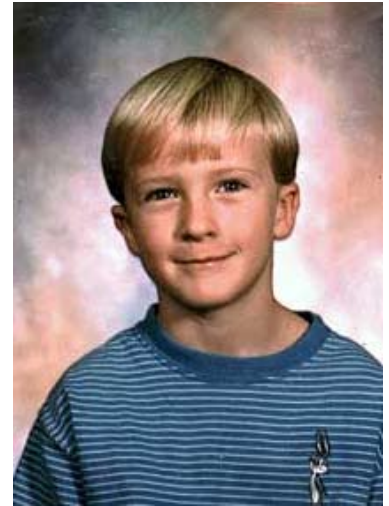




## Corey's Story

Corey was full of everything that you could pack into a little boy. Blonde hair, blue eyes and a smile that could light up the world. He'd make up his own jokes to make people laugh, especially his sister Trish. He loved his family and had many friends. He loved sports and played them all, but his favorites were basketball and racing. When Corey was 5 he got a go-cart and he and Trish were in that car constantly. This is when his love for racing started. He'd have his racing helmet and gloves on, no matter how hot it was, doing lap after lap for hours.



On Good Friday, 1997, Corey was diagnosed with cancer — Stage 4 Ewing's Sarcoma. He was 8 ½ years old. Our world was rocked, but with faith and determination we knew we were going to survive this and so would Corey.

During his first round of chemotherapy treatments at Riley Children's Hospital, a very special social worker came into Corey's room and told him that the Indiana Children's Wish Fund (ICWF) wanted to grant him a wish — and he could wish for anything he wanted in the world. I must have looked at her like she was crazy. I remember thinking she must have the wrong room! But my thoughts changed very quickly. I saw the sparkle begin in his eyes, and his face lit up with his precious smile — something I hadn't seen in quite a while. This was the moment I realized what a wonderful gift this truly was, at a time when my baby needed something wonderful to happen. Corey spent the rest of his treatments, virtually six months, in the hospital being the bravest boy I will ever know. He took a lot of that time thinking about what he would wish for. He kept saying that he wanted to have something he could keep forever. When his treatments were done, the decision was made. Corey wanted a quarter midget racecar so he could be a racecar driver.

Members of ICWF started working their magic with the help and generosity of Mike Klinge from KECO and IndyCar driver Tyce Carlson and many other wonderful, giving souls. Corey's wish was granted at Christmas, and during a local radio show, Corey was presented with his car. There wasn't a happier boy in the whole world.

In January, as part of Corey's wish, our whole family spent two weeks in Orlando, Florida and attended the first IndyCar race of the 1998 season. Corey was even invited to come to a race party at "Give Kids the World," with his new cherry red car. His beautiful smile never left his face that day. One of Corey's biggest thrills before we left Orlando was sitting in the cockpit of Tyce's racecar.

The week our family spent in Florida was one of the most memorable weeks of our lives. We were warmly welcomed by all of Corey's newly found friends and he had the time of his life. They made him feel very special and a part of their race team. As it turned out, that week was the last week of Corey's young life. On January 28, 1998, three days after we returned home, Corey suddenly, and very unexpectedly, left us.

Through the Racing for Corey program his spirit is alive. Corey wanted the back of his helmet to say "C-YA" for all the racers to read as he left them behind. There is no a doubt in my mind you are "Racin' in the Wind," Corey, and leaving all the angels spinning. We love and miss you buddy.

- Debbie and Greg