



Cancer survivor Bradley Mancer got to experience being driven in a turbo-charged Golf GTI thanks to the Reach For A Dream Foundation.

# BEST DAY OF MY LIFE

## Brave Bradley couldn't believe his eyes when 10 race cars arrived at his doorstep!

By FAIZA MALLICK Pictures: SARA MATHER

**H**E'S handling his cancer treatment like a trooper so it was great to see the huge smile and excitement on 10-year-old Bradley Mancer's face the day his dream of being in a race car came true.

"The best day of my life ever!" was how Bradley described the thrill of being driven in a turbo-charged Golf GTI.

It's been a difficult time for Bradley and his family of Primrose East in Germiston, Gauteng. Since he was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), a cancer of the connective tissue, in November last year, Bradley has had surgery to remove the lump on his back followed by weekly chemotherapy sessions.

After starting chemotherapy in December he's had to deal with nausea, mouth ulcers, nose bleeds and fatigue. He also lost weight and began losing his hair.

But he never stops smiling, mom Tanya (36) says. "Bradley has always been an inspiration," she adds. "Some days he has uncontrollable nose bleeds but still cracks jokes."

The race car experience was made possible by the Reach For A Dream Foundation. "Representatives came to Charlotte Maxeke Hospital and told Bradley he'd been chosen to have his dream come true," dad Richard (36) says.

When 10 turbo-charged cars pulled up outside the Mancer home Bradley was in awe. "My street was full of the most beautiful race cars. I chose to go in the red Golf GTI R because it had nitrous injection," he says.

They headed for Nitro Raceway at Brakpan Airfield where Bradley got to experience race-track driving at 250 km an hour. His parents and brothers, Sean (17), Dean (9)

and Tyri (4), were also taken to the race track in turbo-charged Golf GTIs.

"His face when he got out of the car was just the best moment a mom could ask for!" Tanya says. Bradley was driven in three cars – he was taken to the raceway in a Golf GTI, spent time on the track in a Nissan GT-R and was taken home in an Audi.

The fun continued at Homestead Dam, Benoni, where the family enjoyed a picnic lunch. Bradley beamed for the rest of the day, Tanya says, and loves the gifts he received – a GTI cap, a mini replica of a Golf GTI, a Scalextric racing car set and bats with a ball.

Now life is more or less back to normal. Bradley's cancer is in remission and he returned to school at the start of the third term.

He'll still have chemotherapy once a month for the next two years to prevent a secondary cancer from developing. But considering what he's been through that's a walk in the park for this tough little guy. ■

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