

Alumni, Family & Friends

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME

May 2007

NEITHER WIND, NOR RAIN, NOR DARK OF NIGHT ...

UNDAMPENED SPIRITS HIGHLIGHT MEMORABLE 2006 BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME



Photo courtesy of Hank Stoklosa

You had to be there to understand how special last year's Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game was. Nature conspired against us as the rain began to fall late in the afternoon, and that weather forced some changes from the usual Game Day routines. But what made the game so special was the way our Blue-Gold Participants approached a potentially disappointing evening.

After a couple of rain delays, pre-game ceremonies had to be cancelled. That included the traditional Buddy/Participant meeting on the field, which for many is the highlight of the game. Many a tough football player has melted at the sight of his buddy rushing towards him. However, it was decided that the safety of all involved was more important. While the players waited in the locker

room, the All★Star Band, Cheerleading squads, and Ambassadors were waiting patiently in the lobby of the Bob Carpenter Center. Impromptu jam sessions made it difficult for the coordinators to hear what was being communicated on their walkie-talkies and cell phones! When word came through that pre-game was cancelled and there was a risk that the half-time show would also be cancelled, you could see the disappointment on everyone's faces.

But then, in true Blue-Gold spirit, something magical happened — the participants were united in their desire to continue, despite the weather. The football players said they love to play in the mud, the cheerleaders assured everyone their routines could be completed safely, the ambassadors were willing to sell merchandise in the pouring rain, and



blue-gold all★star football game

the band members said they've marched in worse weather! The show of camaraderie was incredible. Spirits soared as the players finally marched on to the wet field.

Such was the unusual nature of the game. The rain slowly diminished and stopped altogether in the middle of the third quarter. What started as a soggy night ended as a very pleasant summer evening. Which team won? Lots of people don't even remember, but what is remembered is that the young people who played and performed that night had a great time, and those few thousand in the stands remembered one of the most special games in a long time.

Come out and join us!

52nd

**Blue-Gold All★Star
Football Game**

Saturday, June 23rd

Kids Games - 4:00 pm

Stadium Gates Open - 5:00 pm

Opening Ceremonies - 6:00 pm

Kick-off - 7:00 pm

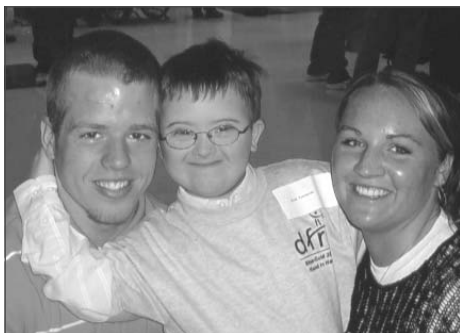
**Ticket Order and
Buddy/Participant Sponsorship
Information inside!**

2007 Blue-Gold Happenings

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2007 GAME CHAIR

It has been an incredible journey and an absolute honor for me to serve as Game Chair for the 52nd DFRC Blue-Gold Game. As time approaches June 23rd, I am filled with thoughts of the countless opportunities I've witnessed for all Delawareans through DFRC. It's amazing to learn of the many people who discover the mission of DFRC to enrich the lives of people who are cognitively challenged, join the crusade, create their own special niche, and offer their talents to fulfill this calling.

On Sunday, February 11th, we brought together this year's high school participants for the very first time, and the warmth and camaraderie of these young people validated their nominations to the program. This year our participants came to us from a total of 44 Delaware high schools. Four of these schools do not have football programs but are actively involved with participants in other categories. As a committee, we encouraged their understanding about people with cognitive disabilities, folks who are somewhat different, but very much the same as everyone else.



The Hand-in-Hand Program is the very heart of the Blue-Gold experience, and through this outreach, we strive to provide opportunities to get to know each other and create relationships that are meaningful for everyone. As the months have progressed, we have witnessed

tremendous growth and positive changes. Many high school students began this journey expecting to help their buddy who is cognitively challenged, a goal we all strive to achieve. Our experience tells us that it is the high school students who learn the important lessons in life from their buddies - lessons that we hope will remain in their hearts for a lifetime, that they will share with all they know and meet. We have high expectations for everyone involved, and the evidence seems to indicate that we will not be disappointed!

In March, our participants and buddies had the opportunity to get together at the Hand-in-Hand Party, where our *DJ Shubie* got everyone moving on the dance floor and sent inhibitions "out the window." Buddy Bowling was the April get-together, another quality bonding event. This year we will initiate a new partnership with the Down Syndrome Association as we join forces at the DSA Buddy Walk/Blue-Gold picnic on May 20th. We're all looking forward to the fun and games, and another chance to spread the good news of DFRC in the community. When June rolls around, we will find ourselves together at Media Day and the Scrimmages. Building on the success of last year's inaugural *Instrument Zoo*, we will once again join the band at one of their rehearsals. Buddies and participants are invited to experience the musical instruments in a unique setting, gaining knowledge and camaraderie. All of these activities provide organized events for participants and buddies to share and learn more about each other, and have a lot of fun together too!

The Blue-Gold Committee works throughout the year, planning for the high school students and buddies as we move toward Game Day. I invite you to find your way to become involved in DFRC in whatever level you deem best for you. Whether it is a financial donation or personal commitment of your time and talent, words cannot adequately express the magnitude of personal rewards that result from dedicating yourself to the mission of DFRC.

I hope to see each of you and your families as we celebrate DFRC at the



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James Williams

52nd Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game on June 23, 2007! It will be a night you'll always remember!

With warmest regards,
Marty McDonough
2007 DFRC Blue-Gold Game Chair

Wachovia Bank Partners with DFRC for Participant Scholarships Once Again

Every year we hear from our participants about what a wonderful experience the Hand-in-Hand program has been. Take a moment to think back to your own experience: your nervousness upon meeting your buddy for the first time, your apprehension in getting involved with her at the various Blue-Gold events, and the joy of seeing him come out on to the field to wish you well before the big game! Do you think you could have put that experience down into words? In 2006, we provided our participants the opportunity to do just that, and the response was enlightening.

In 2006, Wachovia Bank generously sponsored two \$1,000 scholarships for our Senior Blue-Gold Participants. The purpose of the Wachovia Bank/DFRC Blue-Gold High School Participant Scholarship is to recognize that individual who has truly embraced the Blue-Gold spirit and our mission of increasing awareness and respect for citizens with cognitive disabilities. Applicants were asked to answer three questions about their Blue-Gold experience and how it impacted their lives. The review panel, comprised of Blue-Gold Committee members and Wachovia Bank representatives, had a tough decision to make with so many well written responses (over 100 applicants).

The general theme throughout was how the participants came in to the program thinking they were going to help their buddies, when, in the end, it was the buddies who helped the participants! The panel was eventually able to narrow the list and awarded the scholarships to Meredith Lee Muskovich, a Gold Ambassador and Band Member from Milford High School, and Thomas Ford, a Blue Player from Thomas McKean High School.

DFRC is proud to have partnered with Wachovia Bank in giving this award to two very deserving young people.



"I am proud to say that what I have taken away from this program is that our buddies just want love, attention and a person with a heart and a desire to work with them, just like every other kid ... to serve others with a giving heart, the rewards are far greater than expected".

**- Scholarship Recipient
Tom Ford, Thomas McKean H.S.
(2006 Blue Player)**

"Blue-Gold has offered many others and me the opportunity to expand our minds and create lasting friendships. Being involved with Blue-Gold has been one of the most important influences in my life".

**- Scholarship Recipient
Meredith Lee Muskovich, Milford H.S.
(2006 Gold Ambassador and Band Member)**

Thank You to our Sponsors

Our thanks to Wachovia for its continued sponsorship of the DFRC Scholarship programs. DFRC also offers sincere gratitude to Wachovia and The Carpenter Foundation for helping underwrite the cost of the Blue-Gold Banquet, to AstraZeneca for their support of the cost of the Football Camp, to Wilmington Trust Company for sponsoring the fireworks display after the Blue-Gold game, and to Bank of America for their assistance with the cost of the overall Blue-Gold program.



WACHOVIA

Bank of America



AstraZeneca



**The Carpenter
Foundation**



**WILMINGTON
TRUST**

DFRC BENEFICIARIES

SPOTLIGHT ON:



Special Olympics Delaware

By Ann Grunert, SODE Executive Director

Since its inception in 1971, Special Olympics Delaware has been fortunate to have DFRC as a partner in furthering our program's reach and impact for persons with intellectual disabilities. In our developing years, DFRC supported athletes attending world games competition as well as helped to expand staff to improve program quality and volunteer training. More recently, DFRC has invested in our program's growth - helping us expand the number of athletes in just five short years from 1,100 athletes to serving over 3,000 athletes along with an additional 450 Unified Partners and Peer Partners. Our growth is the successful result of three creative initiatives:

Involving individuals with severe disabilities

The Motor Activities Training Program (MATP) is a therapy-based program that offers athletes of all ages, who may not be able to participate in traditional Special Olympics sports programming, the opportunity to demonstrate sports-related developmental skills in a non-competitive setting. The number of athletes benefiting from participation in MATP has increased to 498 - up from 200 athletes in 2003.

"MATP has become an integral component of our educational, therapeutic and recreational program at KCCS. Our staff, students and parents are very enthusiastic about the MATP experience. It has generated many ideas for serving our students and recognizing their accomplishments throughout the year."

*- Carl Haltom, Principal
Kent County Community School*

Reaching Un-served Populations

In 2006 - Delaware was one of 6 states selected to pilot programming for children ages 2 thru 7. The pilot was successful and *Young Athletes* was officially launched worldwide in September. *Young Athletes* is an innovative sports play program for children ages 2 through 7 and is a model of inclusion involving children with and without intellectual disabilities which this year will serve over 500 children representing 15 pre-schools across the state.



Increasing the involvement of school-age children and their peers

Eighty-five (85) schools in Delaware now offer Special Olympics training which has become an integral part of fulfilling teacher's goals of inclusion in their student's IEPs (Individualized Education Plans) and Student Portfolios. "From the start of the year when I introduce my students to their peer partners, friendships are made that would not have typically been created," says Laurie Moorman, Special Education Teacher, Banneker Elementary School, Milford School District.

Special Olympics Delaware is an organization that changes lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities. Through year-round sports training, athletic competition and related programs conducted for more than 3,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, the organization creates a model community that celebrates people's diverse gifts. Special Olympics Delaware builds sports skills, confidence, strength, motivation and self-esteem - not just for athletes, but for everyone involved.

DFRC BENEFICIARIES

Through the generosity of supporters like you, DFRC was able to provide more than \$200,000 in financial assistance to the following organizations in 2006:

- Arc of Delaware
- Art Therapy Express Program, Inc.
- Association for Children and Infants with Digestive Disorders
- C.E.R.T.S., Inc.
- Center for Disabilities Studies, University of Delaware
- Center for Therapeutic & Educational Riding
- Children's Beach House
- Delaware Theatre Company
- Developmental Disabilities Council
- Down Syndrome Association of Delaware
- Easter Seals of Delaware and Maryland Eastern Shore
- Elwyn - Delaware
- Homes for Life Foundation
- Independent Resources, Inc.
- Ken Crest Centers
- Kent County Community School
- Kent-Sussex Industries
- Peach Tree Acres, Inc.
- Personal Ponies, Ltd.
- Richardson Park Learning Center
- Smyrna School District
- Special Olympics Delaware
- VSA Arts of Delaware

DID YOU KNOW

There are over 40 legacies (participants with family members who were former participants) in this year's game. *The legacy lives strong!*



Here's how you can continue to participate in 2007:

- Sponsor a 2007 All★Star Buddy or Participant
- Participate in one of the three Blue-Gold Golf Classics
- Buy tickets and attend the game on June 23rd with your family, friends, and alumni
- Volunteer on Game Day or as a member of the Blue-Gold Committee

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Many times people call the DFRC Office or stop one of the many committee members asking how they can get involved with the Blue-Gold Football Game. There are many opportunities, depending on the amount of time you have to offer. The Committee consists exclusively of volunteers who begin planning for the next year shortly after the game in June, with the official meetings beginning in November. You may want to help to solicit ads for the year-book, help with a committee, or volunteer to help with the various Game Day activities.

To get started, simply call the DFRC Office (302) 454-2730 or send an email to volunteer@dfrcfoundation.org and express a desire to work with one of our many committees. Your involvement really knows no limits and you'll be rewarded many times over.

**Buddy/Participant
Sponsorship
and Ticket Order form
is on the inside
Back Page -
Send it in now!**

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, June 11th

New Castle County Golf Classic
Delaware National Country Club
Wilmington

Kent County Golf Classic
Maple Dale Country Club, Dover

Thursday, June 14th

Sussex County Golf Classic
Baywood Greens Country Club
Long Neck
www.dfrcfoundation.org/golf

Saturday, June 16th

**Blue-Gold All★Star
5K Run/1 Mile Walk**
Irish Eyes Restaurant
Anglers Road, Lewes
www.dfrcfoundation.org/run

Wednesday, June 20th

Gold Scrimmage
Milford H.S., Milford

Blue Scrimmage
Salesianum School, Wilmington
*Scrimmages are free and open to
the public.*

Thursday, June 21st

Instrument Zoo - 6:30 pm
Caesar Rodney H.S.
Camden-Wyoming

Saturday, June 23rd

**52nd Annual DFRC Blue-Gold
All★Star Football Game**
University of Delaware Stadium
Newark
*Kids Games - 4:00 pm
Stadium Gates Open - 5:00 pm
Opening Ceremonies - 6:00 pm
Kick-off - 7:00 pm*

Saturday, November 10th

Holidazzle 2007
"An Evening of Love and Laughter"
Grand Opera House, Wilmington
www.dfrcfoundation.org/holidazzle



5K Run/1 Mile Walk

4th Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star

5K Run/1 Mile Walk

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2007

The 4th Blue-Gold All★Star Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2007 in Lewes. The Run/Walk will again be hosted by Irish Eyes Restaurant on the Lewes Waterfront and sponsored by Southern Delaware Physical Therapy. Race applications are now available online. Visit www.dfrcfoundation.org/run for online registration.

NEW! Online Giving Now Available on DFRC website

DFRC has announced a partnership with JustGive.org to provide donors to DFRC a simple, easy, and secure method for online donations.

Through links on the DFRC website, donors will be transferred to JustGive.org's secure website where they may designate their gift to support a specific program, such as the Blue-Gold Football Game, Holidazzle, or the Hand-in-Hand program. Gifts through the website may also be made as a dedication in someone's name or as a memorial gift.



*Every contribution gives again and again.
again and again.
again and again.*

**Gifts of endowment keep on giving.
Turn a gift to DFRC into a lasting legacy.**

DFRC has established an endowment fund through the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) to make us stronger, now and in the future. Please call us to learn how you can support DFRC forever. Additional information is available from the DCF at 302-571-8004 or on the web at www.delcfd.org.

DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Sponsorship/Ticket Order Form

Name _____
(If Game Alumni - LADIES, please include your maiden name so we may update your Alumni Mailing record)

High School _____ Game Year _____ Role _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

E-mail address _____

BUDDY/PARTICIPANT SPONSORSHIPS

I would like to sponsor one or more of the Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game Participants and/or Buddies

| Sponsorship | Qty. | Gift | Total |
|--------------------------------------|------|------------------|-------|
| Support one Football Player's jersey | | x \$ 50.00 ea. = | |
| Support one Cheerleader's uniform | | x \$ 50.00 ea. = | |
| Support one Ambassador | | x \$ 25.00 ea. = | |
| Support one Band Member | | x \$ 25.00 ea. = | |
| Support one Hand-in-Hand Buddy | | x \$ 25.00 ea. = | |

All★Star Buddy/Participant Sponsorship TOTAL → \$ _____

Check here if a Gift Acknowledgement is requested

BLUE-GOLD GAME TICKETS

To order Reserved (Box) seats, please call the DFRC office at (302) 454-2730.

Note: All ticket orders received after Friday, June 1, 2007 will be held for pick-up at the Will Call Window on Game Day.

| Tickets | Qty. | Price | Total |
|----------------------------------|------|-----------------|-------|
| General Admission Tickets (1-24) | | x \$ 8.00 ea. = | |
| Group Tickets (25-49) | | x \$ 7.00 ea. = | |
| Group Tickets (50 or More) | | x \$ 6.00 ea. = | |

Game Tickets TOTAL → \$ _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Sponsorships and Tickets - TOTAL ENCLOSED → \$ _____

Method of Payment (*circle one*): Check payable to DFRC VISA Mastercard

Card Number:

Expiration Date:
(MM/YY)

PRINT NAME as it appears on card _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

If paying by check payable to DFRC, please mail to: DFRC, 640 Plaza Drive, Newark, DE 19702-6369.

Credit Card orders may be sent by mail to the address above, or by FAX to (302) 454-2755.

Thank you for supporting DFRC!

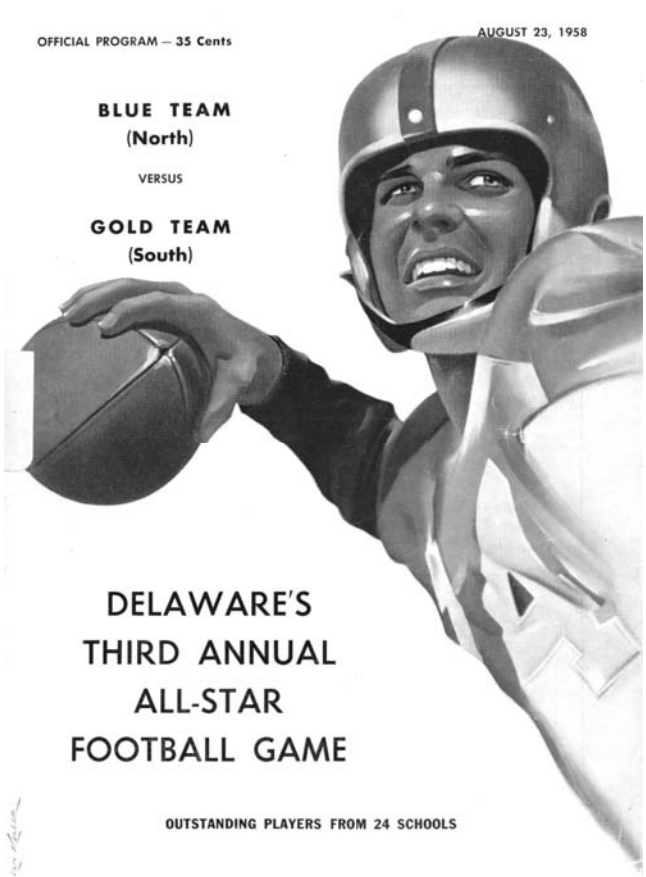
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 640 Plaza Drive
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blue-gold all★star football game



**Celebrating
 52 years of DFRC
 Blue-Gold!**

| June 2007 | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|--------|------|-----------|
| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
| | | | | | | |
| GAME DAY - Saturday, June 23rd University of Delaware Stadium, Newark | | | | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

If the intended recipient is no longer at this address, please affix two first-class stamps to the front of this mailing and forward it. Thank you.