



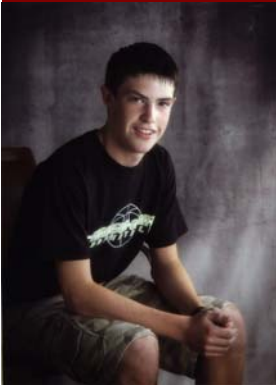
REVIVING  
HEARTS

*Saving Lives with AEDs*

## THE REVIVING HEARTS PROGRAM

The goal of the Reviving Hearts Program is to place Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Indiana high schools throughout the next five years. This program was created in 2008 as part of a five-year initiative with our foundation, Cardiovascular Research and Education Foundation of Indiana (CREFI) and Dining A La Heart. Four founding sponsors joined our initiative in 2008, Fifth Third Bank, Wellpoint, St.Vincent Heart Center of Indiana and St.Vincent Health. In conjunction with our media sponsors, Emmis Communications, video and audio spots have been produced and are currently airing on WIBC9 3.1 FM and incorporated into the Indiana High School Athlete Association website, IHSSASPORTS.ORG.

## STORIES FROM THE HEART



Our son, Josh McCormick a freshman at Madison Grant High School, was a straight "A" student who was very athletic. He ran track, played tennis, basketball, and his favorite sport, baseball. He also played the trombone in band. Josh went to school early on December 6<sup>th</sup> for an early morning basketball practice. During warm ups he collapsed and fell to the floor. His heart went into sudden cardiac arrest and he stopped breathing but thanks to some heroic efforts by his coach, a custodian and all of his teammates they were able to start his heart again with CPR and a defibrillator that the school had in place. Due to the rural area of the school it took some time

for an ambulance to arrive at the school and take him to our local hospital. Josh was transferred by helicopter from our local hospital to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne where they determined that his heart was in bad shape and the best place to treat him would be at Peyton Manning Children's hospital in Indianapolis. We spent the next week at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital by his side watching him fight for his life and praying for a miracle that he would pull through.

We did not get the miracle of Josh coming back to us, but we did witness nothing short of a miracle when the community came together in support for us. We understood that the reason Josh made it as far as he did was because of the AED that the school had purchased, so we started a fund to buy more AED for other schools in our county. The community rallied behind us and kids took up collections at basketball games and did various things to raise money. Marion General Hospital heard what we were doing and stepped up to the plate and hit a home run by donating defibrillators for every school in Grant county. We also learned that Community Hospital along with the Madison County Community Foundation, joined forces to purchase AED for the Anderson Community School system. We are proud to say that every kid in our county will have that fighting chance like Josh had should they suffer a cardiac arrest. Josh lost his fight to an unknown virus that attacked his heart but his legacy lives on every time you see a defibrillator in a Grant county school.

John and Jennifer McCormick