

# HFGF CONNECTION



The Quarterly Newsletter of the HFGF    Fall 2022    Volume 38    Issue 64

## 2022 Calvin Dawson Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Meet the 2022 recipients of the Calvin Dawson Memorial Scholarships, available to Florida residents with bleeding disorders pursuing post-secondary education.

**Michael Berkman** Michael Berkman is in Graduate School at Rollins College completing his MBA and playing on the Lacrosse Team. In his off time, he enjoys competing in sports and fishing.

**Victoria Emory** is a freshman at USF in Tampa majoring in biomedical sciences. She was a member of the National Honor Society in high school, graduating in the top 10% of her class. Her hobbies include archery, volleyball, hiking and swimming.

**Kevin Free** is a sophomore at UCF in Orlando majoring in environmental studies. He maintains a 3.84 GPA and plays in the UCF Marching Knights band. For recreation, he practices Taekwondo and enjoys going to the gym.

**Tyler Nazario** is a junior at Eastern Florida State in Cocoa majoring in art with a minor in music. He maintains a GPA above 3.5 and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Art is his passion, so he enjoys drawing and playing video games.

**Faith Runyon** is a junior at the College of Central Florida in Ocala majoring in nursing. She has a 3.4 GPA, is on the Dean's List and the President's Honor Roll. She loves swimming and kayaking, as well as singing and playing the guitar.

**Hope Runyon** is a senior at the College of Central Florida in Ocala majoring in nursing. She has a 3.39 GPA, is on the Dean's List and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Her favorite activities are hiking, mountain bike riding, kayaking, and dancing.

**William Solomon** is a sophomore at Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg majoring in health services administration. He has a 3.1 GPA and his eventual career plan is to become a talk therapist. His pastimes include working out, playing video games, and listening to music.

**Yohance De Souza** is a sophomore at the University of Florida in Gainesville majoring in cyber security/computer science. He has a 3.84 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society. He enjoys creative writing, tennis, reading and playing the piano.

**Alexis Wade** is a senior at UCF in Orlando majoring in nursing. She carries a 4.0 GPA, is active in on-campus programs and volunteers including for the HFGF. Her hobbies include reading medical texts and research papers and writing and listening to music.

Applications for next year's Calvin Dawson Memorial Scholarships are due April 30, 2023. To get an application, go to [www.hemophiliaflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/Calvin-Dawson-application-2023.pdf](http://www.hemophiliaflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/Calvin-Dawson-application-2023.pdf)

If you would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund, go to: [www.hemophiliaflorida.org/what-we-do/scholarships/](http://www.hemophiliaflorida.org/what-we-do/scholarships/)



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TOLL FREE 800-293-6527  
[www.HemophiliaFlorida.org](http://www.HemophiliaFlorida.org)

## HFGF Connections

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Greater Florida

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### Mission

The mission of the Hemophilia Foundation of Greater 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 HFGF Connections is for your general information only. HFGF does not give medical advice or engage in the practice of medicine. The HFGF 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. I am ready for Hurricane Season to end; we are too busy to be interrupted by mother nature. The HFGF has had a very busy fall. We have hosted two walks and a golf tournament, and they were all so successful and fun.

Special thanks to our donors and volunteers. We are so grateful for your support. You have been such a blessing. You have helped make our events a great success; it takes a village. Thanks to Alex Monica, Superhero Chair, and Samantha Nazario and Tyron Benoit, Creepy Crawl co-chairs and to our walk committee members for their time and dedication. Special thanks to our Golf Co-Chairs Rhonda and Brian McDonald, who founded the HFGF and have hosted the Golf Tournament for more than 26 years.

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://www.hemophiliaflorida.org/events/list/>. I hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Take Care

Fran



mark your Calendar

Holiday Trivia

December 11, 2022—Jacksonville

Holiday Dinner

December 19, 2022—Gainesville

Latin Conference

January 21, 2023—Orlando

Jacksonville Safari Walk

January 28, 2023—Jacksonville

Theater Event Wicked

February 11, 2023—Orlando

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
EARN COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

VOLUNTEER FOR THE HFGF

CONTACT US AT 800-293-6527 or  
[info@hemophiliaflorida.org](mailto:info@hemophiliaflorida.org)



September 24th, 2022 was the annual SuperHero Fun Walk at Tampa with more than 200 participants. This year's Walk raised more than \$52,000 for the work of the HFGF in the bleeding disorders community.

Participants enjoyed getting photos of themselves in their super hero costumes; a raffle that offered prizes including two tickets to Legoland; a model drone, an Amazon \$25 gift card, and a Wawa gift basket; a chance to meet HFGF founders Brian and Rhonda McDonald; and food, games and more.

### Awards:

Best Corporate Team: Clotting Crusaders

Top Fundraiser: Noah Strong

Biggest Team Spirit Award: Wyatt's Warriors



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

#### CHAMPION SPONSORS

Bayer Healthcare  
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Special shout out to our DJ:  
Aairuis DJ Entertainment, Joe Sena  
Cabot Cheese  
CVS Caremark  
Ice cream sponsor Cottrills  
Raymond, Tampa Bay Rays  
Rene Lebron, Medexus  
Storm Troopers  
Thunderbug, The Tampa Lightening

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

Alex Monica, Chairman  
Mary Ann Cardenas  
Francesca Ferretti  
Vernika Jackson  
Myriam Lagomisino  
David Lau  
Rene Lebron  
Christina Martinez  
Lisette Sanchez  
Tiffany Singh  
Sue Swanson



When you shop with  
**amazon.com**  
Smile

they'll donate to

The Hemophilia Foundation of  
Greater Florida



**DONATE**



### New Document to Help Residential Substance Use Disorder Placement for Individuals with Bleeding Disorders

Historically, many residential substance-use disorder (SUD) facilities have denied admittance to individuals with bleeding disorders—the basis of these denials are most often the use of self-administered, intravenous medications such as factor replacement therapies. The lack of access to residential addiction treatment facilities can have very serious, even fatal outcomes, for bleeding disorder (BD) patients in acute need of help with their addiction.

Results of a national survey of hemophilia treatment center (HTC) providers suggest that the majority of attempts to place patients at a residential addiction treatment facility or at mental health facilities have met with failure. However, interviews with HTC providers who have bucked this trend and secured residential placements have helped generate a document that provides best practices and resources for HTCs endeavoring to successfully refer a BD patient. It is a comprehensive resource that is meant to encompass the various referral stages, including things to consider prior to making a referral, during the referral process, and in the event of a denial.

Best Practices for Accessing Residential Substance Use-Disorder Treatment for Individuals with Bleeding Disorders is a product of the Bleeding Disorders Substance Use and

Mental Health Access Coalition (BD SUMHAC), whose mission is to advocate for access to appropriate SUD and mental health (MH) treatment facilities for all individuals with BDs. The Coalition plans to develop a similar document centered on access to MH facilities.



Please note that the Coalition is very eager to collect as much information as possible relevant to denials for residential SUD treatment, so that they can continue to refine best practices and enhance support for individuals with BDs. Contact information for reporting these denials can be found in the document.

BD SUMHAC was formed via a partnership between the New England Hemophilia Association (NEHA), Hemophilia Federation of America (HFA), the National Hemophilia Foundation (NHF), HTC providers, and BD community members. Sponsoring organizations include NHF, NEHA, and the HTC at Rush University Medical Center.

NHF November 14, 2022



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[Twitter.com/hemophiliafl](https://Twitter.com/hemophiliafl)

[Instagram.com/hemophiliaflorida](https://Instagram.com/hemophiliaflorida)

Follow/Like HFGF on Social Media!

## The Many Faces of Rene LeBron



HFGF volunteer Rene Lebron has been working with the organization for 15 years. He is a regular participant at HFGF's fundraising walks, although he may be hard to identify since he appears in a variety of costumes!

Rene says that what he likes best about volunteering for the HFGF is "that we can give back our time and support to the bleeding disorders community that supported us when our son Jonathan was born in 1995 with severe Hemophilia A."



Rene, a chemical engineer, has been married to his wife Yolanda, a CPA, for more than 40 years. They have two grown children: Kristina and Jonathan. Rene and Yolanda like playing tennis, pickleball and, occasionally, golf. Right now, they are enjoying helping plan the wedding next spring of daughter Kristina.



  
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*Here is the link to support the HFGF*  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3418827>

AmazonSmile is also available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support the Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida every time you shop, at no cost to you.

**CHANGE THEIR WORLD. CHANGE YOURS.  
THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.**

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

OR

**DONATE**





A circular poster for the Safari Walk Fundraising event. The central circle is brown with a scalloped edge, containing the text "SAFARI Walk" in large yellow letters, "Fundraising" in smaller yellow letters, and "January 28, 2023" in yellow. Below this, it says "Benefiting the Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida" and "JACKSONVILLE ZOO AND GARDENS" with the zoo's logo. The circle is surrounded by silhouettes of various African animals (elephant, lion, giraffe, zebra, etc.) and trees. The background is a light yellow with a white giraffe print pattern. Below the circle, the address "370 Zoo Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32218" is listed, followed by "Registration is at 7: 00 am Walk Begins at 8:00 am". The event description reads: "ENJOY A WALK AROUND THE ZOO AND A SPECIAL ZOO CELEBRATION FUN, FOOD, SPECIAL GUESTS, A RAFFLE AND AWARDS". It also states: "Individuals and teams Fundraising will receive admission to the zoo The more your team fundraises . . . . . the more your teammates will be able to have fun at the zoo!". At the bottom, contact information is provided: "More Info: info@hemophiliaflorida.org or 800.293.6527" and "Register at hemophiliaflorida.org/walks-5ks/".

370 Zoo Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32218  
Registration is at 7: 00 am Walk Begins at 8:00 am  
**ENJOY A WALK AROUND THE ZOO AND A SPECIAL ZOO CELEBRATION  
FUN, FOOD, SPECIAL GUESTS, A RAFFLE AND AWARDS**  
Individuals and teams Fundraising will receive admission to the zoo  
The more your team fundraises . . .  
... the more your teammates will be able to have fun at the zoo!  
More Info: info@hemophiliaflorida.org or 800.293.6527 ● Register at hemophiliaflorida.org/walks-5ks/



A poster for the 20th Annual Evening on Broadway. The top left corner features the text "20<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening on Broadway" in white, "February 11, 2023" in white, and "6pm" in white. Below this, it says "Tickets are on Sale NOW!". The top right corner features the Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida logo. The main image is a stylized illustration of a woman with green skin, wearing a black hat and a black dress, with her hand near her face. The text "Join us at the Dr. Phillips Center of Performing Arts For a night of Theatre Magic!" is written in white. Below this, it says "FEATURING THE HIT BROADWAY PRODUCTION OF Great Gift!". At the bottom, the word "WICKED" is written in large, bold, white letters, with "THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ" in smaller white letters below it.

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FEATURING THE HIT BROADWAY PRODUCTION OF  
Great Gift!  
**WICKED**  
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

# Reserve la ficha

Por favor únase a la  
Primera Conferencia Anual Latina  
Hemophilia Foundation Of Greater Florida

Año Nuevo, un Nuevo tú  
sábado, 21 de enero de 2023

Esta es una conferencia de un día completo comienzo a las 11:00 am.  
Disfruta de un día de educación, información y celebración.  
alojamiento estará disponible para los participantes  
que vivan a más de 25 millas del lugar de la conferencia.

# SAVE THE DATE

Please join the Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida  
for the 1st Annual Latin Conference

New Year- New You  
Saturday, January 21, 2023

This is a full day conference beginning at 11:00 am  
Enjoy a day of education, information and celebration  
Lodging will be available for participants living more than  
25 miles from the conference location