

# News Release

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## **INAUGURAL “EVENING OF GIVING” RAISES \$14,000 FOR CHARITY**

SUCCESSFUL FIRST-YEAR EVENT SPONSORED

BY FIRESTONE RACING LOOKS TO BIGGER, BETTER FUTURE

**INDIANAPOLIS**—The inaugural Firestone Racing “Evening of Giving” Benefit Concert and Auction netted an impressive \$14,000 Monday night to benefit three incredibly worthy area charities. Proceeds from the event will be split among Racing for Corey, Indiana Children’s Wish Fund and IRL Kids.

“We are very pleased with our first ‘Evening of Giving’ event and grateful for the support that we received from the public, media and sponsors,” said Mike Klinge, founder of Racing for Corey. “We are honored to have Firestone Racing as a partner and we look forward to next year’s event.”

The “Evening of Giving,” presented by 92.3 WTTS and held at the Music Mill on Indianapolis’ north side, featured two memorable music sets from the renowned Carl Storie Band, with live and silent auctions of sports- and entertainment-related items, and an autograph session with a dozen Indy Racing League and United States Auto Club drivers. Highlight items available in the auctions included a Firestone Racing jacket signed by all 20 starters in last month’s IRL Indy Japan 300 and a number of racing legends, an Indy Racing two-seater ride around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, airfare to Cancun, a basketball signed by the Indiana Pacers and much more.

“The organizers did a tremendous job putting on this event and Firestone Racing is proud to be associated with it,” said Al Speyer, executive director of Firestone Racing.

“Attendance was great, the music sensational and everyone certainly took on the spirit of the ‘Evening of Giving’ to raise so much for the three fine charities the first time out. We believe the Firestone Racing ‘Evening of Giving’ is well on its way to becoming a must-attend social event on the busy May calendar in Indianapolis.”

Racing for Corey was founded in 1999 in memory of a 9-year-old Indiana Children's Wish child, Corey Hanchar. Corey was granted a wish from Indiana Children's Wish Fund and received a red quarter-midget car. With the help of KECO Coatings and Indy-car driver Tyce Carlson, Corey's wish came true. Now his inspiration continues through various Racing for Corey events. [www.racingforcorey.com](http://www.racingforcorey.com)



Indiana Children's Wish Fund, established in 1984, grants wishes to Indiana children, ages 2-19, who suffer from a life-threatening illness. Wishes include; trips to Disney, shopping sprees, home computers, meeting celebrities and much more! To date, the Wish Fund has granted nearly 1,600 wishes for Indiana children. [www.indywish.org](http://www.indywish.org)

Founded in 1988, IRL Kids' on-site childcare program has become a significant part of the racing community. Provided to all participants of the Indy Racing League, IRL Kids is an activity-based program that provides a safe environment set up just for kids, with activities, lunch, snacks, toys and fun! IRL Kids will care for more than 250 children this year alone.

Firestone, part of Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC (BFNT), is the Official Tire and exclusive supplier to both the Indianapolis 500-Mile Race and the Indy Racing League. Based in Nashville, Tenn., BFNT is a subsidiary of Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc., whose parent company, Bridgestone Corporation, is the world's largest tire and rubber company. BFNT develops, manufactures and markets Bridgestone, Firestone, Dayton and associate and private brand tires. [www.firestonetire.com](http://www.firestonetire.com)

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