



dfrc

delaware
foundation
reaching citizens
with intellectual disABILITIES

ALUMNI, FAMILY & FRIENDS DFRC ANNUAL NEWSLETTER | 2021

DFRC Director of Operations, Jada Little Comes Full Circle

By Tony Glenn and Martha McDonough

Jordan Little is an endearing, loving and extremely social young man who has been a part of the DFRC family since he was eight-years-old. He became a buddy in the DFRC Blue-Gold Hand-in-Hand Program and brought his entire family along for the ride of a lifetime. With the anticipation of March, Jordan looked forward to the arrival of that bright gold envelope that contained the information about

his new Blue-Gold high school participants. His younger sister, Jada, remembers how much Jordan loved meeting his new buddies each year. Genuine magic unfolded with the unique experiences each high school participant and Jordan shared in their relationships and Jada was thrilled to see her brother bond and grow. Even as a very young child, Jada knew "this DFRC thing" was a very meaningful part of Jordan's life. She was well aware of the tremendous impact the Hand-in-Hand Program had on the high school participants, Jordan, and the rest of the Little family, and

she wanted to learn about more and more ways to become involved!

Jada attended the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game every year with Jordan, their parents, grandparents and extended family. A special memory for her was when she was a fifth grader and she watched the DFRC Blue-Gold Band perform. Jada was mesmerized! Even though she didn't even play an instrument at that time, she promised herself that she would be a part of that same band some day! Jada learned to play the flute and she accomplished her goal of joining the band as a ninth grader. She was the only band member from Dover High School that first year and she was in awe during the first practice, seated between seniors from Padua and Charter School of Wilmington. This was BIG TIME and she loved every bit of it...because she knew there was even more to come! Band members in grades 9-12 can participate and Jada was dedicated to a cause that had been very important to her for most of her life. She knew that as a senior, she would be invited to request a Hand-in-Hand



The Little Family

Jada and Jordan with their parents Vanessa and Jasper.

Jordan served as the DFRC Gold All★Star Buddy in 2011.

Continued on page 3



Ashley Grant & Matthew Beck, 2021 DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game Co-Chairs in 2019 (above) and 2012 (right)



2021 DFRC Blue-Gold Game Executive Team

Ashley Grant, Co-Game Chair
Matthew Beck, Co-Game Chair
Bill Grant, 1st Vice Chair
Amanda Connor, 2nd Vice Chair

Merlyn Burns
Tony Glenn
Mary Lenhoff
Jada Little
Martha McDonough
Gary Mensinger
Sandy Valle

Board of Trustees

Ruth W. Banta
Melissa S. Brady
L. Stephen Cleary
Bruce A. DiNardo
Jill C. Green
Ann M. Haggerty
Kevin Jacobs
William B. Kelly
Mary F. Lenhoff
John A. McCarthy
Martha L. McDonough
Gary L. Mensinger
Coleen E. Popp
Lynne G. Sklar
Anthony E. Soligo
Adam S. Webster

Founders

R.R.M. Carpenter, Jr.
James Williams

Executive Director

Anthony T. Glenn, Ed.D.

Director of Advancement:

Sandy Valle

Director of Operations

& Creative Director:

Jada Little

Mark Your Calendars!

DFRC Blue-Gold New Castle County Golf Classic
Monday, June 7, 2021 | White Clay Creek Country Club

DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game

Friday, June 18, 2021 | 7 p.m. Kickoff

University of Delaware Football Stadium - Newark, DE

Live Streaming Options Will Be Available

DFRC Blue-Gold Southern Delaware Golf Classic

Friday, August 6, 2021 | Maple Dale Country Club

DFRC Blue-Gold Sussex County Auction

Friday, September 24, 2021 | Irish Eyes Pub & Restaurant

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. - With Online Component

DFRC Blue-Gold Online Auction | Coming Fall 2021

DFRC Blue-Gold Bash | Coming November 2021

Contact DFRC!

302.454.2730 | info@dfrc.org | www.dfrc.org



Continued from page 1

buddy and she couldn't wait! Jada met her six-year-old buddy, Madison, in 2013. Although Madison was very shy, she and Jada immediately developed a close relationship. They participated in the Hand-in-Hand events and loved it all. When Jada went away to college in Virginia, she stayed in touch with Madison and her family and cherished all the experiences they shared. Just before Jada was ready to graduate, she was thrilled to learn of a job opening in the DFRC office. She took time from exams to prepare her application and when she received a request for an interview, she was overjoyed... *could this really be happening?* After completing the interview process, the Search Committee made an enthusiastic offer of employment and fortunately, Jada accepted!! Since her very first day, Jada has flourished beautifully and has advanced from

working part-time with social media to her current full-time position as Director of Operations.

Jada emphasized, "I've been a part of DFRC my whole life. I wanted to work at DFRC so I could help other people have the same awesome opportunities I've had."

Working directly with Barbara Spence, DFRC's all-time Hand-in-Hand Coordinator, Jada has now been involved in the entire process from sending and accepting forms, following buddies and their families, answering questions and learning the details of all that goes into the matching process to ensure the best possible experience for everyone. That's one facet of her job she especially loves because it really is the heart of all we do in DFRC and it takes her back to the days when DFRC first began for her as a six-year-old.

Jada is a shining example of the

impact DFRC has in the lives of all people. Because of the unconditional love she learned from her parents and her sweet brother, Jada has made a serious commitment to share that love with every person she meets, simply because she knows how deeply her life has been impacted. Jordan inspired Jada, and who knows how many others, and we have now come full circle, allowing Jada to share that same spirit of DFRC with countless others in a career she loves so much.

The DFRC Blue-Gold Hand-in-Hand Program answers the call to remain dedicated and loyal to our mission to enrich the lives of people with intellectual disABILITIES. DFRC has an immense responsibility to provide opportunities for all people to learn and grow, forever focused on ABILITIES, inclusion, hope...and love.

DFRC Blue-Gold Spirit Gear is available on our website!

www.dfrc.org/merchandise

The 2021 edition of the DFRC Alumni, Family & Friends Newsletter is brought to you through the kindness and generosity of

THE MOGLIA FAMILY FOUNDATION

The DFRC family is deeply grateful for their continued support!

DFRC thanks our 2021 Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game Sponsors.



THE CARPENTER
FOUNDATION



DIAMOND



**1290AM
WILMINGTON**



109 Carson Drive ★ Bear, DE 19701 ★ 302.669.9464



**IRISH EYES
PUB & RESTAURANT**



The Best People.
The Best Solutions.



DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME

7 p.m. Kickoff



Limited In-Person Tickets

Ticketed online live streaming will be available
Keep an eye on the DFRC website for details.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE STADIUM | NEWARK, DE

2020 DFRC BENEFICIARIES

In 2020, DFRC was able to provide 14 Delaware agencies & organizations with grants totaling \$53,400.



The Arc of Delaware

Art Therapy Express

Art Works for All

Best Buddies Delaware

The CENTER for Therapeutic & Educational Riding, Inc.

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

Delaware CarePlan, Inc.

Delaware Theatre Company - Truly Awesome Players

Down Syndrome Association of Delaware

Endless Possibilities In The Community (EPIC)

Independent Resources

Kent-Sussex Industries

Southern Delaware Therapeutic & Recreational Horseback Riding, Inc.

Waggies by Maggie & Friends

Delaware's own version of the Super Bowl is coming to town when brothers Zach and Zeb Blum take their teams to the football field in Delaware Stadium on June 18, 2021. Not since the Harbaugh brothers, John and Jim, went head to head in Super Bowl XLVII, has there been this much excitement in the game of football! Zach, head coach at Middletown High School, and Zeb, head coach at A.I. duPont High School, will square off for the very first time as head football coaches to celebrate the 65th DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game.

The rivalry began when the brothers were very young. Zach positioned baby brother Zeb behind a catchers' mitt and deemed Zeb useless because he wasn't able to catch the balls coming his way, even when they bounced off his forehead. As they got a little older, winning at everything became

more and more important to both of them, and sports took a very special place in their hearts. Mom and Dad tell some great stories about balls being thrown from every angle and every place, some caught, others missed, and more than a few that led to some broken windows... and even a broken door!

As the boys became men, the competition was far less important and the friendship they developed meant everything to them. The happy times of growing up together are clearly evident as the family shared tender moments and hilarious experiences that reflect the Blum family in true fashion. Seeing Mom and Dad with their

OH



The Blum Family (From Left to Right): John Blum, Dina Blum, Lily Smith, Ava Blum (being held), Zeb Blum, Ronnie Smith (rear), Zach Blum, Casey Blum, Sailor Blum (being held), Cynthia Blum
Front Row: Abigail Blum, Sophie Blum



BROTHER!

BLUM VS. BLUM - JUNE 18, 2021

By Tony Glenn and Martha McDonough

sons, along with their beautiful wives, children and in-laws, gave us a distinct picture of the goodness of the Blum family!

The Blum brothers are veterans of the DFRC Blue-Gold Game. Zach was an assistant gold coach in the 2016 game and Zeb assisted the blue team in 2009. Through their experiences, they are both keenly aware that the true meaning of this football game goes far deeper than touchdowns and extra points. They've met our buddies and have immersed themselves in the Hand-in-Hand Program. Zeb and Zach have experienced first-hand the magic of ABILITIES and the

unconditional love we learn through DFRC. As coaches, they are humbled and grateful for the opportunity to learn from our buddies and lead their players to that same understanding. They consider it a tremendous honor to have had an opportunity to be a part of the Game one time. To be chosen by peers to lead the teams a second time is truly spectacular!

We can be sure the Brothers Blum will bring skilled coaching and outstanding competition to the 65th DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game. Deep down, the score will matter, but so many other life lessons will remain even more meaningful!

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 and the Hand-in-Hand Program, which is celebrating its 47th anniversary in 2021.

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 the **DONATE** button to make your gift today!



Phone: 302.454.2730 Email: info@dfrc.org

DFRC
delaware
foundation
reaching citizens
with intellectual disabilities

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