HEART & MISSION

Brien lived a life loving and encouraging others. He dedicated much of his life to coaching team sports and leading young people. In 2013, Brien began focusing on his own physical and mental health, becoming an avid triathlete. One of the things Brien was known for is when he would finish the race he would turn around to go back and help others finish their race.

On November 21, 2016, the night of the accident, Brien and his son-in-law, Frankie, were training for the Pensacola Sports Double Bridge Run. A vehicle on US 98 cut the turn lane early and struck Brien in the bike lane. Days later a family friend organized a gathering of over 50 people to help Frankie complete the "Last Mile" of the route that him and Brien were running days earlier. In the years that followed, support grew with friends and family gathering annually to honor the family by running one of Brien's favorite routes.

In 2019, a non-profit was created to host a sunset 5K. In an effort to promote healthy living we raised funds to support Pensacola's first remote CPR training program through the YMCA of Northwest Florida. In total, The Last Mile has seen over 1,000 participants and raised $82,000 to bring awareness to safer streets and youth programs in honor of Brien's life.

THE LAST MILE

PENSACOLA'S PREMIER

SUNSET

5K RUN/WALK

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 22, 2026
SEVILLE QUARTER
4:30PM

5K RUN/WALK

GET INVOLVED

Register | Volunteer
Sponsor | Donate

/thelastmile5k

PAST SUPPORT

- Funding for safety signs and traffic circle materials to promote traffic calming for reduce vehicle speeds. Education through enhanced educational displays at Slow Rides and other events.
- Produced materials to help promote Safer Streets Pensacola project, including promoting a Vision Zero policy for the City Council and Mayor to endorse.
- Provided materials, supplies and curriculum to support STEAM in the afterschool program.
- Purchased and installed a permanent shade structure over the outdoor family pool at the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, expanding ability to offer swim lessons and camp and recreational swimming.
- Expanded youth recreational sports opportunities and increased safety at our Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA by purchasing six 40,000 lumen solar-powered lights and poles to light the youth sports fields. This has had a meaningful impact in the program by ensuring a safe space for youth to enjoy sports.
- Partnered with 2 local churches to provide 20 students with scholarships to attend a winter camp trip or a student discipleship camp. These contributions help to shape the trajectory of the next generation.
- Purchased picnic tables & equipment to outfit YMCA's Northeast's teen leadership program to be used for after school, summer and community use allowing for our local youth to have a positive safe space.
- Funding the creation of a series of short videos to tell stories of local pedestrians and cyclists for raising awareness of the need for local infrastructure improvements.
- Funded event cost and safety displays for first ever kids' Slow Ride and Bike Safety Rodeo, emphasizing the use of helmets while teaching kids how to stay safe on their bikes.
- Helped in the fund raising for future Aerial Adventure ropes course at NE YMCA which will allow our community's youth the opportunity for physical activity, teamwork, leadership development, self-esteem building and fun.
- Supporting advocacy efforts by partnering with city officials, local law enforcement and business owners to add safety improvements to various roadways.
- Funded a community forum on creating a more walkable-bikeable Pensacola.
- Supported safety & security needs at the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA's new youth programs building.

OUR BENEFACTORS

The YMCA of Northwest Florida

The Y has been a leader in youth development, adult wellness and community support in the Florida Panhandle for 140 years. With a mission to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all, the programs supported are designed to nurture the full potential of children and teens. Kids learn skills such as caring, confidence, honesty, respect and responsibility.

Bike Pensacola

Known for their popular bike ride in town—the Slow Ride, Bike Pensacola is a coalition of bicyclists, bike clubs, bike shops, and other organizations working to improve conditions for bicycling in Pensacola. More than 400 riders bike the city streets for its monthly Slow Ride, building support for a more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community.

Honoring the life of BRIEN PURSELL