



Bdff CONNECTION

News, support and community for every journey

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



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2025 was an extraordinary year for the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida (Bdff). We began the year with our **3rd Annual Latin Conference** on January 25–26 at The Landry Hotel in Orlando, bringing together families and advocates for a powerful weekend of education, empowerment, and connection. From that moment on, the year continued to build momentum in meaningful ways.

Education remains at the heart of Bdff’s mission. Throughout 2025, we supported the bleeding disorders community and partnered with **Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs)** across the state by hosting educational programs in Jacksonville, Gainesville, Orlando, and Tampa–St. Petersburg. With more than \$150,000 invested in statewide education, we offered innovative and engaging sessions covering topics such as self-care, self-belief, teen and young adult engagement, women and bleeding disorders conferences, youth conferences, and even interactive trivia programs. We also distributed more than 250 Women’s Wellness Kits to support health and well-being.

One of the year’s most inspiring highlights was our **Annual Family Program**, which welcomed more than 500 individuals from across Florida for a day of education, connection, and community—followed by an unforgettable experience at SeaWorld Orlando. The event provided families not only valuable information, but also the joy of spending quality time together in a supportive and understanding environment.

We were honored to host 47 children at **Camp Spirit**, where campers took courageous steps toward independence by learning to self-infuse for the first time.

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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

Winter is almost over, and I am so ready for a warm spring just around the corner. Thank goodness the groundhog has no influence here in Florida!

We have had a wonderful year (see our Year in Review), and 2026 is already shaping up to be full of exciting events. Our 4th Annual Latin Conference, held January 24–25, was a success—special thanks to the committee who worked tirelessly to make it such a memorable event.

We also enjoyed a SOLD-OUT Annual Theater Event. *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* was terrific and so enjoyable. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and helped make the evening spectacular!

Looking ahead, we have many fun and educational activities planned. March is Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month, a time to highlight our community and raise awareness about bleeding disorders. The Safari Walk in Jacksonville will be a wonderful way to celebrate this special month.

In April, our Gator Clot Trot on April 4 promises a day of fun for everyone, including a fundraising walk/run and an Easter egg hunt—a perfect way to welcome spring! Register and [donate here](#).

Then on April 13, is the Flight for Tomorrow Invitational Golf Tournament come out and golf with your friends while supporting BDFF— make every swing count. [Golfers Register Here](#)

There are so many opportunities for participation and learning throughout the year. Be sure to check out our full calendar of events for the latest updates. Wishing you an amazing winter and a joyful start to spring!

Warmly,

Fran
Executive Director



February 26, 2026,

March, 2026

March 4-6th 2026

March 12, 2026,

March 14, 2026,

April 4, 2026

Pfizer Dinner at Tampa Coopers Hawk Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month

Washington Days – Washington DC

Genentech Dinner at North Italia Orlando

Jacksonville Safari Walk

Gator Clot Trot – Walk -Run and Easter Egg Hunt
Gainesville

BDFF A Remarkable Year of Impact: 2025 in review

CONNECTION

In total, BDFF impacted on the lives of more than 6,000 individuals across Florida in 2025. We provided critical assistance to help families manage the high cost of care associated with bleeding disorders, including dental assistance, medical labs, MedicAlert IDs, special protective helmets, educational programs, holiday gatherings, and outreach services. From medical assistance and rent to transportation for medical appointments, we helped ease significant financial burdens for families in need.

Our signature fundraising events also made a tremendous impact. The **29th Annual Flight for Tomorrow Invitational Golf Tournament** raised more than \$50,000 to support programs and services statewide. We are deeply grateful to our dedicated co-chairs, **Rhonda and Brian McDonald**, whose generosity ensures that tournament expenses are covered—allowing every dollar raised to go directly back into the community.

The **23rd Annual Theater Event** was a roaring success as we hosted the Broadway production of **The Lion King**. It was an unforgettable evening of world-class entertainment—and who doesn't love The Lion King? Thanks to the incredible generosity of our attendees and sponsors, more than \$31,000 was raised to further our mission.



BDFF A Remarkable Year of Impact: 2025 in review

CONNECTION

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Community engagement remained strong throughout the year. Our **Gator Clot Trot, Superhero Walk, Safari Walk, and Creepy Crawl Walk** brought together more than 700 participants, raising awareness and fostering meaningful connections.

The **3rd Annual Trailblazer's Holiday Bike Ride and Stroll** at Waterfront Park in Clermont was another special moment, honoring beloved volunteer Patrick Solomon while celebrating the season together.

None of this would be possible without our extraordinary volunteers. Their compassion, time, and unwavering dedication are truly the heartbeat of BDFF. From assisting at events to supporting families directly, they make our mission possible every single day.

Because of supporters like you, lives are being changed across Florida. Your generosity allows us to educate, support, and advocate for the bleeding disorders community—bringing hope, connection, and critical resources to those who need them most.



Thank you for being part of our BDFF family.



BDFFF CONNECTION 4th Annual Latin Conference Brings Learning, Laughter, and Community Together

On January 24–25, 2026, our community gathered for the 4th Annual Latin Conference at the beautiful Renaissance Orlando Resort and Spa in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The weekend proved to be meaningful, educational, and enjoyable for all who participated.

The conference opened with welcoming remarks from Executive Director Fran Haynes, alongside Co-Chairs Barbara Castano Arrebola and Cristie Vidal-Strub. Their introductions emphasized the importance of connection, education, and uplifting Latin voices within the bleeding disorders community.

The morning continued with a Family Bleeding Disorders Activity led by Hector Heer and John Martinez of Biomatrix. Families participated in an interactive game designed to encourage fun and connection before the educational sessions began, setting a positive and engaging tone for the day.



During lunch, attendees heard sponsor presentations from our Presenting Sponsor Genentech and our Premier Sponsor Sanofi, along with corporate sponsor CSL Behring. Each shared valuable updates on resources and patient support programs available to individuals and families living with bleeding disorders. **Other funding for the conference was provided in part by the Evelyn Hanig Osetrwell Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County,**

One of the standout moments of the conference was the session titled “Raising Voices, Breaking Barriers: An Honest (and Humorous) Physician Perspective.” This engaging panel was facilitated by Dr. Fernando F. Corrales-Medina of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and featured Dr. Irmel Ayala of Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital and Dr. Samuel Pabón-Rivera of the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus.

The discussion blended professional expertise with humor and heartfelt honesty, offering attendees valuable medical insight alongside relatable experiences. The panelists were a



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In the afternoon, participants explored “The Next Chapter in Bleeding Disorders: Treatments, Care, and Community.” This forward-looking session focused on advancements in treatment, comprehensive care approaches, and the continued importance of building strong, informed communities. Attendees left with a clearer understanding of evolving therapies and the vital role each person plays in shaping the future of care.

The conference concluded with breakout sessions tailored to men, women, and youth. These smaller group discussions created safe spaces for open conversation and peer support. We extend a special thank you to Anthony Llanes, Puerto Rico Chapter Executive Director of Asociación Puertorriqueña de Hemofilia y Condiciones de Sangrado, for leading the men’s session; Lourdes Arvelo, Social Worker at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital Pediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute, for guiding the women’s session; and Barbara Castano Arrebola and Cristie Vidal-Strub for facilitating the youth group.



On Sunday, Samantha Nazario, 2022 National Bleeding Disorders Advocate of the Year, delivered an important advocacy update, encouraging continued involvement and leadership at both the local and national levels.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
EARN COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

VOLUNTEER FOR THE HFGF

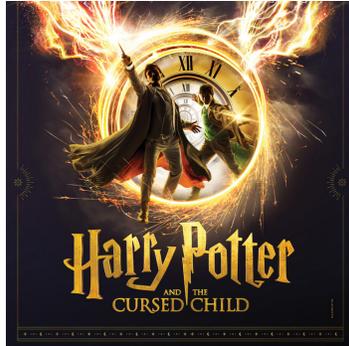
CONTACT US AT 800-293-6527 or
info@bleedingdisorders.org



DONATE

BDFF's 24th Evening on Broadway Featuring *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*

Now in its 24th year, the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida's Evening on Broadway once again brought our community together for an unforgettable night of theater, connection, and purpose. On Saturday, February 7, 2026, supporters gathered at the Performing Arts in seating for the *and the Cursed Child*. with a private and raffle, creating for fellowship and



Thanks to the of our sponsors, event raised more than vital programs. These funds will directly benefit Florida families affected by bleeding disorders through Camp Spirit, educational programs, the Emergency Assistance Fund, and ongoing community outreach initiatives.

the Dr. Phillips Center for Orlando to enjoy orchestra Broadway hit *Harry Potter*. The evening began reception, silent auction, meaningful opportunities philanthropy.

extraordinary generosity donors, and guests, the \$30,000 to support BDFF's



The evening was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when our community comes together in support of a shared mission.



A Very Special Thank You to Our Sponsors

Tony Award-Winning Sponsor
CSL Behring

Best Musical Sponsor
Pharma Fusion

Thank You to Our In-Kind Donors

- 4 Rivers Smokehouse
- The Alford Inn
- ASAP
- Barbie Arrebola
- Cason Photography
- Dawn Hall
- Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
- Costco Wholesale
- Ethical Factor
- Foxtail Coffee Co.
- Kennedy Space Center

- Marlow's Tavern
- Mendy Hood
- Nathan Hood
- Orlando Magic
- PRP Wine International
- The Glass Knife
- Trader Joe's
- Tyler Nazario
- Solomon Family
- Song of Solomon Sourdough

Thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, donated, and supported BDFF's **24th Evening on Broadway**. Your generosity and commitment continue to strengthen our mission and improve the lives of individuals and families living with bleeding disorders across Florida.

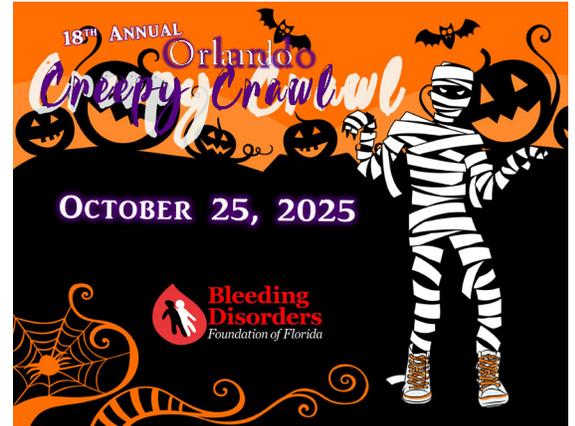


Halloween 2025 was one of our spookiest — and most successful — yet! The 19th Annual Orlando Creepy Crawl 5K Run and Fun Walk brought thrills, chills, and tremendous generosity to Harbor Park in Baldwin Park on October 25, 2025.

Thanks to our incredible participants, donors, and supporters, we raised more than \$40,000 to benefit the bleeding disorders community. The evening was filled with festive costumes, community spirit, and a shared commitment to making a difference.

A very special thank you to our outstanding co-chairs, Mendy Hood and Jill Viglione, whose leadership helped bring this frightfully fun event to life. We are also deeply grateful to our dedicated committee members for their time, energy, and creativity:

- Alex Monica
- Barbara Arrebola
- David Lau
- Dawn Solomon
- Genesis Erickson
- Jack Loew
- Samantha Nazario
- Sheila Fredrick
- Susie Philpot



To everyone who showed up in their spookiest attire, walked, ran, donated, and cheered — thank you. We truly could not have done it without you, and we are already counting down to the next **Creepy Crawl on October 24, 2026!**

Special Shout-Out to Our Amazing Sponsors

CHAMPION SPONSORS

- Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children
- Bayer Healthcare
- CSL Behring
- DrugCo
- Genentech
- Hemophilia of Georgia
- Novo Nordisk
- Sanofi
- Takeda

STRIDE SPONSOR

- Next Step Specialty Pharmacy

STROLL SPONSOR

- Specialty Care Rx

IN-KIND SPONSORS

- BioMatrix
- Decibel
- Ethical Factor
- Guardians of Justice
- Mendy and Nathan Hood
- 501st Legion Storm Troopers
- Solomon Family
- Specialty Care Rx
- Tyler Nazario
- Orange County Ghost Busters



Holiday Cheer in High Gear: Trailblazers 2025 Recap

Our 3rd Annual **Trailblazers Holiday Stroll, Bike Ride, and Festival** on December 13, 2025, was a festive celebration filled with holiday fun and community spirit! From ornament decorating and ugliest sweater show-downs to magical moments with Santa, the day was packed with laughter, joy, and togetherness — all made possible by your generous support.

Because of you, every step walked and every mile ridden helped make a meaningful impact. All proceeds from Trailblazers directly support individuals with bleeding disorders across the state of Florida, strengthening programs and services for families in our community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible Co-Chairs — Jimmy, William Solomon, and Ellie Solomon-Bottey — for their leadership and enthusiasm in making this event such a success. We are also deeply grateful to our dedicated committee members:

David and Heidi Lau
Dawn Hall
Dawn Solomon
Jenna Solomon
Mendy Hood
Paula Foley

Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, donors, and amazing community members for making Trailblazers such a wonderful way to close out the year. We can't wait to celebrate with you again on December 12, 2026!

High Performance Sponsors

Bayer Healthcare
CSL Behring
City of Clermont
Octapharma
Specialty Care RX
Genentech

In-Kind Sponsors

AalRIUS DJ Entertainment
Dan' Bagel Run
Starbucks Coffee
Ethical Factor
Solomon Family



Make sure you save the dates for our upcoming major events!

16th Annual Jacksonville Safari Walk – March 14th, 2026 Join us as we gather to help raise money for the bleeding disorders community at the Jacksonville Zoo!



16TH ANNUAL SAFARI WALK
Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida
Registration is at 7:30 am
Walk Begins at 8:00 am
370 Zoo Pkwy
Jacksonville, FL 32218
MARCH 14, 2026
A Fundraising Walk to Support the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida!
ENJOY A WALK AROUND THE ZOO AND A SPECIAL ZOO CELEBRATION FUN, FOOD, SPECIAL GUESTS, A RAFFLE AND AWARDS
More Info: info@bleedingdisordersfl.org or 800.293.6527
www.bleedingdisordersfl.org/walks-5ks

15th Annual Gator Clot Trot 5K Run and Fun Walk – April 4th, 2026
Raise money and have lots of Easter fun at the 15th Annual Gator Clot Trot!



15TH ANNUAL GATOR CLOT TROT
Fun Walk • 5k Run
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026
DEPOT PARK 874 SE 4th St. Gainesville, FL 32601
Event Info
Registration: 9:00 AM
Event Begins: 10:00 AM
Walk: Free (fundraising encouraged)
5K Run: \$25 adults | \$10 students
Join us for a family-friendly community event benefiting the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida (Bdff)
Fundraise for Impact
Raise \$25 or more to support Bdff and receive a Gator Clot Trot T-Shirt plus additional prizes and awards.
Make Every Step Count
www.bleedingdisordersfl.org/walks-5ks OR - 800-293-6527

30th Annual Flight For Tomorrow Invitational Golf Tournament – April 13th, 2026 The Bdff is pleased to be holding the 30th Annual Flight for Tomorrow Golf Tournament at the Ardea Country Club in Oldsmar, Florida. Join the fun!



30th Annual FLIGHT FOR TOMORROW INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
MONDAY APRIL 13th
Day of Tournament Schedule of Events
OPEN REGISTRATION: 10:30 am
LUNCH: 11:00 am
SHOTGUN START: Noon
MAKE EVERY SWING COUNT!
Register Today
Ardea Country Club
1055 East Lake Woodlands Pkwy
Oldsmar, FL 34677
www.bleedingdisordersfl.org/fundraising/golf-tournament/
OR - 800-293-6527