

delaware foundation reaching citizens with intellectual disABILITIES

# ALUMNI. FAMILY. & FRIENDS DFRC NEWSLETTER • 2020 EDITION

## **ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!** Tony Glenn & Martha McDonough

from each other, and develop very unique feelings of goodness and unconditional love. All these experiences have meant the

As a junior at St. Georges Technical High School, Ashley Grant was selected to be an Ambassador for the DFRC Blue-Gold All<sup>2</sup>Star Football Program. She admits that she didn't know much about what she was getting into, but the little she had heard intrigued her and she decided to give it a try. She got her feet wet that first year and pretty much never looked back.

abrating.

1956 - 2020

As a Junior Ambassador, Ashley learned the basics of the program, enjoyed every interaction she had, and realized she couldn't wait for her senior year when she could become a part of the Hand-in-Hand Program and request a buddy. In 2012, her big chance came along and with that, she met an incredible young boy whose life would alter her thoughts, actions and understanding about the true meaning of ABILITIES. Matthew Beck was an adorable 11-year-old when he marched his way into Ashley's heart and life. They attended DFRC events, played, went out for ice cream, and discovered how very much alike they really are.

Their time as Hand-in-Hand buddies in the DFRC Blue-Gold Program gave Ashley and Matt opportunities to be together, learn



After graduating from high school, she enrolled as an Early Childhood Education major at the University of Delaware. Matt's inspiration guided her to join the DFRC Blue-Gold Committee and her leadership abilities were quite obvious. Soon, Ashley was leading the statewide Ambassador Committee, one she was a part of just a short time before. Because of her commitment, Ashley was invited to join the DFRC Blue-Gold Football Game Executive Committee, leading her to this year's role as the youngest Game Chairperson ever. Matt will be at her side, very deservingly serving as DFRC's Honorary Chairperson. Ashley is undeniably certain that the life-lessons she learned from Matt and the experiences they have shared are the reasons she is an active member of the DFRC family.

### world to

both of them and helped shape the direction their lives have taken. DFRC gave Ashley a strong sense of family, which strengthened her as a person, helped her overcome insecurities, and gradually built her self-esteem.

Matt helped Ashley wake up and realize her calling to become a teacher.



When we asked Matt what he thinks about Ashley, a big grin evolved and he very honestly and innocently said, "She gave me my heart!" Matt very willingly shared his thoughts about Ashley. In addition to Ashley being very nice and cute, Matt enjoys helping her do her work, going out to eat. attending birthday parties. and watching sports games together. Matt loves having Ashley for his friend, and she shares that same sentiment for him. He feels a serious responsibility to protect Ashley, especially if she starts to worry about something. Matt told us that Ashley is part of his life and without the DFRC Blue-Gold Program, he never would've met her.

In the eight years since Ashley and Matt first met, they have remained involved in each other's lives and nurtured a beautifully meaningful relationship. They are friends! They honored the potential made possible through the DFRC Blue-Gold Hand-in-Hand Program and allowed that inspiration to carry them to heights neither of them could have envisioned. The everlasting bond Ashley and Matt have developed will

continue to lead both of them throughout their lives.

As the DFRC family celebrates our 65th anniversary year, we continue to focus on our Hand-in-Hand Program, the very heart of all we do. We enthusiastically celebrate ABILITIES, acceptance, inclusion, relationships, and unconditional love. When we open our hearts and let love lead us, all things are possible!



### 2020 DFRC Blue-Gold

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To our DFRC Blue-Gold buddies, participants, families and friends,

For 65 years, DFRC has focused on the intrinsic value of each life. We strive to provide opportunities to learn from each other and translate those lessons into ways that provide a meaningful impact in the world. During these unprecedented times of illness, anxiety, and uncertainty resulting from the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we acknowledge the many necessary changes that are happening throughout our state, country and the world. Among countless other traditions, celebrations, and events that cannot take place, DFRC was forced to cancel the 65th Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All\*Star Football Game and all related activities. Everyone is being affected in one way or another and we're keenly aware of the extreme disappointment being felt because those expected opportunities are no longer possible.

Being nominated to participate in the DFRC Blue-Gold All\*Star Football Program and Game is an honor reserved for the most exceptional young people throughout Delaware. All football players, ambassadors, cheerleaders and band members were recognized by their school as students of outstanding character and leadership abilities. We share sincere regret in the cancellation of the Game and related activities and want to convey our plans to honor the students in the DFRC Blue-Gold All\*Star Football Game Class of

• Rescheduling the game to a later date is not an option given post-game commitment's for most of our participants, as well as limited scheduling options at the University of Delaware, our host for both the game and football camp.

• We have ordered jerseys for each of our football players and shirts for each buddy, ambassador, cheerleader, and band member. Once we receive these items and the stay-at-home restrictions are lifted, we will contact everyone to make arrangements for delivery of the jersevs/shirts.

• In this very special publication you are reading, DFRC's 2020 Alumni, Family and Friends Newsletter, we have listed the name and corresponding school of each buddy, football player, ambassador, cheerleader and band member as a way to honor your selection for the 65th DFRC Blue-Gold All\*Star **Football Program and Game.** 

• All senior participants selected this year are considered the DFRC Blue-Gold All\*Star Football Game Class of 2020. We will invite each of you to attend next year's Game. Each participant group will be invited to walk together and be announced as a unit while you walk onto the football field in the parade during **Opening Ceremonies.** 

2020. gofundme

DFRC's GoFundMe page is anxiously awaiting new action from our family and friends. With one click, your donation will provide meaningful opportunities for hundreds of people. Please check it out at:

https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/65th-dfrc-blue-gold-football-game



To our Hand-in-Hand buddies, we celebrate you for your ABILITIES and the life-lessons you teach us. We are very proud of all our buddies and participants. To our faithful donors, we thank you for your most generous support and goodness. Funding is needed now more than ever and we're deeply grateful to know that vour commitment to enrich the lives of all people is strong. To all the DFRC family volunteers, please know how much we value the time, effort and love you share. Your commitment is unparalleled and deeply appreciated.

Your DFRC family wants everyone to know how much we appreciate your understanding. We hope the plans we have made to emphasize our tremendous respect for each person will in some small way make the loss of so much a little easier to bear. Please stay safe and follow all CDC guidelines. If you have questions, our phones (302) 454-2730 and email (info@dfrc.org) are being monitored daily. Information is also available at www.dfrc.org DFRC remains strong, proud, and ready to serve!

## **BLUE FOOTBALL PLAYERS**

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Displayed in Alphabetical order.



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THE DFRC FAMILY IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT









RIDAY, AUGUST 28 - 11:00 A. Maple Dale Country Club, Dover, DE

SEPTEMBER 21 - 11:00 A White Clay Creek Country Club, Wilmington, DE DFRC Blue-Gold New Castle County

DFRC Blue-Gold Sussex County Auction Irish Eyes Pub & Restaurant, Lewes, DE

DATE TO BE DETERMINEL

DFRC Hockey for a Cause Fred Rust Ice Arena, Newark, DE

DFRC Blue-Gold All\*Star Football Game DFRC Blue-Gold All Astar Poorbain or and all related activities DFRC Blue-Gold 5k Run/1 Mile Walk FOR ALL DFRC MERCHANDISE GO TO: WWW.DFRC.ORG/MERCHANDISE.HTML

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DFRC is deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our many loyal individual patrons, community groups, and business sponsors for the 2020 DFRC Blue-Gold All\*Star Football Game Yearbook! While we will not be printing our yearbook this year due to the coronavirus pandemic and surrounding circumstances, we want to honor your incredible kindness and generosity. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission of enriching the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES!

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Lanyard - \$5

blue or gold



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Shipping charges are based on the total dollar amount of your merchandise purchase.

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Please contact the DFRC Office at info@dfrc.org or (302) 454-2730 with any questions.

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Name		
Mailing Address		
City	_ State	_ Zip
Phone		
Email		

MERCHANDISE ORDER INFORMATION					
ITEM	COLOR	SIZE	QTY.	TOTAL	
btotal Order Subtotal \$0.00 - \$49.99 Shipping \$5.00 ipping Order Subtotal \$50.00 and over Shipping \$8.50 al					
<b>METHOD OF PAYMENT</b> <b>Credit Card</b> (please circle one): American Express Discover MasterCard Visa					
Card Number					
Expiration CVV Code					
Cardholder Signature					
Cardholder Name As It Appears on Card					
Check (made p	payable to <b>D</b> I	FRC)	Check #_		

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