



ALUMNI, FAMILY & FRIENDS

DFRC Newsletter • 2018 Edition

DFRC is Family

When I was first asked to write an article I was very excited, but when it came to putting my thoughts into words, panic came over me. What could I say that hasn't already been said? I decided to look through our DFRC Blue-Gold scrapbooks in hopes for some ideas of what to write about. Turning through the pages, I realized Ashley Webb (our daughter) has lots of wonderful memories and so do we.

Ashley started with DFRC in 2003 at the age of eight. We thought we were signing her up for the program— little did we know the wonderful impact this would have on our family on so many levels. Our family has met friends for life; Ashley has built social skills, found comfort with her peers, and has built friendships that will last a lifetime.

Ashley was first assigned cheerleaders from Lake Forest. I think I was more excited because I had graduated from Lake Forest and I knew we were off to a great start. From there she had many more great experiences through football players, band members, and ambassadors.

There are many events planned though the Hand-in-Hand program and Ashley



has enjoyed all of them. The most memorable moment is usually Game Day

where the buddies run out on the field; there isn't a dry eye in the stadium. We may never remember the score of game but we always remember that moment of excitement.

In 2007, we were honored when Ashley was asked to be the Gold All-Star Buddy. This was a wonderful experience for Ashley, and she took this role very seriously. Of course she ate up all that attention and picture taking moments. We are so proud of her and, as her parents, we learned that she is more independent than we were giving her credit for. She would often remind me to stand to the side as they wanted to see her and not me. I find humor in this and realize just how much this organization has helped her and us.

Through the help of DFRC, our community and schools have brought forth acceptance to being different. Our family is so thankful to this organization that I joined the Blue-Gold Committees, hoping to help spread the amazing works of this organization.

-Linda Webb

Make a friend... Change a life... Gain a family!

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the Game Chairperson for the 63rd DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game. I want to congratulate all the participants, buddies, and their families on an amazing year. It has been very exciting to watch buddies, football players, band members, ambassadors and cheerleaders make connections and develop relationships that we hope will last long after the game is played. Thank you to our Executive Director, Dr. Tony Glenn, the DFRC staff, and committee members for your commitment to DFRC's mission to enrich the lives of people with intellectual disABILITIES.

DFRC and this game hold a special place in my heart and I feel very lucky to be able to serve in a leadership role. I grew up watching the games from the stands while my brother, Ryan, was a buddy in DFRC's Hand-in-Hand Program. Ryan always looked forward to meeting his new high school participants each year. His face would light up with that first call and from there on out all we heard about were his new best friends for the year. He would wait by the door for them to show up and you could tell they were as excited as Ryan was. By the

time game day came around, we were all friends and many of these wonderful participants continue to be lifelong family friends.

The tagline for this year's game is, "Make a Friend. Change a Life. Gain a Family." Since our Participant Orientation in January and throughout the Blue-Gold season, I feel that everyone has embraced this concept. I have witnessed the transformation of people with all abilities coming together, experiences changing lives and the way we understand each other, and becoming a family that loves and cares. I know my life was certainly changed by the joy we all shared at all the wonderful events.

Thanks to my brother, Ryan, and the connections he made in DFRC's Hand-in-Hand Program, I was inspired to join the Blue-Gold committee 6 years ago. Little did I know where that decision would take me! The DFRC family celebrates ABILITIES and we hope you will join us for the 63rd celebration of the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game on Saturday, June 23rd. Bring your family and friends and be a part of the magic that is DFRC!

Lindsey Moeller



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2018 DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game Leadership

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Ashley Grant • 2nd Vice Chair

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One treat at a time.

Waggies is unique because it blends volunteers and paid workers who together produce over 3,000 hand cut, healthy dog treats per baking day. Sales and sponsorships help keep Waggies in the black and thriving. Waggies history includes being a beneficiary of funds from DFRC.

Ten years ago, Maggie and Elizabeth were turning twenty-one and their mothers, Leigh Corrigan and Mary Ann Nolan, were wondering about what the next step would be for the girls. It was obvious that opportunities for meaningful employment for young adults with intellectual disabilities were almost non-existent and so the seed of entrepreneurship was planted. They wanted a consumable product but did not wish to venture into people food. Dog owners are known to be indulgent toward their four legged friends so, why not dog treats? They officially became Waggies by Maggie & Friends, purchased a small mixer, trays, bags and labels and went in search of a place to bake...and a customer or two. Aldersgate United Methodist Church in north Wilmington offered its beautiful commercial kitchen. Eileen Janssen of Janssen's Market gave Waggies a premier location in the store and has continued to be a mentor and friend. Apropos Gift Shop, now known as Whimsy, also offered to carry Waggies. Maggie, Elizabeth and their friend Laura were ready to work. Baking began. Along the way it became clear that this little business needed help in making ends meet and DFRC answered the prayer. A "cost of doing business" grant helped finance expenses related to barcode registration, insurance and equipment. Years later, DFRC funding helped with packaging expenses. Waggies grew, hired more bakers and volunteers gave their time and talents. Life was good.



The group pictured is the experienced baking team of Waggies by Maggie & Friends, a Delaware nonprofit dog treat company whose mission is to employ and empower individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Fast forward to today. The Elks Club of north Wilmington has graciously donated its kitchen for baking four days a week. Waggies has a permanent home and now employs a dozen bakers.

news is, there are few, if any, full-time opportunities for the bakers. The good news is, the bakers love working at Waggies and want to stay. Volunteers are quoted as saying, "My day at Waggies is the best day of my week." "When I leave Waggies, I'm smiling."



The bakers have part-time jobs with a paycheck and each has become skilled at the many levels of the baking process. Some work three days a week, others two or one. Volunteers help to make everyday inclusive, vibrant and productive. The team is proud of recently winning M&T bank's "What's Important in Business" contest.

Initially, the thought was to hire bakers to give them experience to move on to full-time employment. The bad

Waggies is grateful to DFRC and other friends who have supported its mission of employment. Waggies by Maggie & Friends continues to be a work in progress and looks forward to spreading the message that adults with intellectual disabilities are an untapped pool of talent.

Contact:
Mary Ann Nolan
www.waggies.org
maryann@waggies.org

2017 DFRC BENEFICIARIES

DFRC provided 20 Delaware agencies and organizations with grants totaling \$50,000.

Annual DFRC fundraising events include:

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



The Arc of Delaware
Statewide

Art Therapy Express
New Castle County

Best Buddies Delaware
Statewide

**Center for Disabilities Studies -
University of Delaware**
Statewide

**The CENTER for Therapeutic &
Educational Riding, Inc.**
New Castle County

**Collaborative Effort to
Reinforce Transition Success
(C.E.R.T.S.)**
New Castle County

Delaware Care Plan
Statewide

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Kent County

**Delaware Theatre Company -
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New Castle County

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**Easter Seals of Delaware &
Maryland's Eastern Shore**
Statewide

Grand Opera House
New Castle County

**Hearts, Hands, and Horses
4H Club**
New Castle County

Independent Resources
New Castle County

Junior Achievement
New Castle, Kent County

Kent-Sussex Industries
(Kent, Sussex County)

Mosaic
New Castle, Kent County

**Southern Delaware Therapeutic
& Recreational Horseback
Riding, Inc**
Kent, Sussex County

VSA Delaware
Kent County

**Wilmington Delaware Area
Rotary Clubs Community Fund**
New Castle County



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



Yuseff Bartsch, left, is the 2018 Gold DFRC All★Star Football Buddy. Carrie Hallett, right, is the 2018 Blue DFRC All★Star Football Buddy. Lindsey Moeller, center, is the 2018 DFRC Game Chair.

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, June 4 - 8:30AM

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

Saturday, June 9 - 8AM

DFRC Blue-Gold 5K Run/1 Mile Walk
Irish Eyes Restaurant
Lewes, DE

Wednesday, June 20 - 5PM

DFRC Blue-Gold Football Scrimmages
Blue Team - Tower Hill School
Wilmington, DE
Gold Team - Milford High School
Milford, DE

Saturday, June 23 - GAME DAY

DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game
University of Delaware Stadium
Newark, DE
Family Fun Zone - 2:00 p.m.
Opening Ceremonies - 5:00 p.m.
Kickoff - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 20 - 11AM

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

Saturday, November 3

DFRC Holidazzle: Blue-Gold Bash
Hockessin Athletic Club
Hockessin, DE

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND OTHER
DFRC GOODIES GO TO:
www.dfrc.org/merchandise.html
OR SCAN THE CODE BELOW
WITH YOUR PHONE.**



Thank you

The 2018 Edition of the DFRC Newsletter
is brought to you through the kindness and generosity of

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The DFRC family is deeply grateful for
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What Goes Around, Comes Around...

A recent leadership chat with students at Newark Charter School (NCS) led our Executive Director, Dr. Tony Glenn, to a resounding query echoing through the hallway, "Mr. Glenn, is that really you?" He turned to discover Saint Mark's alumna, Marie Kelly Cowgill. Marie is a Reading Specialist at NCS and in the twenty-two years since her graduation from high school, she suddenly, very keenly realized how much she missed her former teacher whose example had so greatly influenced her life.

As Marie reminisced about her four years at Saint Mark's High School (SMHS), the most meaningful theme of her memories focused on community, the genuine care, compassion and love of community. She especially remembers the commitment to prayer, as the community loved and supported each other. A very large part of the Saint Mark's community revolved around the Blue-Gold Committee. Marie was a member of the Blue-Gold Committee, and she very vividly remembers the buddies who partnered with them. Being part of the Blue-Gold Committee at SMHS was cool because no one was forcing anyone to do anything, but instead, Marie and her classmates loved the responsibility of leading, deciding and following through, knowing they were fully supported.

Tony Glenn, former teacher and now Executive Director of DFRC, played in the 1973 DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game. Even after playing and coaching football at the University of Delaware, he remained committed to the truth of abilities and the love he learned from the buddies who so deeply touched his life after being involved in DFRC. He took that passion to SMHS as a teacher, where he initiated the

very first high school Blue-Gold Committee in the state of Delaware.

Marie and her fellow committee members were empowered to lead and plan activities with their buddies throughout the school year. Everything they did was ground-breaking and set an example for other schools to eventually follow.

As a middle school student at Holy Angels School, Marie remembers a visit from the Saint Mark's Blue-Gold Committee, giving them information about the committee and describing the inspiration their buddies had given them about abilities and what's really important in life. Those were the early days of DFRC's Education Awareness Program and later, as a senior in high school, Marie had the opportunity to be among the students to return to Holy Angels and share the sensitivity they learned from the relationships they established with all the buddies.

Dan is a 47 year-old man who lives in Colorado. He has a job he loves and takes the bus to work every day. When he was younger, Dan lived in Delaware and he was Marie's buddy at SMHS. He attended Dickinson High School, where he helped with the football team and proudly wore his letter jacket. Marie remembers taking Dan to the Charcoal Pit, the movies and bowling.

She went to Dan's Special Olympics' events and he attended her lacrosse games. Marie and Dan very quickly became comfortable with each other and their relationship soon developed into a meaningful friendship. Marie realized that she and Dan are far more alike than they are different. Twenty-two years later, Marie and Dan still talk on the phone regularly. He asks Marie about what's happening in her life, wants to know about her husband and children, and Marie and Dan like to tease each other about their different taste in music. Dan's mother thanks Marie for staying in touch with her son. Marie humbly accepts that gratitude, knowing that she has received one-thousand times more than she has given. Dan knows how much Marie loves and respects him, but he likely has no idea how much his life has enriched hers.

Grateful for all the opportunities she had at SMHS, Marie went to college, uncertain of her life career until the "Introduction to Exceptional Children" class she took. One day, she lost herself, reading beyond an assignment about people who "don't quite fit the typical mold," embracing unique ways to teach them and keep them included. It was then that the pieces from her Blue-Gold experiences began to fit perfectly into the knowledge she was finding about enhancing and adapting teaching methods for children with learning differences. The lights were shining brilliantly and her path to teaching special education became clear. In her teaching career, Marie has taught regular and special education at several grade levels, emphasizing how deeply Dr. Glenn, Dan, and her Blue-Gold experiences at SMHS continue to inspire her. What goes around, comes around...and



Marie Kelly Cowgill

around! Marie married former DFRC Blue-Gold Ambassador Brian Cowgill from Middletown High School. Because of the valuable experiences Marie and Brian have had, their two children are following along in their footsteps. Ten-year-old Catherine is a unified partner, enjoying each opportunity to spend time with the Special Olympians she has come to know. At age 7, Adam is joining his sister in discovering an awareness to understand how, by giving of ourselves, we can help others and make a difference in the world.

Marie and her family are living proof of unconditional love, honest innocence, spirituality, remaining true to yourself, and not allowing yourself to get caught up in worldly things, but to instead, give from the heart and care genuinely. It is a huge responsibility to be partnered with a buddy, but one whose value cannot be measured. Because of the positive influence our buddies offer, the world is better and brighter for all of us. What we give is rewarded many times over by the life-lessons we learn from our buddies. When we give of ourselves in a commitment to service, we can change the world, one life at a time. What goes around, comes around, again and again and again!

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

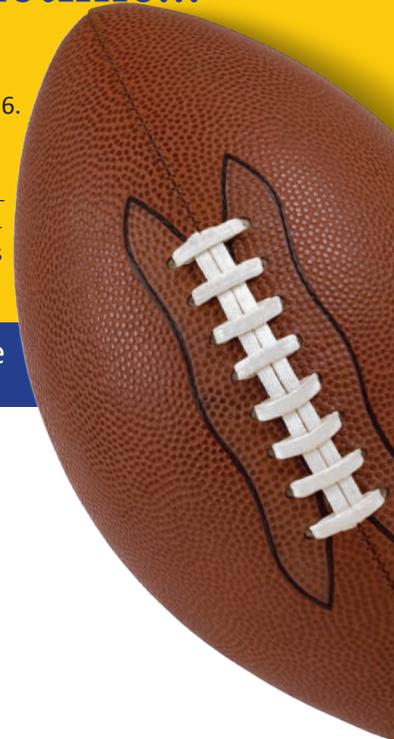


One small touch that lasts a lifetime... your gift makes this possible.

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 44th anniversary in 2018.

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.



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DFRC
640 Plaza Drive
Newark, DE 19702
Phone: 302.454.2730
Fax: 302.454.2755
www.dfrc.org