



The Quarterly Newsletter of the BDFF Fall 2024 Volume 46 Issue 72



Calvin Dawson Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Meet the 2024 recipients of the Calvin Dawson Memorial Scholarship, available to Florida residents with bleeding disorders pursuing post-secondary education.

Abigail Alicia is a freshman at the University of Central Florida majoring in finance pursuing a career in finance and business administration eventually opening a small bakery. She enjoys playing sports, cooking, baking and arts and crafts.

Abigail Ester attending Indian River State College majoring in Nursing. She would one day like to be a pediatric hematology/ oncology nurse. She enjoys going to the beach with her daughter and spending time with her family.

Aidan Baidenmann is a freshman at Seminole State College majoring in Business Management and would one day like to open an automotive repair shop. He enjoys mechanical work on cars and motorcycles including restoration and weightlifting.

Joseph Collins is a freshman at Rasmussen University planning a career in the medical field, he would one day like to be a nurse or hematologist. He enjoys watching football, fishing, golfing, collecting sports cards and spending time with his family.

Kevin Free is a Senior at the University of Central Florida majoring in environmental studies. He would one day like to do research in the environmental field either in habitat or species conservation. He enjoys volunteering at UCF and other organizations, hanging out with his Herpetology class searching for new animals, playing games and watching movies



Kevin Free

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TOLL FREE 800-293-6527
www.bleedingdisordersfl.org

BDFF Connections

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Mission

The mission of the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with related bleeding disorders and their families through education, information and referral services, advocacy and research.

Disclaimer

The material provided in BDFF Connections is for your general information only. BDFF does not give medical advice or engage in the practice of medicine. The BDFF does not recommend particular treatments for specific individuals and recommends that you consult your physician or treatment center before pursuing any course of treatment.

Executive Director's Column

Dear Friends

I hope everyone is well and safe, as you can attest it has been a horrible hurricane season and I am sure like me, you cannot wait until it is over. The BDFF is here to help you as much as we can.

Special thanks to everyone who supports our events and so we can help our community, especially during times like this. Please join us for the Orlando Creepy Crawl Walk and 5k Run (October 26, 2024) and the 2nd Annual Trailblazer Bike Ride and Fun Walk, December 14, 2024 check out our website for more information about these events (<https://bleedingdisordersfl.org/>) It takes a village and we have a great village.

The Superhero Walk was a Super success, special thanks to Kathy Desgrosiellier and Lisette Sanchez, Superhero co-chairs and our amazing committee and volunteers (see pages 4 &5 for all the great details).

We have a lot of programs and fun celebrations scheduled in the next few months we hope you will join us. Don't forget to check out our calendar at <https://bleeding-disordersfl.org/events/list/>

I hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season!

Fran



Orlando Creepy Crawl Walk and 5k run	October 26, 2024
Gainesville Meet and Great- Spurriers Restaurant	November 2, 2024
Trailblazers Holiday Bike Ride and Walk - Clermont	December 14, 2024
Orlando Meet and Greet Top Golf	December 12, 2024
Jacksonville Holiday Party - Hyatt	December 15, 2024
Gainesville Holiday Party	December 19, 2024
3rd Annual Latin Conference	January 25-26, 2025

Sulmari Lopez is a Junior at St. Petersburg College majoring in Physical Therapy with an emphasis on sports medicine. In her spare time, she enjoys making music and playing soccer.



Tyler Nazario is a Senior at Eastern Florida State College in Cocoa majoring in Arts and Science. Tyler's dream is to one day work for Disney or TOHO Studios and create a comic book that advocates for people with bleeding disorders and other issues. Tyler enjoys creating works of art, going to the beach, spending time with his family, watching movies, and playing trivia.

William Solomon is a Junior at University of Central Florida majoring in Clinical Psychology he is planning to be a therapist. His pastimes include spending time with family and friends, enjoying nature walks, working out, and playing video games.



Yohance De Souza is a Junior at the University of Florida in Gainesville majoring in English and minoring in Computer Science. He would like to be an

English Teacher. He enjoys creative writing, playing board and video games, reading and weightlifting.

John Waters is a Senior at Florida State University majoring in Political Science. John enjoys discussing politics, bowling and weightlifting. He is planning a career in public service and one day represent the state of Florida in Congress.

Jack Young is a freshman at the University of Florida majoring in Robotics/Computer Science. Jack enjoys playing games and hanging out with friends. He likes spending time at the beach, boating and spending time with his family. Jack is looking forward to learning new things, especially in Math and Engineering.

Diego Zerpa is a freshman at Lake Sumter State College majoring in Political Science. He enjoys cooking and reading especially books on self-development.



Applications for next year's Calvin Dawson Memorial Scholarships are due April 30, 2025. To get an application, go to [Scholarships](#) - Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida (bleedingdisordersfl.org) If you would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund, go to: bleedingdisordersfl.org/donate/

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EARN
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS**

VOLUNTEER FOR THE Bdff

**CONTACT US AT 800-293-6527 or
info@bleedingdisorders.org**

Superheroes Saved the Day at the BDFF 17th Annual Superhero Walk

What a beautiful day September 21st, 2024 was for the 17th annual Superhero Fun Walk in St. Petersburg with over 160 participants. This year's Walk raised more than \$54,000 for the mission of the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida, to improve the quality of life for people with bleeding disorders.

Participants enjoyed a sunny fun filled day of friendship, food and fun. We had a raffle and silent auction with some great prizes such as a Louis Vuitton Handbag, Tampa Bay Sunset Sailing Cruise, gift cards, Legos, tickets to the Glazer Children's Museum, and more! Special thank you to our co-chairs, Kathy Desgrosiellier and Lisette Sanchez, and to Patsie Gibson for sharing her family's story and delivering her amazing Mission Moment. Participants also had a chance to meet Foundation founders Brian and Rhonda McDonald, as well as folks such as the Tampa Bay Lightning's ThunderBug, Chick-fil-A Cow, Deadpool, 501st Legion Star Wars characters, the St. Petersburg Fire Department and so much more.

Awards:

- Top Fundraiser: Team Noah - Dan and Gwen Carson**
- Super Recruiter - Clotting Crusaders**
- Superhero Volunteer - Lisette Sanchez and Gwen Carson**
- Team Spirit - Team Wyatt's Warriors**

Thanks to our walk committee members and volunteers for helping to make the event a success:

- Kathy Desgrosiellier – Co-Chair**
- Lisette Sanchez – Co-Chair**
- Alex Monica**
- Andrew Farren**
- Barbara Castano Arrebola**
- Christina Martinez**
- Dawn Solomon**
- David Lau**
- Gwen Carson**
- Lourdes Arvelo**
- Maggie Schmidt**
- Patsie Gibson**
- Rene Lebron**



A very special thank you to our sponsors who helped make the event possible:

CHAMPION SPONSORS

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- Patsie Gibson
- 501st Legion Storm Troopers
- St. Petersburg Fire Department
- MICKEYS CAFÉ AND ORGANICS



“The Founders Medical Scholarship” was established to honor Brian and Rhonda McDonald, founders of the Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida, doing business as the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida.

Who can apply? Florida residents with hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, or other related hereditary bleeding disorders.

Applicants must have completed a bachelor’s degree and be enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program in one of the following areas of study: medicine, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, psychiatrist, physician assistant, physical therapist, or medical social worker.

The Founders Scholarship application is available on the BDF website at <https://bleedingdisordersfl.org/what-we-do/scholarships/>. **There is no application deadline.**



Join us as we run and walk together to raise funds and awareness for the bleeding disorders community. From dressing up in your Halloween costume to celebrating the holidays, these are events you will not want to miss!





Join us December 14th for the Trailblazers Holiday Bike Ride & Fun Walk

Waterfront Park
300 3rd Street
Clermont, FL 34711



Trailblazer event Website: <https://bleedingdisordersfl.org/projects/>



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[Linkedin.com/company/bleeding-disorders-foundation-of-florida](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bleeding-disorders-foundation-of-florida)

The Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida (BDFF) is offering Women's Wellness Kits to the bleeding disorders community and all Florida pediatric and adult Hemophilia Treatment Centers.

The Women's Wellness Kits are used as a teaching tool to explain the treatment of women and bleeding disorders to the patient. The content of the kits includes but is not limited to the following: Sanitary Hygiene products, Ice Pack, Water Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Educational Information, treatment options and miscellaneous items that may be discussed during clinic. The kits encourage patients to ask questions and discuss all aspects of their bleeding disorder.

If you would like a kit or need more information, contact your Hemophilia Treatment Center or info@bleedingdisordersfl.org or 800-293-6527.

Thank you to our Women's Wellness Kit Sponsors:

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of SARASOTA COUNTY
CSL BEHRING
OCTAPHARMA
PFIZER
TAKEDA

