



## Writing Her Story

Pippa Mann, Race car driver for Dale Coyne Racing

2011 Indianapolis 500 rookie, Pippa Mann grew up a race fan in England, watching, but never dreaming she would one day be a race car driver. Then, she attended a friend's birthday party and drove go-karts for the first time. That was the moment she knew she found a new dream and became involved with racing. Not only is she a race car driver, she also helps other young female drivers, is an instructor and announces IndyCar and Indy Lights races for radio and TV.

"Qualifying for the Indianapolis 500 in 2011 has so far been my biggest accomplishment on track," says Pippa. "I was a rookie driver, with one day of testing in an IndyCar before the month of May began, and I was one of the 33 qualifiers for the closest field in Indy 500 history." That year, she became the eighth woman in history to qualify for and race in the Indianapolis 500 and became the first British woman to do so (USA Today, 30 April 2013). In 2013, Pippa will be racing for Dale Coyne Racing along with Justin Wilson and Ana Beatriz, which marks the first time women have been teammates at the Indianapolis 500 (USA Today, 30 April 2013).

Pippa is most passionate about helping other female drivers get more recognition. "The media often looks to turn two female competitors into an extreme rivalry, but mostly in real life that's genuinely not the case," she said. "I work hard, not only to get recognition for the results I have achieved, but also to try and promote other female drivers and help them receive the credit they deserve for results they have achieved."

Pippa doesn't see herself as a role model. She feels that she has more to achieve. "I still have so much I want to do in a racing car, and so much I want to do outside of a racing car!" But, if she can be an advocate for chasing dreams and working hard to turn them into reality, then she wants to be that role model, especially given her connection to young female drivers. "I definitely want to be someone young girls can look up to, and someone who their families are happy for them to look up to, too."

One of the organizations Pippa Mann is involved with to help other young female drivers is called *Glass Hammer Racing*, based in Indianapolis. They support female drivers who are lower down in the ladder system, as they make the transition to professional racing series. They work with young girls to get them into go-karts for the first time up at Fastimes Karting in Indy. "I enjoy being there for the older girls, and instructing the younger girls learning for the first time in go-karts has been a totally new and fun experience for me," says Pippa. If anyone has a daughter aged 10-16 who is interested in driving a go-kart for the first time, she would love for them to check out the Glass Hammer Racing website, at [www.beatbyagirl.org](http://www.beatbyagirl.org).

Women in Indiana quietly do extraordinary things every day. *Writing Her Story* celebrates these accomplishments and sheds light on the resilience and strength of Hoosier women. These articles showcase the women who have helped move Indiana women forward and who inspire others to do great things in their own lives. Women in Indiana have an important role to play. You can make a difference by:

- Learning more about the issues affecting women in Indiana.
- Voicing your opinion on issues important to you
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Mentoring another woman
- Join ICW's mailing list or social media outlets to be notified of upcoming events, programs and resources available to women

Go to [www.in.gov/icw](http://www.in.gov/icw) to learn more about the Indiana Commission for Women and their current initiatives.

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