

Success On and Off the Field

When Greens Trey Corish approached the Westchase Charitable Foundation (WCF) seeking help for a friend, he had no idea it would change his life. **BY LISA STEPHENS**

THE PATH HE TOOK THAT

day would lead ultimately him to a leadership role with the charitable organization.

Familiar to many Westchasers as the group that organizes the Westchase Cup Golf Tournament and Santa's Pre-Flight Parade each year, the WCF has helped raise and distribute more than \$160,000 to children and families facing financial hardships due to medical bills or other crises. "I went to the foundation on behalf of a family I knew at the time that needed help," Corish recalls. "I saw firsthand what it did for that family and I knew I had to become involved."

That was five years ago. Today Corish serves as acting secretary and is gearing up now for the WCF's third annual Woman of the Year event, which he has led since its inauguration in 2010.

Originally from Savannah, Georgia, Corish landed in Westchase by way of college graduation and Tampa employment opportunities. A graduate of University of Georgia with a business major, he accepted a position with an insurance company just after graduation. Risk management insurance ran in his blood. The Corish family has operated an insurance business in Georgia since 1917. After working for various insurance companies for more than 20 years, he convinced his Georgia family to open a Tampa branch, which he now operates. Wife Mandy and sons Maddux, Cullen and Tyler enjoy the lifestyle Westchase has to offer. "It has the small town feel I'm used to," he explains, referring to his Savannah roots.

Corish says all his boys are involved in sports – just as he was as a child. "If it had the word sport in it, then I was involved."

He laughs, recalling his own childhood experiences with football, baseball, basketball and track. "It kept me busy after school."

Corish stays "in the game" these days by being active with his boys while they play. He has coached travel baseball and tackle football teams for his sons. "We're always at a field somewhere," he says.

When asked what he likes best about being a dad, Corish has a quick answer. "Having the ability to coach all my kids and teaching them how to do what they want to learn to do the right way when it comes to playing sports."



Greens resident Trey Corish

The time he spent on the playing field as a kid is certainly paying dividends for Corish now as dad.

When he isn't on the playing field with his boys, Corish is busy going to bat for needy families through his involvement with WCF. "Everyone on our board is 100 percent volunteer and 100 percent of our net proceeds go towards families in need," he proudly states.

He explains the funds raised by the organization go to families with children suffering a severe illness or families in a financially catastrophic situation. Of his involvement he says, "There is no better way to give back to your community than by giving to someone who really needs it."

Corish will soon be gearing up for the Woman of the Year event, which will be held in the fall. Last year's winner, Kristie Johnston of Catch 23, raised \$32,000 by going to local businesses to request sponsorships, giving up several nights' tips and running a corn hole tournament to raise funds.

Women from around Tampa Bay are either nominated or volunteer to be part of the event. The woman raising the most funds in a nine-week period is crowned the

winner. The prize package alone is worth a small fortune. Part of the winner's package last year included a Neiman Marcus deluxe gift basket, an entire year of hair care, dinner for eight at a local restaurant, estate planning and more. Corish says the prize package for this year will be even better.

The Woman of the Year event concludes with an evening fashion show, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and wine. The winner is then announced, crowned and sashed. Corish encourages any woman interested in participating in the event this year to contact him through the foundation Web site, www.westchasefoundation.org.

Corish credits the event's past success to the support of Catch 23, Zen Bistro, Bill Wickett of Tampa Bay Lightening and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Thanks to community volunteers like Trey Corish, success can certainly be enjoyed both on and off the field.

Stephens, a resident of West Park Village, is always looking for interesting Westchase residents to profile. She can be contacted at lm5fla@verizon.net.