

BOISE weekly

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Team Dreams for Kids in Race Across America

by [Jackson Smith](#)

Earlier this summer Cory Hofman and his son Cees joined Craig Clarke and Terry Patterson to bicycle their way across the nation in the Race Across America (RAAM), a race that prides itself on being the toughest in the world. Unlike other long-distance road races, there are no stages in the RAAM. Instead the clock runs continuously from the starting line in Oceanside, California, to the finish line in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Hofmans, who reside in Star, are no strangers to long-distance cycling. Cory Hofman brought his entire family (including three of his children under 15 years old) on a bicycle trip from Boise to Chicago last summer. That journey raised money for the medical treatment of the youngest Hofman, Halle, who was born with a bone condition called Pfeiffer's syndrome.

The Hofmans, Clarke and Patterson, took part in the team category of the RAAM—riding relay style—to raise money for Dreams for Kids, an organization providing charity to disadvantaged children. Team Dreams for Kids left Oceanside on June 13, arriving in Atlantic City seven days, 17 hours, and over 3,000 miles later, on June 21. "Only one of us was a bona fide racer," said Clarke, referring to Patterson. "Cees was the youngest person in the race at 15 years and may be the youngest to finish ever." Clarke explained that the team overcame 80 mph wind in Kansas and nonstop rain and lightning during one night. Even though they stopped on Sunday to observe the Sabbath, Team Dreams for Kids still finished in sixth place in their class. Clarke called the race a "great experience, much more fun than I had expected, especially since we had a rookie team and crew."

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