



DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Game



ALUMNI, FAMILY & FRIENDS

DFRC Newsletter ★ 2017 Edition

Life Changing Experience

by Greg and Ruth Lavelle

The Blue-Gold game experience is a significant and occasionally life changing opportunity for all involved. While that may sound a bit over the top, not every life changes immediately or as drastically as another might. Given reflection and perhaps, with the passage of time, you'd have to try hard (or not engage the opportunity that is there for the taking) to not see the joy, awareness or respect that comes from actively participating in the great Delaware tradition that is the DFRC Blue-Gold experience. Rest assured that the football game itself is just part of the overall experience.

Our family has experienced the Blue-Gold tradition from both sides. Our son, Matthew, now 16, has been a Hand-in-Hand buddy every year since he was 5 and a neighbor shared with us the wonderful mission of DFRC and the great experience their high school senior had as a participant. Matthew has been paired with female and male participants, football players, cheerleaders, ambassadors and band members from public and private schools. Our daughter, Kylie, now a freshman at UD, was also part of this experience, first as a sibling and then as a Blue-Gold Ambassador when she was a high school senior. Kylie grew up seeing the good works of DFRC and decided to share in supporting those efforts by turning her birthday parties into fundraisers for DFRC.

The high school participants who are paired as buddies with the children and young adults with

intellectual disabilities are not able to participate in the Blue-Gold Hand-in-Hand program solely because of a skill or personality trait. They must be recommended by their school. Their selection is an honor, and they should, along with their family, view Blue-Gold role as a responsibility to be fulfilled, and not just another resume builder for college or simple "check the box" activity. The families of the Hand-in-Hand buddies also need to respect and fulfill their commitment to the DFRC program by not viewing the high school participants as occasional sitters. Each experience will surely be different, but mutual respect and active engagement are key to a successful Blue-Gold experience. The Hand-in-Hand buddies look up to and admire the high school participants from the moment they see them. They meet as strangers at the annual Blue-Gold kick-off party and leave two hours later as friends...as buddies! It is a wonderful transformation to behold and the root of DFRC's mission...enriching the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disabilities.

All the young women and men that have been paired with Matthew over the years have been great. Many still see Matthew out



and about and a few will stop by and visit when home from college. In 2014, Matthew was selected as the Blue All★Star Buddy. Our family had the privilege of being part of the full Blue-Gold experience that year including selling a game ticket to the Governor. That brought a special twinkle to Matthew's eye, and everyone else's, when Matthew took Governor Markell's \$20 and also kept the ceremonial ticket...all with a huge smile.

This year, Matthew's buddy is the sister of one of his 2014 buddies. After seeing the special bond that developed between her brother and Matthew, she was already hoping in 2014 to be part of the magic of the Blue-Gold program once a senior herself. Part of the magic of Blue-Gold is that the bond doesn't stop with the participants and the buddies. Our families have become good friends

Continued page 2

Students and Buddies:

#ChangingLives: Together we have and will...

by *Mary Lenhoff*

It has been an honor to serve as your 2017 DFRC Blue-Gold All*Start Football Game Chairperson. To be blessed with this opportunity for the second time fills my heart. Working with so many volunteers that give so much of themselves and business partners who give so much to the organization, it is a great pleasure to be part of such a well run organization.

My life was changed many years ago when joining the DFRC family -- the smiles on the buddies, participants and families faces at each event keep me coming back. If you have ever attended one of our events -- you know what I am talking about! We pride ourselves on choosing high school students with outstanding character, leadership skills and

respect for others. This year, once again we hit the nail on the head! We had an amazing group and the buddy relationships have flourished and lives are definitely changing for the better.

I am grateful for the support of the DFRC staff, the Board of Trustees and the entire Blue-Gold Committee. I would like to especially thank Dr. Tony Glenn for his guidance and leadership. This group makes sure you never feel like you are working alone and they always have your back!

The participants worked very hard this year to raise awareness in their schools and community and to bring attention to our game on June 17, 2017. I hope you will all join us at the University of Delaware Stadium to help us celebrate their success. We look forward to seeing all of you at the game.

Mary Lenhoff



continued Lavelle..
because of Blue-Gold, and Matthew is the number one fan in the stands when

“What she and other buddies “do” may not come clear for years to come.”

Ruth Lavelle

Tony Glenn talks a lot about the DFRC family. We see that family in faces of longtime volunteers and others who

make the Blue-Gold football game and experience happen every year. We see it when the participants and buddies meet for the first time at the annual kick-off party and slowly warm up to each other to the point they are doing the chicken dance without concern for how silly they might look-- because silly always works in the DFRC family. We see it when Matthew's buddies visit or we bump into them or their families while out and about in the community. We see it every day in our own family when receiving services from some of the many organizations that DFRC supports. We see it in so many ways and hope that you are able to participate and see it too. Welcome to the DFRC family!

watching this young lady in action on the basketball court! The hug they give one another after a game is part of the life changing experience that Blue -Gold creates.

What she and other buddies “do” with this experience might not become clear for years to come. It might be as simple as an increased awareness or respect for people with intellectual disabilities, or perhaps a Blue-Gold game volunteer, or a special education teacher, medical researcher, doctor, legal advocate or community volunteer. Blue-Gold leaves an important and positive impact.



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DFRC is a 501(c)(3) charity
www.dfrc.org

**2017 DFRC BLUE-GOLD
ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME
LEADERSHIP**

Mary Lenhoff – Game Chair
Lindsey Moeller – 1st Vice Chair
Gary Mensinger – 2nd Vice Chair

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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 2:00 pm on Game Day, June 17, 2017!

Sponsored by **ARAMARK**

Work Worth Doing

“Theodore Roosevelt stated, ‘Far and away the best prize that life offers is a chance to work hard at work worth doing.’” Project SEARCH enables our interns and the Project SEARCH team to spend time and energy working hard at work worth doing,” stated Project SEARCH program instructor for Red Clay Consolidated School District, Angela Hansen.

Project SEARCH serves students 18-21 in their last year of high school, transitioning these highly motivated young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from school to competitive employment through a nine month vocational training program. Project SEARCH New Castle County was established in 2011 as Delaware’s first site, joining the ranks of over 230 Project SEARCH sites across the country that replicate the inaugural site at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Project SEARCH New Castle County has helped other Project Search sites open in Kent and soon Sussex Counties.

Red Clay Consolidated School District recruits students from all over New Castle County as interns and Christiana Care Health System partners with them to provide classroom space and internship rotations sites. “CCHS’s partnership with Project SEARCH is a component of our Good Faith Efforts, leveraging this program as a recruitment tool by providing us with a source of untapped talent,” says Nicole D’Ambrosio, Project SEARCH Business Liaison at Christiana Care. Regular evaluations by skills trainers, daily feedback, family meetings and Individual Education Plan reviews ensure the progress is well-monitored, areas needing improvement are identified, and achievements are duly celebrated.

The state of Delaware Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Integrated Services, Autism Delaware and Division of Developmental Disability Services also play integral roles in this program, working together to effectively lessen the gap between people employed with disabilities, 42.5%, and those who are not, 81.4%, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Since its inception, employment for interns has grown every year, with Project SEARCH of New Castle County earning recognition for 100% employment rates for the last two years. They are a 2016 Superstars in Education Award recipient and have been commended for collaboration with Concord High School in designing technology that assists interns in performing tasks more efficiently. Christiana Care Health Systems received an award for their role in the program from the Council for Exceptional Children, an



organization that works to advance careers for young adults with disabilities. But of most importance is the success of student interns, 31 of 41 interns to date have found jobs, 19 of which are Christiana Care Health System hires.

“The growth that we have experienced and seen in our son has provided him with the confidence and assurance that no matter what the future holds, he will be able to achieve his goals. Additionally, the Project SEARCH team and the Christiana Care staff need to be commended for all of their time, effort, and support that they provided to each student. I can only think that if all children had this level of support, every child would reach their potential.” say Yolanda and Kenneth Snell, parents of Project SEARCH student.

Project SEARCH and its key participants have gone above and beyond to provide a well-rounded, extremely valuable and life-improving program for these students.

Hansen shared, “Helping your adults engage in meaningful vocational training and seeking competitive employment in the community is very rewarding. We are excited to share our experiences and encourage others in our community to learn about our amazing interns and their participation in this unique employment training program.”



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 is celebrating its 43rd anniversary in 2017.

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

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



DFRC THANKS ITS 2017 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME SPONSORS



2016 DFRC BENEFICIARIES

DFRC provided 15 Delaware agencies and organizations with grants totaling \$60,000.

Annual DFRC fundraising events include::

DFRC Blue-Gold All Star Football Game, DFRC Holidayzle, DFRC Blue-Gold Sussex Auction, DFRC Blue-Gold Golf Classics, DFRC Hockey for a Cause, and the DFRC Blue-Gold All Star 5k Run/ 1 Mile Walk



The Arc of Delaware

Statewide

Best Buddies Delaware

Statewide

The CENTER for Therapeutic & Educational Riding, Inc.

Townsend

Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

Dover

Easter Seals of Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore

Statewide

Hearts, Hands, and Horses 4H Club

Newark

Kent-Sussex Industries

Milford

Art Therapy Express Program

New Castle County

Center for Disabilities Studies—University of Delaware

Statewide

Collaborative Effort to Reinforce Transition Success (C.E.R.T.S.)

Newark/Smyrna

Delaware Theatre Company—Totally Awesome Players

Wilmington

Exceptional Care for Children

Newark

Independent Resources

Wilmington

The Mancus Foundation

Wilmington

MOT Rotary Club

Middletown, Odessa, Townsend

Waggies by Maggie & Friends

Newark

VSA Delaware

Dover

The mission of DFRC is to enrich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disabilities



DFRC THANKS ITS 2017 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME SPONSORS



2017 All★Star Buddies



Ian Snitch, left, is the 2017 Blue DFRC All★Star Football Buddy. Hannah Tressler, right, is the 2017 Gold DFRC All★Star Football Buddy. Mary Lenhoff, center is the 2017 DFRC Game Chair.



Mark Your Calendars

June 5—Monday

DFRC Blue-Gold New Castle County Golf Classic
White Clay Creek Country Club

June 10—Saturday—7AM

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

June 15—Thursday—5:00PM

Gold Football Scrimmage
Milford High School, Milford

June 15—Thursday—5:00PM

Blue Football Scrimmage
Tower Hill School, Wilmington

June 17—Saturday

GAME DAY 62nd Annual DFRC Blue-Gold
All★Star Football Game
University of Delaware Stadium, Newark
Family Fun Zone – 2 PM
Opening Ceremonies on the field - 5 PM
Kickoff – 6 PM

July 22—Friday

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

September 2017—7PM

DFRC Blue-Gold Kickoff Classic Football Games

November 5—Saturday

DFRC Holidazzle
Hockessin Athletic Club

June 16, 2018—Saturday

63rd Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star
Football Game
University of Delaware Stadium, Newark

This 2017 edition of the DFRC newsletter is brought to you through the kindness and generosity of The Moglia Family Foundation. The DFRC family is deeply grateful for their support.

Thank you so much!

62nd ANNUAL DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME★ **#ChangingLives** ★

We need your support to ensure the success of the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Program and Game and our mission to enrich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES. In 2017, we ask you to join us as we celebrate DFRC's 62nd Anniversary ...62 years of caring and sharing!!

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 with this self-mailer, or send your order by Fax to 302-454-2755 (credit card orders only, please).

Become a DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Patron

and your name will appear in the 2017 Football Game Yearbook (if you respond by June 1, 2017).

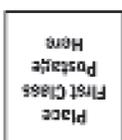
Purchase tickets and plan to attend this year's 62nd Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Game. Bring your family and friends and get discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more. Even if you cannot attend the game, please know your ticket purchase will help us provide opportunities for many.



Order 2017 DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Game Day T-shirts for yourself and your family. Alumni Football Players may also order replacement jerseys featuring correct team colors and game numbers.

#ChangingLives

DFRC
640 PLAZA DRIVE
NEWARK, DE 19702-6369



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



Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 6:00pm
University of Delaware Stadium

Parking Opens - 1:00pm
Family Fun Zone - 2:00pm
Stadium Gates Open - 4:00pm
Opening Ceremonies - 5:00pm
Game Kickoff - 6:00pm



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