. Oz and John

Bue-God More Than The Game

he DFRC Blue-Gold Football Program has been an extremely beneficial and educational experience for me since the age of eighteen.

My journey started as a young high school senior playing football for Laurel High School.

It was my impression that every Delaware football player's goal was to be selected as a participant in the Blue-Gold rience the feeling of playing with Delaware's best.

Since my DFRC Blue-Gold journey began in 1999, I have not missed a game; I have been to the University of Delaware every June to support the organization's mission, the game, and the participants (especially those from Laurel High School). After my personal experience, I realized that Blue-Gold was not just about football. It goes way beyond the game.

My 1999 Blue-Gold buddy was Jaime Stephens. We were introduced and began our journey as friends through phone calls, bowling events, trips to the local ballpark, and many other activities.

I will never forget game night (1999). I was on the field with all the other Blue-Gold participants awaiting the most exciting moment-the buddies being announced and flooding the field. I was wearing my football uniform and helmet, and when I approached Jaime, she didn't recognize me. At that moment I



All * Star Football Game. As a Left - Glenn Phillips Jr, 2014 Gold Head Football Coach senior player, that definitely DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Football Game and Andrew was my goal! I wanted to expe- Grunow, 2014 Gold All*Star Buddy.

thought I had scared her and I felt awful. I quickly took my helmet off and gave her a great big hug!

In 2001, I started my career in high school coaching. I was the offensive and defensive line coach for my beloved Laurel Bulldogs.

As the years went on, I moved up the coaching ranks. On July 27, 2011, Î was offered the Head Football Coach position at Laurel High School. This was my

> dream job, which I never thought would come true.

> In 2013, Ed Manlove asked me to join his coaching staff for the 58th Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game. I was honored

and immediately accepted. I later started thinking about my DFRC buddy Jaime and the fond memories from 1999. It was a huge honor and something I am thankful for everyday.

In late December 2013, while eating dinner with my wife, I received a phone call that I continued on page 9

"After my personal experience, I realized that Blue-Gold was not just about football. It goes way beyond the game."

Coach Phillips

Join us in the DFRC Family Fun Zone! Bring the family to the game early for face painting, balloon creations, games, bouncy houses, and a train!

DFRC Family Fun Zone opens at 3:00 pm on Game Day, June 21, 2014!





DFRC 640 Plaza Drive **Newark. DE 19702**

Phone: 302.454.2730 Email: info@dfrc.org Tax ID: 51-0102390 DFRC is a 501(c)(3) charity www.dfrc.org

2014 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME **LEADERSHIP** Victoria Testa – Game Chair Stacey Stickel - 1st Vice Chair Marc Latulippe - 2nd Vice Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Frank A. Albero **Ruth W. Banta** Melissa S. Brady R.R.M. Carpenter IV L. Stephen Cleary **Bruce A. DiNardo** Michael Gamel-McCormick, Ph.D. Stacy B. Gatti Ann M. Haggerty William B. Kelly Rita M. Landgraf John A. McCarthy Martha L. McDonough **Gerard M. McNesby** Coleen E. Popp Robert A. Russel Lynne G. Sklar

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Bank of America partners with DFRC in an unexpected way

DFRC has worked with Bank of America for a number of years, and you might be surprised to hear it's a relationship that goes well beyond the traditional role of a bank.

All of the t-shirts worn at the DFRC's annual Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game are produced by Bank of America. Specifically, they are produced by the company's Support Services team, made up of more than 300 employees with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Formed in 1990, this team supports business operations for the company with various products and services, while also providing meaningful employment to those with disabilities. The team operates out of offices in Newark, DE, Belfast, ME and most recently expanded to include a location in Dallas, TX. Employees have three major areas of focus: manual assembly, inventory management and printing.

Much of the collateral used at bank-sponsored events across the country, including those with NASCAR and Major League

TODE-TOTE

Bank of America in Newark, DE

Baseball, is printed, stored and fulfilled at one of the Support Services offices. Employees also print large format posters, banners, and signage used in offices and banking centers throughout the country along with high quality digital print items such as brochures, invitations, and postcards that are mailed to thousands of Bank of America cus-

tomers. The team recently supported a major project for Bank of America Home Loans that included printing and packaging information packets for new

As noted earlier, it is also this department that screen prints tens of thousands of shirts each year. They provide the shirts worn by Bank of America Employee Volunteers, which contributed more than 2 million volunteer hours across the world in 2013. Also printed here are the t-shirts worn at the DFRC's annual Blue-Gold All-Star Football

Many teammates and internal clients of the support services team are also a part of the bank's Disability Advocacy Network (DAN), an internal employee network established to foster a work environment that accepts, values, respects and supports those affected by disabilities. The network supports employees with disabilities, as well as



Producing t-shirts and sweatshirts for DFRC programs is a point of great pride for the employees at Support Services, many of whom have participated in DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Football Game activities.

employees who have family members, friends or customers with disabilities, by creating opportunities for professional growth and development through networking, mentoring, information forums, and community involvement. Since forming in 1999, DAN has grown to include more than 1,700 members across 17 chapters in the US, London and Costa Rica.

Mark Feinour is a Business Support Executive at Bank of America who oversees the Support Services teams. "So many people have experienced the efforts and talents of our Support Services team," he said. "It could be a flyer in a banking center, a sign at a United Way event, or the A DFRC t-shirt screen printed by shirt on their back. We are very proud of the staff of Support Services at the impact our team and the services they provide has on our teammates, customers

and members of the communities we serve."

rich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disabilities, the Bank of America Support Services organization is proud to share in a partnership, and a common goal of strengthening the support and inclusion of

those with disabilities.





As the finished sweatshirts come out of the drying oven, they are carefully checked for production errors, counted, and prepared for shipping to DFRC.





An undecorated sweatshirt goes on the screen printing equipment (top) as a newly printed sweatshirt is ready to be taken off.

DFRC THANKS ITS 2014 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME SPONSORS











40 Years continued from page 1

Optimistic that providing more opportunities to spend time together with specific people would add depth to the experience, the Handin-Hand Program was conceived in their office in the duPont Company in 1974. As they explored options, Jim and Bob studied the now legendary player and child logo, and from that picture came the program's name, Hand-in-Hand. Jim took the idea to Game leadership, who very readily recognized the brilliance of the concept. And so it began....football players were paired with their own buddy and encouraged to visit with each other and attend the DFRC planned events together.

As news spread about the awesome times the football players were having with their buddies, the cheerleaders, queen candidates (now ambassadors) and band members wanted a piece of the pie, and soon, Hand-in-Hand was offered to all senior participants

Sharing the story of DFRC Hand-in-Hand became the calling of Jim and other volunteers who went to schools personally and asked teachers and administrators to recommend children with intellectual disABILITIES as buddies for the program. Two pioneers of the Hand-in-Hand Program have devoted their entire lives to people who are intellectually challenged. The life careers of Barbara and Winnie Spence were devoted to teaching children with disABILITIES at the Meadowood School, and now in their golden years of retirement, they continue to champion for them in their volunteer love for DFRC and Special Olympics. Mr. Keegan describes the beauty of his meetings with Barbara, as she listened to his request and immediately sprung into action. Every year, students from her school were involved in the Hand-in-Hand Program, and to this day, Barbara and Winnie co-chair the Hand-in-Hand

Program, as they lovingly guide their committee to find "perfect" matches and oversee the program that is the heart and soul of DFRC.

The early years of Hand-in-Hand laid the foundation that has carried us to the level of acceptance and inclusion we are today. The DFRC family continually challenges each other to make DFRC the strongest and best it can be and consistently evaluates the program. New elements have been instituted to coordinate, educate and enhance experiences and lead buddies and participants to a better understanding of how precious each life truly is. The matching and interactions are now accomplished earlier than they were when the program started, and sensitivity training and a leadership seminar have been added to provide a deeper understanding of our mission to enrich the lives of people with intellectual dis-ABILITIES. Participants often tell us that they begin the program with a goal of "helping" their buddy. Ultimately, the tables are turned and the buddies are the ones responsible for leading participants and everyone involved to a better understanding of love, life and the things that really matter.

The efforts of DFRC attest to the virtue of service throughout the state of Delaware and the DFRC family is committed to excellence and opportunity for all. The Hand-in-Hand

Program adds fuel to the burning desire to make the world a better place for everyone.

Football player in 1979, Joe Papili remains actively involved in DFRC amid careers taking him through the ranks of the Delaware State Police to U.S. Marshall, and now to his dream iob at Saint Elizabeth School. Joe recounts his Hand-in-Hand experience as the reason he's still involved today, noting, "My involvement in 1979 was the first time I'd spent time with anyone with an intellectual disABILITY. Once I saw what my buddy had to offer, I was

hooked, and those times will stay with me for the rest of my life. When I think back, it's really not the Game that means the most to me. It's what I learned from my buddy.

Stacey Stickel's message is one of a lifechanging experience that was a dream come

She states, "I knew about the Blue-Gold Game because my Mom was involved and I heard other people talk about how amazing it was. I was touched when I had the opportunity to participate in the Game and the Hand-in-Hand Program in 1993 as a band member because it was such an awesome chance to get together with people with all different abilities and learn from each other. My experience made me a better person and because of it, I have stayed involved with DFRC so that I can give back to something so meaningful and worthwhile.

We could go on and on with the wonderful experiences of so very many who tell a story of understanding, joy, camaraderie, relationships, transformations....but most of all, love! The love we bring to the experience is rewarded with love, and that love multiplies and spreads throughout the DFRC family and beyond....and it really doesn't get any better than that!

One of four precious stones, rubies are considered a stone of nobility, thought to possess an eternal inner flame symbolizing that passion is alive and strong after 40 years. It's said that rubies encourage those who are in service to others to give with a heart full of love and joy. The DFRC family celebrates all the rubies who have devoted time, energy and love, and taught us the truly important meanings of life.





One small touch that lasts a lifetime... your gift makes this possible

DFRC has touched hearts and enriched the lives of Delawareans since 1956. Key to our success has been the DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Football Game Hand-in-Hand Program, which celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2014.

Your gift of support to DFRC helps create opportunities like the Hand-in-Hand Program, as well as other programs and community services, for Delawareans with intellectual disabilities to maximize their potential, independence and enjoyment of life.

Visit the DFRC website – www.dfrc.org – and click on the DONATE button to make your gift today.

DFRC THANKS ITS 2014 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME SPONSORS













A Word from the Game Chair

by Vicki Testa

As we celebrate this 59th DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game, know that I am extremely grateful to have been given the honor of being the 2014 Game Chair. I congratulate each and every one of the participants, buddies, coordinators and coaches for this year's game. The DFRC office staff and the many volunteers have worked extremely hard to make this game year a success. It has been my pleasure to share such an incredible journey with them all.

This year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Hand-in-Hand. Started in 1974, this program of pairing senior high school partici-

pants with children and young adults with intellectual disABILI-TIES is one that creates meaningful, lasting relationships. When everyone came together at the Hand-in-Hand Party in March, it was obvious from the start that this year would be different. What bet-

ter way to spread the mission of DFRC than to involve entire families? Parents and siblings were with both participants and buddies. Watching everyone transform from being shy and unsure at the beginning to dancing, laughing and playing by the end was amazing. Group photos were taken along with candid pictures in the photo booth. Parents were in awe of their sons and daughters. I not only saw the transition but I felt it too. Hearts were opening everywhere I looked. This connection is what the DFRC mission of "enriching the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES" is all about.

ken of getting back involved with "Blue-Gold" Gold All * Star Buddy. Back row, from left - Vicki into the DFRC family and they never many times. He had played for the Blue Team in Testa, 2014 DFRC Blue-Gold All ★Star Football leave. By "Opening Hearts" we can 1979 and it changed his life. At the age of 4 my Game Chair; Larry Zucker, 1974 Blue-Gold "Change Lives" forever. See you at the niece Elena, who has Prader Willi Syndrome, be- All * Star Buddy; and Tony Glenn, DFRC Execu- game! came a buddy for the first time. She opened our tive Director.



Front row, from left - Anthony Testa, Senior Ambassador, Delaware Military Academy; Jackson, Anthony's Hand-in-Hand Buddy; Travis Testa, Blue Football Player, Conrad Schools of Science, Back row, from left - Vicki Testa, 2014 DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Football Game Chair; and Michael Testa, Junior Ambassador, Conrad Schools of Science.

hearts the day she was born. We attended the game almost every year to support her. She continued in the

program until the age of 18 and still benefits from many of the programs supported by DFRC today. In 2007, my son Michael was selected to represent St. Elizabeth High School as a blue player and he requested Elena as his buddy. That same year, Elena was cho-

sen to be the All★Star Buddy. She was so excited! We made tee shirts, had banners made and ordered balloons. Food was prepared for a tailgate party before the game. Many of our family and friends came- and we celebrated. That year Tony Glenn, Marty McDonough, Georgia Ritter and Guy Vander-Lek welcomed us into the DFRC family and we never left. Elena had opened our hearts and she and DFRC changed our lives. My wish for each of the par-Front row, from left - Matthew Lavelle, 2014 ticipants, buddies and their families is



Over the years, my husband Ed had spo- Blue All + Star Buddy; Andrew Grunow, 2014 that they celebrate, they feel welcomed



59th ANNUAL DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL*STAR FOOTBALL GAME Opening Hearts * Changing Lives 40 Years of Hand-in-Hand

INSTRUCTIONS: You may use this form to become a Blue-Gold Patron with a listing in the 2014 Yearbook*, order tickets for the Game and order a 2014 Game Day T-Shirt or replacement Jersey (Players only).

BE A BLUE-GOLD YEARBOOK PATRON (*Must be received by June 1, 2014 for your name to be included in the 2014 Yearbook)																							
	All*Star Patron Gold Patron Silver Pa Minimum \$100.00 Gift \$50.00 — \$99.99 Gift \$25.00 — \$4																		WRITE GIFT AMOUNT BELOW				
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Individual and Group General Admission Tickets can also be purchased online at DFRC.TICKETLEAP.COM (service fee applies). Limited quantities of Reserved Box seats are available starting at \$15. Call DFRC at 302.454.2730 during business hours.																							
PURCHASE A GAME DAY T-SHIRT OR REPLACEMENT JERSEY (Jerseys available to Alumni Players only)																							
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	Shipping additional for T-Shirts. Typically \$5 per order. More than 4 shirts may incur additional shipping charges.																						
	Replacement Jerseys are \$75.00 each. Available to Alumni Players only. Delivery is 4 to 6 weeks. Please check Team Color														_								
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59th ANNUAL DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME Opening Hearts * Changing Lives 40 Years of Hand-in-Hand

We need your support to ensure the success of the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game Program and our mission to enrich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disabilities. In our 59th year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Hand-in-Hand Buddy Program—the heart of the Blue-Gold experience.

There are three ways you and your family can support DFRC programs that mean so much to so many. Please use the order form on the back of this page—you may mail your order to DFRC with this self-mailer, or send your order by FAX to 302.454.2755 (credit card orders only, please).

Be a DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Patron and your name will appear in the 2014 Football Game Yearbook (if you respond by June 1, 2014).

Purchase tickets and plan to attend this year's 59th Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Game.

Bring your family and friends and get discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more. Even if you cannot attend the game, please know that your ticket purchase will help us provide opportunities for many.

Order 2014 DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game Day T-Shirts for yourself and your family. Alumni Football Players may also order replacement jerseys featuring your game number and team colors.

GO BLUE! GO GOLD! **GO BLUE-GOLD!!**



40 Years Hand-in-Hand

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In 2013, DFRC provided 25 Delaware agencies and organizations with grants totaling \$78,000.00

The Arc of Delaware

Art Therapy Express
Hockessin

Best Buddies Delaware Statewide

Center for Disabilities Studies— University of Delaware Statewide

CENTER for Therapeutic and Educational Riding Townsend

Collaborative Effort to Reinforce Transition Success (C.E.R.T.S.) Newark/Smyrna Delaware CarePlan

Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council Statewide

Delaware Theatre Co. -Totally Awesome Players Wilmington

Down Syndrome Assoc. of Delaware Statewide

Easter Seals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore Statewide

Exceptional Care for Children
Newark

Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens Statewide

Hearts, Hands, and Horses 4 H Club Wilmington

Independent Resources Wilmington

Mancus Foundation
Wilmington

Parent Information Center Statewide

Pet-Assisted Volunteer Visitation Services (PAWS for People)

Practice Without Pressure
Newark

Richardson Park Learning Center - Red Clay District Wilmington

Rotary Area 4— CanDo Playground Milford

Therapeutic Riding at Carousel
Wilmington

Variety -Delaware Chapter Statewide

Very Special Arts Delaware Statewide

Young Life Capernaum Dover

Since 1956, DFRC has provided nearly \$6 million in funding to programs serving Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES

Annual DFRC fundraising events include:

DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Football Game, DFRC Holidazzle,
DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Golf Classics in Kent, New Castle and
Sussex counties.

DFRC Sussex Auction and the DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Run/Walk.

Visit DFRC on the web at www.dfrc.org



The Game

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never thought I'd get. On the other end of the phone was Coach Mark DelPercio. Coach DelPercio told me I was selected as the Gold Head Coach for the 2014 DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game. This selection means more to me than words can ever express and it is something I will cherish for the rest of my life.

The DFRC Blue-Gold Organization means the world to me. There is no better place for a high school athlete to learn about the role he/she plays in the lives of others than here. As I met with the players of the Gold team for the first time, my words went like this. "THIS IS NOT ABOUT YOU!!!! BE OPEN AND CHERISH EVERY MOMENT OF THIS. YOU WILL LOOK BACK ON THIS AND REALIZE THE LIFE LESSONS YOU HAVE GAINED AND WILL BE THANKFUL YOU HAVE HAD THIS JOURNEY IN YOUR LIFE."

2014 All★Star Buddies



Matthew Lavelle (left), 2014 Blue DFRC All ★ Star Football Buddy Andrew Grunow (right), 2014 Gold DFRC All ★ Star Football Buddy

Having a pretty good time!



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." -Mohandas K. Gandhi

Mark Your Calendars

June 7 — Saturday — 7 AM

DFRC Blue-Gold Run/Walk at Irish Eyes in Lewes

June 9 — Mondav

DFRC Blue-Gold New Castle County Golf Classic

White Clay Creek Country Club

June 18 — Wednesday — 5:30 PM

Gold Football Scrimmage Milford High School, Milford

June 18 — Wednesdav — 5:30 PM

Blue Football Scrimmage Tower Hill School, Wilmington

June 21 — Saturday

GAME DAY 59th Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game Celebrating 40 Years of DFRC Blue-Gold Hand-in-Hand University of Delaware Stadium, Newark Family Fun Zone – 3 PM 1964 & 1989 Alumni Reunions – 4 PM Opening Ceremonies on the field - 6 PM Kickoff – 7 PM

June 23 — Monday

DFRC Blue-Gold Kent County Golf Classic Maple Dale Country Club

September 4 — Thursday — 7 PMDFRC Blue-Gold Kickoff Classic Football Games

September 2014

DFRC Blue-Gold Sussex County Golf Classic

November 15 — Saturday

DFRC Holidazzle Hercules Plaza – Wilmington

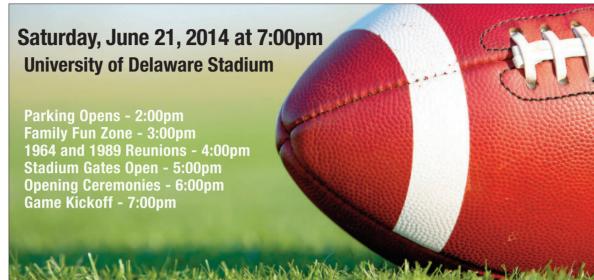
June 20, 2015 - Saturday

60th Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game

University of Delaware Stadium, Newark

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















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