



BDFF CONNECTIONS

News, Support, and Community for Every Journey.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the BDFF Winter 2026 Volume 51 Issue 76



On Monday, April 13, Rhonda and Brian McDonald hosted our final Flight for Tomorrow Invitational Golf Tournament ending a remarkable tradition that has spanned more than 30 years.

This year's tournament was a success, raising more than \$45,000. With beautiful weather, a joyful atmosphere, and a wonderful turnout of volunteers and golfers, the day was filled with laughter and connection a truly fitting way to honor such a meaningful legacy.



In this Issue

Page 1, 3 & 4
Honoring A Legacy: Invitational Golf Tournament

Page 2
Executive Director Column

Page 5 & 6
Going for a Wild Cause: High-lights of the 2026 Safari Walk

Page 7, 8 & 9
15th Annual Gator Clot a Big Success in Gainesville

Page 10
Register Today for Camp Spirit

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

Published quarterly by
The Bleeding Disorders Foundation
of Florida

Board of Directors

President Mike Berkman
Vice President Hector Cartegena
Secretary/Treasurer Eileen Gregory
Denise Fiorelli
Cynthia Gauger
Michele Lehman
Joe Riggs
Jose Villarreal Charis

Staff

Fran Haynes-Executive Director
Kevin Free - Marketing and Events
Coordinator
Yohance de Sousa – Office
Assistant

Physical and Mailing Address The

Bleeding Disorders Foundation of
Florida:

1350 Orange Ave. Suite 227 Winter
Park, Florida, 32789

TEL: 407-629-0000

TOLL FREE: 800-293-6527

FAX: 407-629-9600

EMAIL:

info@bleedingdisordersfl.org

WEB: www.bleedingdisordersfl.org

Mission

The mission of the Bleeding Dis-
orders 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 cen-ter
before pursuing any course of
treatment.

Spring Has Sprung at BDFF!

Dear Friends,

Spring has arrived, and we've got fun for everyone! From dinners and walks to engag-
ing programs, this season is packed with excitement.

March was a whirlwind as we kicked off Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month. One of
the highlights was our Jacksonville Safari Walk on March 14, 2026, at the Jacksonville
Zoo a wonderful way to celebrate the month and bring our community together. We are
especially grateful to the Safari Committee for their hard work in making this event a
memorable experience for all. (Read more about the Safari Walk on Page 5 & 6).

On April 4, we enjoyed the Gator Clot Trot fun walk and 5K run. The event was made
even more festive with an Easter Egg Hunt for participants of all ages. A huge thank you
to the Gator Clot Trot Committee for helping us organize such a fun and successful day!
(See Page 7, 8 & 9)for more about the Gator Clot Trot.

Our last Flight for Tomorrow Invitational Golf Tournament took place on Monday, April
13, 2026. We are so grateful to our co-chairs and tournament sponsors for 30 years of
dedication and fun. We wish them continued success and extend our heartfelt thanks
for their unwavering support of the BDFF.

There's more happening all season long, so check out our calendar of events and jump
in on the fun!

For more information, reach us at info@bleedingdisordersfl.org or call 800-293-6527.

Wishing you a spring full of sunshine, smiles, and great memories—see you soon!

Warmly,
Fran



- April 23, 2026** World Hemophilia Celebration -
Morton's Steak House Orlando 6:30 pm
- April 30, 2026** Calvin Dawson Scholarships are Due
- May 16, 2026** Woman's Luncheon – American Social Club
Tampa, Florida- 11:30 am
- May 17, 2026** Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)
- May 23, 2026** The Swamp Restaurant – Gainesville Dinner -6:30 pm
- June 6, 2026** Annual Family Program, Orlando Florida – 9:00 am
- June 26-27, 2026** Woman's Retreat – St Augustine Florida 6:30 pm
- July 14-19, 2026** Camp Spirit Summer Camp

BDFF CONNECTION Honoring a Legacy: Flight for Tomorrow Invitational Golf Tournament

cont'd

At the heart of this tournament for more than three decades have been our dedicated co-chairs, Rhonda and Brian. Their generosity, commitment, and belief in the mission helped shape this event into what it became. From providing financial support to engaging corporate sponsors and bringing together friends, colleagues, and golfers, they gave their time, energy, and heart to ensure its success year after year.



Over the course of its 30-year history, the tournament raised more than \$2 million to support individuals and families in the bleeding disorders community. These efforts also contributed to the growth of what is now known as the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida.



BDFF CONNECTION Honoring a Legacy: Flight for Tomorrow Invitational Golf Tournament

cont'd

As Rhonda and Brian step away from their roles, we offer deep gratitude and appreciation for all they have given. Their impact will be felt for years to come, not only in the funds raised, but in the lives touched along the way.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported this event over the years. It is because of this incredible community that the Flight for Tomorrow Invitational Golf Tournament became such a lasting and meaningful success.

With gratitude, we wish Rhonda and Brian all the very best in their next chapter.



Thank You to Our Sponsors

Major Sponsor

Rhonda and Brian McDonald

Silver Sponsor

Bayer Healthcare
CSL Behring
Hemophilia of Georgia

In Kind Sponsor

Atlantis
Bark Box
Beef O Brady's
Brew Bus
Crossland Dental
Countryside Country Club
Dawn Solomon
Dawn Hall

Gold and Diamond Source
Jewelry
Hunter's Green Country Club
Hooters
Innisbrook
Lansbrook Golf Club
Lug Life
Renaissance Disney Springs
Rhonda and Brian McDonald

Tampa Bay Bucs
Tampa Bay Lightning
Tampa Bay Palms Country Club
Tijuana Flats
Top Golf
Universal Studios
3 Daughters Brewing

We had a **WILD** time at the 2026 Safari Walk! Held at the Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens on March 14, 2026, we welcomed a fantastic crowd during Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month.

Participants enjoyed a scenic stroll through the zoo, taking in incredible animals along the way, along with refreshments, a fun raffle featuring great prizes, and a morning full of activities and surprises for all ages.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we are thrilled to share that we **surpassed our fundraising goal**, raising more than **\$30,000** to support individuals and families affected by bleeding disorders.



We would like to recognize our outstanding participants, including **Robert Fletcher**, Top Fundraiser and recipient of the **King of the Jungle Award; Nemours Factor Friends**, winners of the **Team Spirit Award;** and **Team Siah**, recipients of the **Pack Leader Award**.

The funds raised will directly support vital programs such as emergency financial assistance and educational resources—making a meaningful impact in our community.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our in-kind supporters, the **501st Legion Star Wars Characters** and **DJ Airius**, whose time and enthusiasm helped make the event even more memorable.

Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and volunteered. We look forward to seeing you next year on **March 13, 2027!**

Thank You Sponsors

- CSL Behing
- DrugCo
- Genentech
- HEMA Biologics
- Hemophilia of Georgia
- Nemours Children's Health
- Novo Nordisk
- Octapharma
- Sanofi
- Takeda



cont'd on pg 6

Thank You Committee!

Alex Monica
Alexandra Soto
Cindy Meide
Eric Burgeson
Kristin Saunders
Travis Perry

Thank You In-Kind Sponsors!

Dawn Solomon
Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp
Jacksonville Sharks
Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens
Natural Life
Song of Solomon

Thank You Volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you!



15th Annual Gator Clot a Big Success in Gainesville



The 15th Annual Gator Clot, held on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Depot Park, was a beautiful and highly successful event bringing together families, friends, and supporters for a fun-filled and meaningful day.

The morning began with a warm welcome from Executive Director Fran Haynes, followed by a beautiful rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner by Elizabeth Gould. Event Chair Travis Perry expressed appreciation for the dedicated committee members, volunteers, and everyone who attended and supported the event.

A special highlight of the program was the Mission Moment, introduced by Dr. Tung Wynn and shared by the Taylor family. Their story served as a powerful reminder of the importance and impact of events like the Gator Clot Trot.

We are proud to share that, thanks to your generosity, more than **\$30,000** was raised to support the mission of the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida (BDFF). These funds will directly benefit programs such as camp, scholarships, emergency financial assistance, infusion support, Medic Alert identification, youth programs, and more.



cont'd on pg 8

After the opening ceremony, runners took to the course for the 5K, followed by walkers who enjoyed a scenic route through the park. Along the way, children enjoyed a fun Easter egg hunt with eggs hidden throughout the walking route.

Following the race and walk, participants gathered to enjoy food, games, raffles, and time together as a community.



Congratulations to Our 5K Winners

Women's Division

- 1st Place: Laura Hulme
- 2nd Place: Gabriela Wisz
- 3rd Place: Alice Kirk

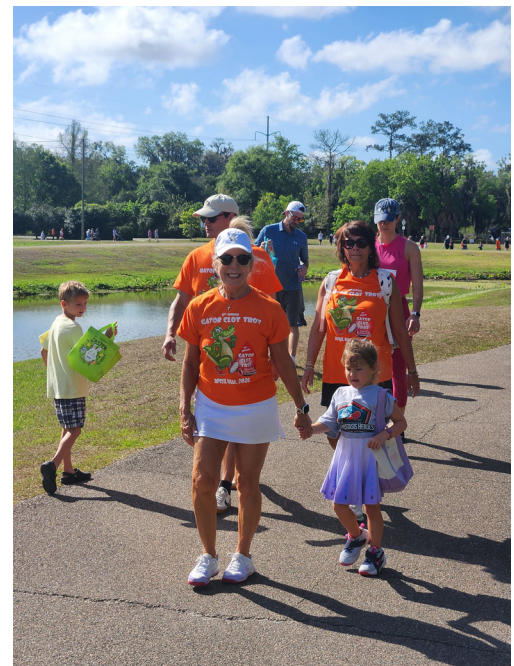
Men's Division

- 1st Place: Andrew Wynn
- 2nd Place: Wyatt Swezey
- 3rd Place: Tim Jang

Congratulations to all of our runners for their outstanding performances!

Gator Clot Award Winners

- **Top Fundraiser:** Molly Peterson
- **Team Spirit Award:** Hemostasis Heros
- **Super Hopping Recruiter:** Taylor Warriors



Thank You Sponsors!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our major sponsor, Winsupply of Gainesville, media sponsor 106.9 I Am Country, and all of our champion sponsors for their generous support.

Champion Sponsors

- Bayer Healthcare
- CSL Behring
- Drugco
- Genentech
- HEMA Biologics
- Hemophilia of Georgia
- MEDEXUS
- Octapharma
- Sanofi
- Takeda
- University of Florida

Thank You Committee Members

- Alex Monica
- Alex Soto
- Ashley Clemons
- Barbara Burgeson
- Dave Burgeson
- Dawn Solomon
- Eric Burgeso
- Molly Peterson
- Red Madden
- Travis Perry
- Tung Wynn
- Will Lopez

Raffle Donors

- Dawn Solomon
- David Burgeson
- The Swamp
- Winsupply
- BDF
- Ripple Theatricals

Thank You to everyone who participated, **volunteered**, donated, and helped make this event such a success. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of those in the bleeding disorders community.

We look forward to seeing you next year on **March 27, 2027!**



Register Today for Camp Spirit!



Attention campers! Don't miss out on this unforgettable summer experience. At BDFF's Camp Spirit, kids enjoy a one-of-a-kind camp where they learn to manage their bleeding disorders alongside some of the state's top medical professionals—all while experiencing classic summer fun like archery, fishing, performing arts, and more.

Camp Spirit will be held Tuesday, July 14 through Saturday, July 18. **Register and apply today [HERE](#)**

