



# THE CARDINAL MESSENGER

## THE CORY J GARWACKI FOUNDATION



### FIRST ANNUAL CORY J GARWACKI GOLF TOURNAMENT AT CHICOPEE COUNTRY CLUB

The rain stayed away so we could play! Thank you to all of the generous sponsors, golfers, and volunteers who helped make this event a success! See you next year!



### "LIVE TO GIVE" LOCAL EDITION

The summer was full of many opportunities to get involved and make a difference, all while having fun! We are thankful for our friends at East Longmeadow Friendly's who generously welcome our Foundation every month, be sure to stop in on the 15<sup>th</sup> with a voucher from our website to support! We had a fabulous time at The Apple Place in East Longmeadow, thank you for hosting such a fun, family friendly fundraiser!



Our wonderful and dedicated volunteers have been out in the community adding to the local beauty by cleaning up Heritage Park and taking the initiative to refurbish the Red School House Park Bench, two of Cory's favorite places.

We were proud to take part in National Night Out in East Longmeadow again this year and had a great time meeting so many people and having the opportunity to promote our mission and goals. We also got to give away some great prizes with our fantastic spin to win wheel!



We said goodbye to summer with a beautiful tribute and ceremony in memory of love ones lost. We joined many families at a beautiful butterfly release ceremony at Forastiere in East Longmeadow. We are grateful for the opportunity to release a butterfly in Corys memory for the second year and we look forward to attending again next year.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 6, 2016**  
"Gift Back Night"  
at Talbots in  
Northampton, MA  
5:00-8:00p.m.

**November 12, 2016**  
Bloodmobile at  
Wilbraham Shops  
10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

**April 21, 2017**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Live To  
Give" Gala at  
The Log Cabin  
Holyoke, MA

**FUNraising at  
Friendly's East  
Longmeadow** 15<sup>th</sup>  
of every month  
Printable voucher  
available online!

**Visit our website  
for more  
information,  
registration, and  
regular updates!**

[www.cjgfoundation.com](http://www.cjgfoundation.com)



## **"LIVE TO GIVE" INSPIRING STORY- THE VALUE OF A SMILE**

**By: Michelle Graci**

I met Cory at the 1999 Children's Miracle Network Telethon for Baystate Children's Hospital, a few months after I had started working there. I remember how comfortable this seemingly shy little kid in glasses seemed to be in front of a camera on live television and I instantly fell in love. Cory had the best smile and his laugh was deep and genuine.

My name is Michelle Graci and that same year I met Cory, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I went through surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, continuing to work every day that I could. I was inspired by the courage of the children I met in my previous work at the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the kids I was meeting at Baystate Children's Hospital; especially Cory. I couldn't imagine going through all he had to endure and yet he was always happy, hopeful and smiling.

Through the years Cory and I became good friends. We would sometimes have lunch together or chat on the phone. I loved his inquisitive mind and he was always ready to help raise funds for the other kids at the hospital. Having that experience – with the Telethon and then with the Radiothon – gave him a deep love for public speaking and helping others. I was so proud and amazed when he graduated college with a degree in communications. I remember the day Cory called and asked me if I would come to his first official speaking engagement as a motivational speaker. I was so honored he wanted me there and so very proud of his courage to go out and do something that meant so much to him.

Cory's heart was huge and his love for friends and family even larger. You could see it shining from within every time he smiled. What an inspiration he was and what a smile he had. I will always remember his smile and that, in turn, will always make me smile.

I find inspiration all around me at work and in my personal life. I see the people we help in fundraising especially through the work I do managing the Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer. People who face that fear and keep on going with such grace and positive energy. My parents, family and friends are great inspirations, too. Knowing there are people who have your back no matter what and who know the value that a smile has on your soul.



**"YOUR LIFE WAS A BLESSING, YOUR MEMORY A TREASURE...  
YOU ARE LOVED BEYOND WORDS AND MISSED BEYOND MEASURE."  
-RENEE WOOD**



**CORY J GARWACKI FOUNDATION  
LIVE TO GIVE**

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Team Cory is a group of volunteers dedicated to representing the Cory J Garwacki Foundation during all phases of our fundraising events. They truly exhibit the "Live to Give" mantra that this foundation is built on. For information on how to become involved with Team Cory please contact us!

**Join our online Mailing list for updates**