



ALUMNI, FAMILY & FRIENDS

DFRC Newsletter ★ 2013 Edition



Buddy Matthew Beck and Melanie Blanco in 2006

As parents ... by Jean Beck

On February 14, 2001, my husband and I were blessed with our fourth child, Matthew. Matthew has brown hair, brown eyes, a big smile and he also happens to have Down syndrome.

The days and months that followed his birth were an emotional roller coaster between hospital stays, medical issues, and grasping simply what Down syndrome was going to mean for Matthew. Amidst the ride I will never forget the confident words of our geneticist, Dr. B, "Matthew will be his own man."

Our lives have not changed because Matthew has Down syndrome, we still have four children and jobs and family and church, but our journey certainly had changed. Matthew is his own man and our journey now includes people and organizations that we may never have met or embraced had it not been for Matthew.

This will be Matthew's eighth year participating in DFRC's Hand-in-Hand Program.

In those eight years we have come to know the family that is the DFRC, its dedicated staff and countless volunteers and leaders who embrace their mission of enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities. However, the family stretches beyond that circle. As families come together for events we, as parents, cannot help but feel the connection and common bond that come with raising a child with special needs. If you step back for a moment you can see yourself as part of a bigger world where you are not alone in the journey and you find strength and admiration.

As parents we are taken back by the excitement Matthew shows each year as Blue-Gold time approaches. The great anticipation of whether he will be matched with a football player, cheerleader, band member, or ambassador, whether he will be on the blue team or the gold team, and the excitement to meet and share his new friend with his friends.

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More Than Just A Game by Joe Aviola



Joe Aviola, right, and his son Joey

Ask anyone who has had the privilege to participate in the DFRC Blue-Gold All Star Football Game to define their experience and I am quite confident they will say: "It is more than just a game!"

However, many times this fact is not realized until long after the bleachers have emptied and the participants and players have moved on to the next stage of their lives.

Throughout the last 30 years, I have spent many moments reflecting on the game and thinking about the impact that it has had on my life. These moments come and go at seemingly random times, but they are ever present.

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To our surprise Matthew readily accepts that these individuals may be in his life for just the short period that comprises a Blue-Gold season or sometimes longer. We have learned his capacity to embrace whatever they are willing to give with an open heart. If allowed he will challenge them to play Wii, watch movies, help with his homework, eat vanilla ice cream, shoot some hoops, and just dance - to know him as the man his is. We are delighted in the confidence Matthew gains in the opportunity to express himself without fear of judgment.



As parents we have opened our home to a diverse crew of participants. Some, like Melanie, Matthew's first participant, went all out and continues to be part of his life on a regular basis. Some followed the path of least resistance. Most gave of their time and selves to make their Hand-in-Hand experience and Matthew's rewarding. All walked away with a deeper more intimate understanding of Matthew and his challenges and gifts. We know that even those participants who may have already had experiences with those with special needs still walk away changed. Four years ago our daughter was a senior band participant. She was matched with another child with Down syndrome. We remember thinking this will not be the new experience we were hoping for. Yet, she was deeply moved by how different the challenges and strengths were despite the common disability name. She, like her peers, learned to see each as their own individual.

As parents we have learned that within the

Hand-in-Hand program unfolds a dynamic that presents the opportunity to affect change - change within ourselves, change in Matthew, and most importantly change in the participants involved. Though Melanie comes from a family of educators we would like to believe that Matthew was the impetus of her changing her course and pursuing a career in education. Ashley has admittedly changed her major in college to elementary/special education because of Matthew. Yet beyond those concrete examples is the real opportunity to bring an awareness and acceptance within individuals who will be our child's future employer, peer, and partner in the community. There is real hope that as they continue on their personal journeys they will in seemingly insignificant or in bold ways enrich the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

And so as parents, our journey continues to be enriched by the people and families we have met, the relationships we have built and the experiences we have shared through the DFRC.



Buddy Matthew Beck and Troy Betts in 2010



640 Plaza Drive
Newark, DE 19702
Phone: 302.454.2730
Fax: 302.454.2755

www.dfrcfoundation.org

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Join us in the DFRC Family Fun Zone! Get 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 22nd!**

Sponsored by  **ARAMARK**

The CENTER for Therapeutic and Educational Riding is able to serve our community thanks to DFRC



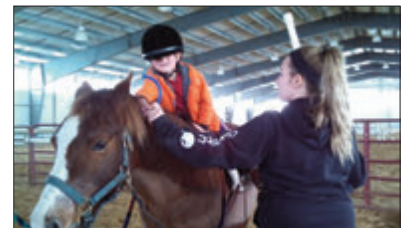
The CENTER was founded on the simple premise that “All That Can...Will”. At the request of one single parent of a child with special needs, asking for more for her son, a chance at inclusion, a chance to continue a therapy she received in a neighboring state and an opportunity for her child to develop a skill set that transcended into everyday life, The CENTER was born. It was designed as a fully integrated therapeutic horseback riding program that encouraged cognitive and physical development in a safe and consistent manner. Founded in 2002 and governed by a Board of Directors, The CENTER developed under four core values; Consistency, Dignity, Quality and Availability. After regional and national certifications, our founding instructors accepted their first riders in January 2003. From the humble beginnings of hoping for just ten riders in need, The CENTER has grown to over 100 riders.



Over the years, The CENTER has added programming that serves our diverse special needs population. Our collaboration with school systems have allowed us to serve children during the school day. Our Adult Day Therapy program has been developed to meet the needs of a growing adult population. Founded in the principles of Equine Assisted Therapy, individuals participate in horse and horse related activities. The hallmark of The CENTER remains our Evening Riding Program. Our riders range in age from 18 months to 83 years old. Our eight instructors come from vastly different backgrounds allowing us to match the needs of the rider to the expertise of the instructors. Experience and passion have been requirements for our instructors since our very first riders. Our volunteers are equally impressive, coming to us as retired professionals, active career individuals, and college and high school students. Each person offers a unique perspective and skill set that allows for a safe consistent, fun learning environment for our riders.



The CENTER's program is recognized throughout the state as a premiere program which enables individuals to achieve the highest physical, emotional and developmental skills possible. In our earliest days, DFRC recognized the true value of therapeutic riding for the individuals they serve. It is with great pride that we have become part of the DFRC family. As our first funding agency, DFRC's belief and support of our programs have allowed us to grow and better serve our community.



All Who Can ... Will



The Kent County DFRC Blue-Gold Golf Classic Celebrates 20 Years



Do you remember exactly where you were or what you were doing on Monday, June 20, 1994?

History tells us Ernie Els won the U.S. Open and 104 golfers teed off at the First Annual Southern Delaware DFRC Blue-Gold Golf Classic at Maple Dale Country Club in Dover. Many local notables were on the green that day, including Jim Hutchison, Dave Ulp, Grover Biddle, Craig Crouch, Wayne Dabson, Skip Willis, Al Hedgecock, Jim Flood, Sr., and Steve and Gail Nemcic. They and 94 others enjoyed a great round of golf, perhaps not realizing they were contributing to the birth of what has become a DFRC legacy in Kent County.

This tournament, the brainchild of Fred Frear, Bob Voshell & Jane Richter, was an off-shoot of the original DFRC Blue-Gold Golf Classic born in New Castle County six years earlier. Over the years the Kent County DFRC Blue-Gold Golf Classic has raised more than \$150,000, contributing substantially to the grant funding awarded by DFRC to support programs which enrich the lives of thousands of people with intellectual disabilities!

There's room for still more so come join us at noon on Monday, June 10, 2013, at Maple Dale Country Club for the 20th Annual Kent County DFRC Blue-Gold Golf Classic. Not so surprisingly, at this year's tournament, you will see many of the same folks who were there in 1994. Come and enjoy a great round of golf, delicious food and warmhearted fellowship all to benefit DFRC. See you there!



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

DFRC, Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens with intellectual disabilities, has touched hearts and enriched lives for more than 57 years.

Your support helps DFRC create opportunities for all Delawareans with intellectual disabilities to maximize their potential, independence, and enjoyment of life.

Please join DFRC in continuing our mission by making your tax-deductible gift today!

Visit www.dfrcfoundation.org and click the "Donate" button to make your gift today





One State★One Mission★One Family

by Shannon Latulippe



Shannon Latulippe, DFRC Blue-Gold Game Chair, with Justin Bates (front left) and Jacob Zonick, the Blue and Gold All★Star Buddies for 2013.

I would like to offer my most sincere congratulations to all of this year's high school students and buddies for being selected to participate in the 2013 DFRC Blue-Gold Football Game and Program. Your membership in the DFRC family follows a long legacy of thousands of others who have taken this journey ... one that we hope has been a meaningful learning experience for everyone. It's been a pleasure for all of us in the DFRC family to have the opportunity to meet and work with you at the various DFRC Blue-Gold events we've shared during these past few months. It would be difficult for me to choose my favorite, as I have many fond memories

from each opportunity we had to come together and learn more about each other. The Hand-in-Hand Party in March was an especially fun day, as total joy filled the room and everyone danced away all afternoon. What a great way to spend St. Patrick's Day!

I attended high school in the state of Washington, so my personal DFRC Blue-Gold journey began later in life when I moved to Delaware. My husband was invited by Trustee Bruce DiNardo to attend a meeting in 2008, and the compassion, hard work, and enthusiasm that he witnessed from the DFRC family made him realize that this was something truly special. The goodness was contagious, and both of us soon found ourselves actively involved and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of an organization that does so much for so many. Since joining the Executive team in 2010, I have learned more than I can express about the mission of DFRC and the true meaning of family and teamwork.

As we prepare to celebrate the 58th DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game on June 22nd, we are united in many ways, first as Delawareans. Although there will be a Blue team and a Gold team on the field, we are all here for one mission, to enrich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disabilities, and in so doing, we enrich the lives of all people. DFRC is one family dedicated to the service of others, no matter if we're blue or gold, as emphasized in this year's slogan One State★One Mission★One Family.

It has been my honor to serve DFRC and I look forward to seeing you all at Delaware Stadium on June 22nd!

Since the first Blue-Gold week at Saint Mark's in 1983, every high school in Delaware has been invited to conduct or host creative fundraising and awareness activities benefitting DFRC and its mission. The DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game Committee thanks these schools for participating in 2013

Appoquinimink High School
Archmere Academy
Brandywine High School
Cab Calloway School of the Arts
Cape Henlopen High School
Caravel Academy
Charter School of Wilmington
Christiana High School
Concord High School
Conrad Schools of Science
Delaware Military Academy
Delcastle Technical High School
Delmar Senior High School
John Dickinson High School
Alexis I. du Pont High School
Glasgow High School

Paul M. Hodgson Vocational
Technical High School
Howard High School of Technology
Indian River High School
Lake Forest High School
Laurel Senior High School
Thomas McKean High School
Middletown High School
Milford Senior High School
Mount Pleasant High School
Newark High School
Padua Academy
Pencader Charter High School
William Penn High School
Polytech High School
Red Lion Christian Academy

Caesar Rodney High School
Saint Andrew's School
Saint Elizabeth High School
Saint Mark's High School
Salesianum School
Seaford Senior High School
Smyrna High School
St. Georges Technical High School
Sussex Central Senior High School
Sussex Technical High School
The Tatnall School
Tower Hill School
Wilmington Christian School
Wilmington Friends School
Woodbridge High School

2013 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME

ONE STATE ★ ONE MISSION ★ ONE FAMILY

Your support enriches the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disabilities

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete and return this form to DFRC — **TODAY**
return by FAX to 302.454.2755 (credit cards only) or by mail (checks or credit cards)

1. SPONSOR A BUDDY or PARTICIPANT

Yes, I would like to sponsor a...	Gift Amount (minimum)	Total
Hand-in-Hand Buddy	x \$ 25.00 each =	
Football Player	x \$ 50.00 each =	
Cheerleader	x \$ 25.00 each =	
Band Member	x \$ 25.00 each =	
Ambassador	x \$ 25.00 each =	

Sponsorship Gifts are tax-deductible

Total of Sponsorship Gift(s): \$ _____

2. BE A BLUE-GOLD YEARBOOK PATRON (Deadline: May 31, 2013 to be listed in the 2013 DFRC Football Yearbook)

Personal Patron Levels	Gift Amount (minimum)	Total
All★Star Patron	\$100.00	
Gold Patron	\$50.00	
Silver Patron	\$25.00	
Friend of Blue-Gold	Other Amounts	

Patron Gifts are tax-deductible

Total of Patron Gift: \$ _____

How would you like your Patron listing to appear in the 2013 Yearbook (please print) _____

3. PURCHASE TICKETS TO THE BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME (even if you can't come to the game)

- ★ General admission tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students, Free for kids under 2 (with Group Discounts available)
- ★ General admission tickets available online at the DFRC website (www.dfrcfoundation.org) and DFRC Blue-Gold Football Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/dfrcbluegoldfootball>)
- ★ **Grotto Pizza** is DFRC's Official Ticket Sponsor and online sales are powered by **TICKETLEAP**
- ★ Limited reserved box seating is also available — contact the DFRC Office at 302.454.2730 for information

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Sponsorships \$ _____ + Patron Gift \$ _____ = Total: \$ _____

Method of Payment (circle one):

Check made payable to DFRC

American Express

Discover

MasterCard

VISA

Card Account Number

Expiration Date (MM/YY)

Cardholder Name as it appears on card

Cardholder's Signature

Security Code

Name: _____
PLEASE PRINT First Middle Initial Last

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Mobile Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

☐ Check here if you are an alumnus/past participant of the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game program

Credit card orders can be faxed to 302.454.2755

Please make checks payable to DFRC. Send form and check to: DFRC, 640 Plaza Dr., Newark, DE 19702

(PLEASE CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE—IF SUBMITTING BY MAIL, PLEASE MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.)

2013 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME ONE STATE ★ ONE MISSION ★ ONE FAMILY

Your support enriches the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES

As we celebrate 58 years of the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game, there are several ways you and your family can support our programs that mean so much to so many.

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.

DFRC encourages our Alumni, Family, and Friends to join many other donors by supporting this most unique sponsorship program.



2

BECOME A YEARBOOK PATRON

Since the first game in 1956, thousands have assisted in our fundraising by becoming DFRC Blue-Gold Patrons. Patron gifts received by May 31, 2013, will be listed in the 2013 Game Day Yearbook.

3

PURCHASE TICKETS TO THE DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME ON JUNE 22nd

As always - Alumni, Family, and Friends of DFRC are encouraged to attend the game each year. General Admission Tickets are only \$10, student tickets are \$7, children under two are free. Group ticket discounts are available.

The easiest way to get tickets is to go online at DFRC website www.dfrcfoundation.org or the DFRC Blue-Gold Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/dfrcbluegoldfootball>

Safe and Secure online ticket ordering is available and powered by TICKETLEAP.

*A LIMITED NUMBER OF RESERVED BOX SEATS ARE AVAILABLE – BUT GOING FAST
Call the DFRC office at 302-454-2730 for reserved box seating information.*

Grotto Pizza is the official ticket sponsor of the 58th Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game and every ticket includes a valuable Grotto Pizza coupon good after Game Day.

Even if you can't come out and join us on Game Day this year – please go online to buy a ticket or two – your support, in any form, helps to enrich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES



DFRC
640 PLAZA DR
NEWARK DE 19702-6369

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In 2012, DFRC provided these organizations and agencies with grants totaling \$125,000. Since 1956, DFRC has distributed nearly \$6 million to programs serving Delawareans with intellectual disabilities

All The Difference Statewide	Delaware CarePlan Statewide	Hearts, Hands and Horses 4H Club New Castle County
The Arc of Delaware Statewide	Delaware Theatre Company New Castle, Sussex counties	Independent Resources New Castle County
Art Therapy Express New Castle County	Developmental Disabilities Council Statewide	Kent-Sussex Industries Statewide
Best Buddies Delaware Kent, Sussex counties	Down Syndrome Association Delaware Kent, New Castle counties	The Mancus Foundation New Castle County
The CENTER for Therapeutic and Educational Riding Statewide	Easter Seals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore Statewide	Pet-Assisted Volunteer Visitation Services, Inc (PAWS for People) New Castle County
Collaborative Effort to Reinforce Transition Success (C.E.R.T.S., Inc.) New Castle County	Exceptional Care for Children Statewide	Practice Without Pressure Statewide
	Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens Statewide	VSA Delaware (VSADE) Kent, Sussex counties
		Young Life Capernaum Kent County



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I look fondly back at the time when I represented St. Elizabeth High School as a player on the 1982 Blue Squad. At the time, I thought of it as an event that provided me the opportunity to play one more game. As game day came and went, I began to realize that this was bigger than a game and that I was privileged to be a part of a special moment and a deep tradition that has meaning for so many families.

Over the years, I have been drawn back into the game; first as a Delaware State Trooper who provided security at the games and events, and now as the head coach of this year's Blue Team. As we begin to participate in the events leading up to the game, I would like to express why being a legacy of the game is so very special to me.

My involvement with this year's game will give me an opportunity to reunite with my friend and partner, Michael McNesby, from the Hand-in-Hand Program. As a young teenager, I knew of Michael because he lived in our neighborhood with his family. I would often see Michael at the park or in church but I had little interaction with him until we became partners through the DFRC Blue-Gold All Star Football Game. During our time together, Michael and I spent many hours engaging in activities such as dancing and attending parties. But my fondest memory of Michael was on a day that I went to pick him up to go bowling and he was waiting at the door with his personal bowling ball and shoes. Needless to say, Michael humbled me by teaching me a thing or two about the game of bowling that day! My experience with Michael and the McNesby family taught me how to look at life from a different perspective.

From my early days in youth football, I learned to categorize the other players into two categories; teammates and opponents. My teammates

were my friends; we played together, laughed together and we won and lost together. It was an "us against them" mentality when we went up against our opponents. I never imagined that my former opponents would become my teammates and that I would bond with them and remain friends with them over the next thirty years. One such friend and former opponent is Fred Freibott, who was my teammate on the 1982 Blue team. Fred and I have remained friends since the summer of 1982 and he is now my assistant coach at



Joe Aviola, left, with Michael McNesby, his Hand-in-Hand Buddy in 1982

Delaware Military Academy and will be on the sidelines as my assistant coach at this year's Blue-Gold game. Life has truly come full circle for both of us and I am grateful that we are able to share this experience again 30 years later.

Lastly, I am able to share this experience on a more personal level this year, as I will have the opportunity to coach my son Joe in the game. Although I know that he doesn't understand it yet, over time he will come to realize that participating in the annual DFRC Blue-Gold All Star Football Game leaves a lasting impression on all of those who participate in the program. As a member of the 2013 team, he will have the opportunity to become a part of the DFRC family and like me; he will carry that experience with him over the years. Participating in the events leading up to the game, and the game itself, is a reminder that we are all a part of a larger mission and we have a responsibility to continually raise awareness and acceptance of children and young adults with intellectual disabilities.

Throughout the years I have stayed connected to the game and the mission of the organization and it has always been my goal to participate in the game again as a coach. As the coach of the Blue team, I have the opportunity to recreate the experience for young players and help them to become a part of the DFRC family.

Mark Your Calendars

SUNDAY, MAY 19 - Noon

Blue-Gold Picnic at the DSA Buddy Walk
★ UD Athletic Complex, South College Ave, Newark

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 - 7:00a.m.

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

★ Irish Eyes on Lewes Waterfront
Visit www.dfrcfoundation.org for info

MONDAY, JUNE 10

DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star
Golf Classic- New Castle County

★ White Clay Creek Country Club, Stanton
All Golfer Slots Sold Out

MONDAY, JUNE 10

DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star
Golf Classic- Kent County

★ Maple Dale Country Club, Dover
Celebrating 20 years! Golfer Slots Still Available
Visit www.dfrcfoundation.org for info

SUNDAY, JUNE 16 - 2:p.m.

DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Media Day &
Instrument Zoo

★ University of Delaware Football Stadium

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19 - 5:30p.m.

DFRC All★Star Football Scrimmages

★ Gold Squad Scrimmage
Milford High School
★ Blue Squad Scrimmage
Tower Hill School
Open to the public - free admission!

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

58th ANNUAL DFRC BLUE-GOLD
ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME

See back cover for event times and details

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Blue-Gold Kickoff Classic Games

Visit www.dfrcfoundation.org for info

FALL 2013

DFRC HOLIDAZZLE LOVE & LYRICS II

★ The Grand Opera House, Wilmington
Visit www.dfrcfoundation.org for info

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



DFRC THANKS OUR 2013 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME SPONSORS



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Fax: (302) 454-2755
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