



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

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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 Taekwando 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 quitar

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

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

HFGF Connections

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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



Holiday Trivia

Holiday Dinner

Latin Conference

Jacksonville Safari Walk

Theater Event Wicked

December 11, 2022-Jacksonville

December 19, 2022-Gainesville

January 21, 2023-Orlando

January 28, 2023-Jacksonville

February 11, 2023-Orlando

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SuperHeroes Come Through at September Walk

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



SuperHeroes Come Through at September Walk cont'd

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

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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



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HFGF CONNECTION

Research Update

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 a as factor replacement therapies. The lack of access to residential addic-

tion 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 American (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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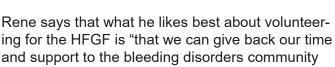
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HFGF CONNECTION Volunteer Spotlight

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!





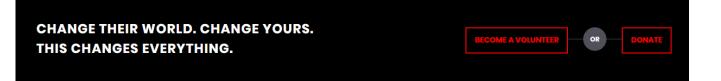
that supported us when our son Jonathan was born in 1995 with severe Hemophilia A."

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.









CTION Save the Date

