



The Will To Live Foundation, Inc.

“For The Kids, Through The Kids, By The Kids”



FROM THE DESK OF JOHN TRAUTWEIN

May 21, 2017

Dear Centennial Lacrosse Family

My name is John Trautwein, and I apologize for not being able to be here in person tonight, but my busy schedule has me on the west coast – unfortunately, I have not figured out how to clown myself just yet. I considered having a deputy say some words on my behalf, but tonight’s award that we’re handing out, means very much to me, and I wanted you all to hear my words – even if they are read from a letter such as this.

I’ve had the good fortune to have met many of the Centennial Lacrosse family over the years through the Will To Live Foundation – and I’m so pleased that our foundation is here tonight honoring not only a special student-athlete, but also a special family, who I think the world of.

As many of you already know, my wife Susie and I started this non-profit organization, after the suicide death of our oldest child, our son Will, who was just 15 and a freshman lacrosse player at Northview High School when we lost him.

The Will to Live Foundation is dedicated to:

- Raising the awareness of teen suicide in our communities.
- Increasing the education around mental illness and its stigma.
- Finally, and most importantly, to Deliver Hope to teens everywhere by teaching them to recognize the “Life Teammates” that exist in their lives – right now – today!

One of the first actions the Will To Live Foundation took 6 six years ago was to create the “Life Teammates Award and Scholarship,” a \$1,000 scholarship that is given to a special senior student participating in various sports teams, fine arts, or other activities, where teammates play such an important role. Since the creation of the Life Teammates Scholarship, we have had the honor of handing out scholarships to over 100 students, and most importantly, every single scholarship winner was voted on by his or her peers – his or her teammates – his or her Life Teammates.

So tonight, we are here to honor another Life Teammates Scholarship winner from Centennial men’s lacrosse. However, this honor goes a little deeper. This award also honors a young man named Jamie McHenry, who you all dedicated your championship season to. A wonderful young man, who like our Will, was taken from us far too soon.

I’ve had the pleasure of getting to know Jamie’s wonderful family and have attended and had the honor of speaking at all the “Rocket Shot 5K’s” each summer as well. The McHenry family and the Trautwein family, are members of a club, that no-one ever wants to join. Yet through this membership, which began with a tragedy, we have experienced so much love, so much kindness, so much caring and so much hope, that we are not only able to fight on, but continue our lives with a new meaning and a new hope.



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So tonight – I would personally like to thank each and every one of you players, for the hope you have given the McHenrys. I hope you all understand the power you have to not only give this family and this community hope, but even more importantly give each other hope.

Remember boys, no-one, and I truly mean no-one, understands you better than your friends, your teammates, because they are the ones navigating through this crazy 24/7 negative world with you. Our Life Teammate program teaches you to always try and recognize that you've already met life's best friends. You've already met some of your groomsmen – the Godfathers to your kids – those friends who will be with you your whole life. Through good, bad, happy and yes – through sad.

The entire Centennial lax program voted on this award, because we want each and every one of you boys to understand as you go through high school, the importance of being a great teammate on and off the field – and each year when you consider who deserves this Life Teammate award, it is our hope, that it positively affects your approach to the relationships you develop during these years. We hope it makes you be a better teammate – because life, like lacrosse, is not easy – but together, we're stronger.

In today's world, we all need teammates that show us the love and the hope- we need our Life Teammates.

Jamie McHenry was just that – a Life Teammate.

Before I announce the winner – I would like each of you tonight, in honor of Jamie, to turn to the person next to you and say “I Love You Man”

Thus, it gives me such great pleasure to be able to announce this year's winner of the first ever “LIFE TEAMMATES SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF JAMIE MCHENRY” award to

Mr. Conner Evans

Congratulation's Conner.

Love Ya Man

John Trautwein

(Please take a picture of Conner with his trophy and the McHenry fam if possible)

Raising Awareness – Increasing Education – Delivering Hope
For The Kids Through The Kids, By The Kids!