



Introducing The Will To Live Foundation

a 501(c)(3) Public Charity
"For the kids, through the kids, by the kids"



Our Mission Statement:

"We are dedicated to preventing teen suicide by improving the lives and the 'Will To Live' of teenagers everywhere through education about mental health and encouraging them to recognize the love and hope that exists in each other."

Our Board of Directors:

John Trautwein
(President & Chair)
Susie Trautwein
(Secretary & Treasurer)
Wendy Lowenthal
Candice Porter
Steve Quamme
Ron Wellman

Our Vision:

To be a positive & motivational resource for teens, young adults & their families in the global fight against teen suicide, depression and the stigma surrounding mental illness in our communities. Achieving our mission year after year by:

- * **Raising Awareness** - of teen suicide in our community
- * **Increasing Education** - around mental illness & its stigma
- * **Delivering Hope** - to teenagers everywhere

The Programs of Will To Live®

When John and Susie Trautwein founded the Will To Live Foundation in October of 2010 after the suicide of their teenage son, Will, their main focus was to get teens to "talk" to each other. They realized that most teenagers, especially high school and college aged kids, had already met some of life's best friends, and that they should take advantage of that wonderful fact, and reach out to each other in times of need. Their friends, their Life Teammates, are the ones that truly understand the challenges that they face, and want to be there for them. Thus, the Will To Live Foundation encourages kids to reach out to one another and **"talk about it"**, reminding us all that it is **"OK to not be OK"**

We all agree that sometimes the easiest person to talk to is a friend - be that friend!

As a result, the first program of Will To Live, The Life Teammates® Program began – Kids helping kids

The Life Teammates® Program

The Will To Live Life Teammates program is our flagship message designed to "Deliver Hope" to teens everywhere. Teen volunteers have created fun activities, fundraisers, and events where they have the opportunity to work and play together, which facilitates building those Life Teammate® bonds in the process. The program's goal is to teach the importance of being able to say not only "love ya man" but also, "hey, I need to talk – I could use some help."





Raising Awareness

Of Teen Suicide In Our Communities

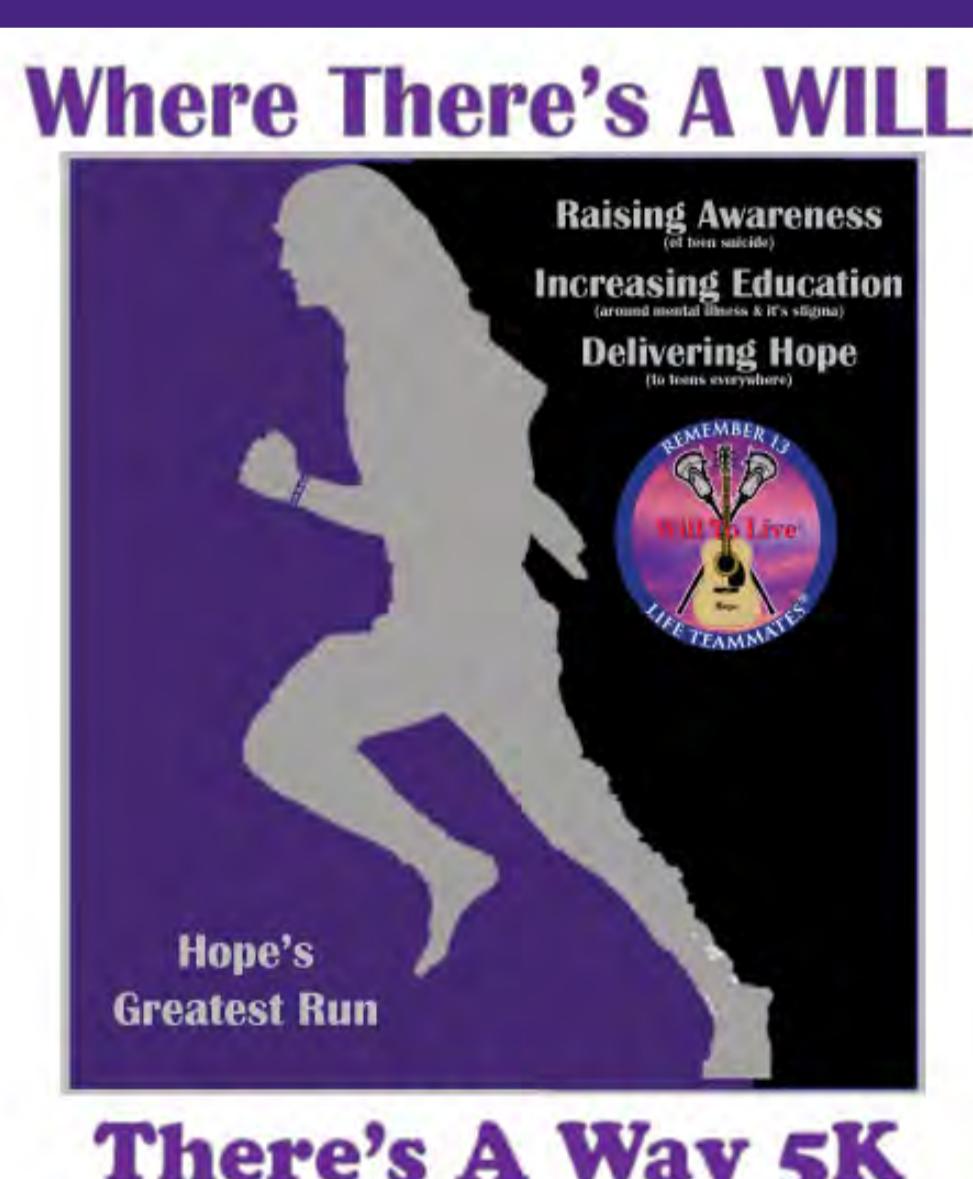
The Life Teammates® Program

Each year, the Foundation works with teenagers to put on the two major fundraisers of Will To Live. The **Where There's a Will There's A Way 5k**" in late January/early February and the "**WILLSTOCK**" **Teen music Festival** during Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week each September. These two major events are created, designed, implemented and owned by the teenagers themselves and are the 2 signature events that generate not only an incredible amount of awareness around teen suicide, depression, and the stigma surrounding mental illnesses, but are a huge source of "Delivering Hope" to each other. Through these events, these teens and young adults learn first hand the power of being with their Life Teammates.

Over the past few years, we also saw the creation of over 15 "**Club Will To Live**" organizations in high schools here in the Atlanta area, as well as several major universities, such as University of GA, University of FL, and GA Southern University and in late 2019, The University of Alabama.

The foundation has also sponsored events and activities at Northwestern University, Wake Forest University, Illinois State University, University of GA, University of Alabama, GA Tech and many fraternities and sororities at Universities across the South East. Each year since 2019, Sacred Heart University and the surrounding community in Fairfield, CT - hears the Life Teammates message through in person WTL presentations.

Finally, our Life Teammates program is also used to fund annually anywhere from 50 to 100 speeches and presentations to schools, both students and faculty, sports teams and church groups of all ages, scouting groups, and other organizations and corporations (such as the entire employee base of State Farm) across America. Each year, well over 50,000 people here the message of hope from the Will To Live Foundation



Life Teammates
"Because good teams may win, but great teams love each other!"

www.Will-To-Live.org

The Will To Live Foundation, Inc. - a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization
5805 State Bridge Rd. #G212, Johns Creek, GA 30097 www.Will-To-Live.org



Education & Awareness Programs

Since the inception of the Will To Live Foundation, the founders, board members, and the thousands of members and volunteers, have worked tirelessly to raise the awareness and the education surrounding mental illnesses and teen suicide in our communities.

Because no one talks about it, no one knows about it! The Will To Live Foundation is committed to changing this!



These programs consist mainly of the "**Signs Of Suicide Program**" (**SOS**) that is implemented by our partners at **Mindwise Innovations (formerly SMH)** in Boston. The SOS program is for high schools, middle schools and colleges, and is implemented across the country.

Each year through the financial support of Will To Live, well over 100 high schools, colleges and middle schools, had the SOS program implemented, positively affecting the lives of

students across the country. In addition, year after year, well over 5,000 students are identified for further services, thanks to the efforts of the foundation's work, and sponsoring of mental health professionals as they work with kids to help battle this "silent illness" called depression, which not only took the life of Will Trautwein back in 2010, but continues to take the lives of twelve teenagers every day in America.

The Education & Awareness Program at Will To Live also works closely with other Suicide awareness and counseling centers such as the **Summit Counseling Center** in Johns Creek, GA (Atlanta suburb), where Will To Live was the primary fund giver for the "**Summit On-Site**" program. This program, has now placed certified counselors and therapists on-site at over 30 high schools & middle schools in the Atlanta area, and this number, through the foundation's support, will continue to grow. The monies donated to the Summit were also used to fund therapy and counseling for teens and families here in the Atlanta area that could not afford, or did not have insurance coverage, for mental illness based

The foundation also supports other suicide education and prevention organizations such as NAMI, LifeACT in Cleveland, Erik's Light House in Illinois, The American Association of Suicidology, The Families for Depression Awareness Organization, and several others. These "industry experts" are providing tools used by the Will To Live Foundation to help educate the community, - has proven to be a very well received use of funds raised.

"Will To Live is so proud of the fact that the funds raised by the kids of Will To Live are being used to fund the training and education of the trusted adults in their lives. Our wonderful "Circle of Hope" that we are committed to continuing year after year."

- John Trautwein



The Will To Live Life Teammates® Scholarship Program

The final of the three programs supported by Will To Live is the **Life Teammates Scholarship** program, where multiple scholarships (typically \$1k/each) are given to senior students at high schools in the Atlanta area as well as others in schools in CT and Illinois.

Since the program began in 2011, well over \$200,000 in scholarships have been awarded to high school seniors from various teams, groups and clubs. Each winner is voted on by the students themselves. What makes this so special is the fact that the entire program, freshman through seniors, vote for that one senior who best represents what it is to be a Life Teammate®.

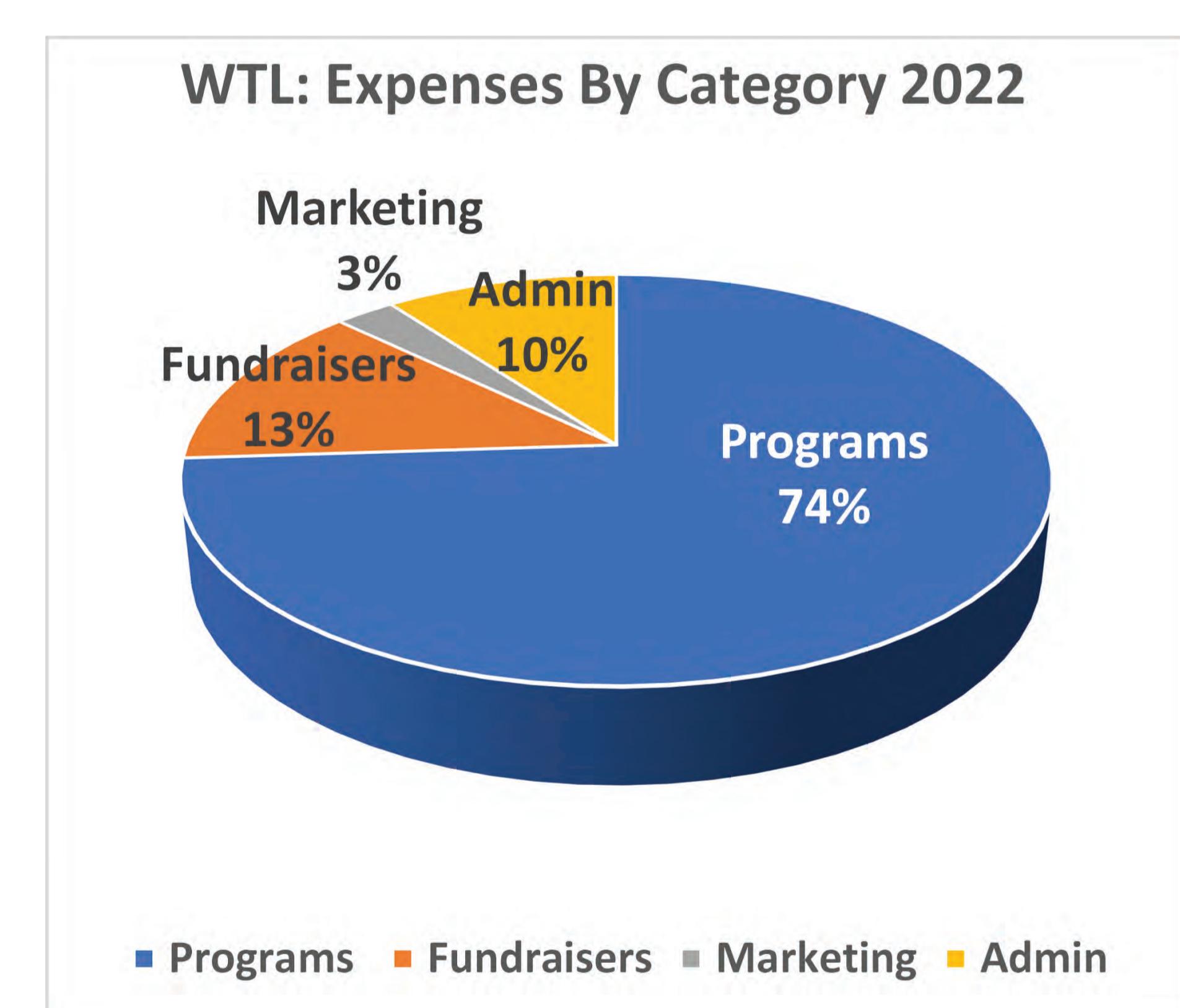
In the fall of 2019, Wake Forest University, as a result of their work with Will To Live, has created the **“Ron & Linda Wellman Life Teammate Award”** to be presented to one male and female WF athlete each year. Keeping the Life Teammate message alive every year at Wake Forest. Thus, not only do we have over 2000 kids voting each year, and thinking about what it means to be a Life Teammate as this program continually drives the life teammate message home! For The Kids, Through The Kids, By The Kids!

Putting Your Donation \$\$ To Work!

The Will To Live Foundation, as a small non-profit public charity is committed to putting the generous donations of our supporters right back into our communities. Year after year, we achieve our goal of having 85%+ of the funds we spend go right into our programs that we have outlined in this document.

Our budget for 2022 - our 12th year is committed to increasing the percentage of the annual spend that goes to the programs themselves to 90% thus keeping our administrative expenses to a minimum (10%).

The wonderful work of our board and our volunteers across the country enables us to achieve this and we are so thankful for that.



Finally, we wish to thank you - all our wonderful supporters for your incredible generosity and support of our mission to RAISE THE AWARENESS of teen suicide in our communities while INCREASING EDUCATION around depression and mental illness in a way that DELIVERS HOPE to the teens and young adults of the Will To Live Foundation!



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Contact us at: friends@will-to-live.org

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