



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

Grace Dunn

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."

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





Raising Awareness

Of Teen Suicide In Our Communities

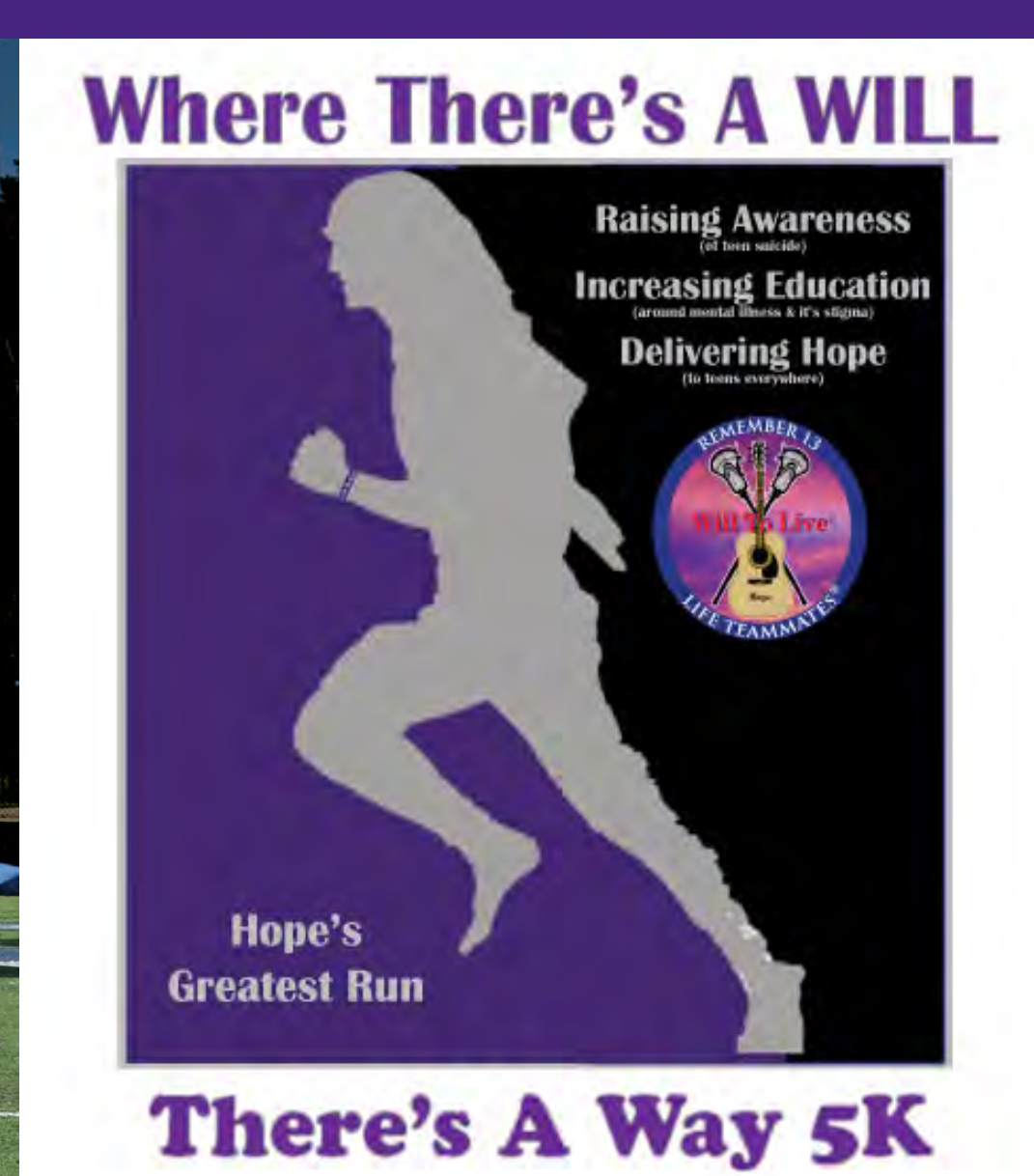
The Life Teammates® Program

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 several fraternities and sororities at Universities across the South East. In December of 2019, Sacred Heart University and the surrounding community in Fairfield, CT - heard the Life Teammates message.

Finally, our Life Teammates program is also used to fund annually close 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. In 2019 alone, well over 100,000 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



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 Northview high school and others in the greater North Atlanta suburbs each year.

Since the program began in 2011, well over \$100,000 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 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!



The annually given Life Teammate Award & Scholarship will be awarded to one member of the (Insert program name here) program. The award will be voted on by each program's entire player roster to include their varsity, junior varsity and freshmen teammates.

Each teammate should choose one senior player (listed below) who truly embodies the spirit of what a Life Teammate is and best exemplifies the following Life Teammate characteristics:

- Is a leader on and off the field and understands his or her role as a leader before, during and after the game whether it be on the field, the sidelines, the locker room, classroom or in the community.
- Is an ambassador of not only the program and the team, but of the game itself.
- Is respected by his or her peers, coaches, referees, teachers and parents as well as teammates.
- Is a true mentor to the underclassmen, motivating, inspiring and caring for the youth of the programs.
- Displays true care for his or her teammates – always putting "team above self" while always trying hard to help struggling teammates find the good – on and off the field.
- Loves the game – Loves being on the team – Loves his or her teammates – and shows it!



Updated December 2019
Contact us at: friends@will-to-live.org

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

