



## BRIAN'S TRIKE RACE

October 12, 2008



In 1997 the young president of the Indianapolis Northside Lions Club wanted his Lions Club to serve the Indiana School for the Blind by making a donation made from profits from a unique athletic event; thus the Trike Race was originated. By using adult-sized tricycles and having at least 20 teams of four participants race around the figure-8 track at the Indiana School for the Blind in the Fall of 1997, money was raised to help purchase playground equipment for the children at the Indiana School for the Blind.

Since that time there have been Trike Races held annually by the Lions to raise money for items at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI). Some things have changed over the years, such as the name of the Trike Race. That young president (28 years old) died of an unknown congenital heart condition before the second Trike Race, thus the race was renamed in honor of Lion Brian Hiltunen and is now called Brian's Trike Race. The Indianapolis Northside Lions Club merged with the Nora Lions Club, both of which worked with the Indiana School for the Blind, and this merged group is now called the Indianapolis Washington Township Lions Club. The Lions of Indiana have recognized the merit of this event, and now support Brian's Trike Race by publicizing the race and clubs from all over Indiana provide racing teams and make Silver or Gold donations.

Our main goals are to have a good time while raising funds for the ISBVI and to bring groups to the Blind School so they can understand the demands and accomplishments these children overcome everyday of their lives. We are proud of what these donations have helped to accomplish. By matching funds with other Indiana Lions Clubs, the Lions Clubs International Foundation and the Indiana Blind Children's Foundation, Brian's Trike Race funds have helped in 2001 to purchase a \$90,000 playground and in 2004 the Indiana Lions donated \$11,600 toward the purchase of \$150,000 computers and assistive technology for the students at the ISBVI. Granted, our donations are a small portion (we've raised approximately \$12,000 during all our events) of the amount needed but it was the impetus that got the Indiana Lions really involved in the ISBVI.

Each team pays a \$50 fee for four participants. We have had teams from Anderson, Greenfield, Lake County, Southport, Leos, young college adults, blind alumni, etc. Annually, we have had an average of 20 teams; however, last year we had 45 teams and we anticipate at least that amount again this year.

We are soliciting businesses and other organizations to be sponsors in the amount of \$100 and \$200 donations to this fine event. Since this is a project of our Indiana Lions for the ISBVI, we have submitted for 501(c)3 tax exemption.

Awards are presented to winning teams and all participants are given free T-shirts to commemorate the Trike Race. When a \$100 Silver sponsorship is provided, that business/organization's name and logo are displayed at the Trike Race and acknowledged during the event. With a \$200 Gold sponsorship you and/or your organization's name and logo are displayed on approximately 250 T-shirts statewide, your name and/or logo are displayed at and acknowledged during the event, and your name/logo will be displayed, after the Trike Race, on the Indiana Lions for the ISBVI webpage: [www.inlionsforisbvi.org](http://www.inlionsforisbvi.org).

Please make a donation and make a difference to the children at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. For more information about sponsorship or fielding a team, call 317-203-5120 or email [pdgdas@comcast.net](mailto:pdgdas@comcast.net).

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