



The Will To Live Foundation, Inc.

For The Kids, Through The Kids, By The Kids



Willstock '11 – Love Ya Man!

By: Josselyn Thornton



Walking down to Northview High School's football field, on October 29th, 2011, all you would have been able to see was hundreds of kids and adults with the phrase 'Love Ya Man!' on their wrists, and in their smiles. A music festival, Willstock was an event where 17 local bands played for over 700 people on a beautiful night at Northview High in Johns Creek, GA. A music festival where you could express your feelings through the sound, just as Will Trautwein once did.

"For the Kids, Through the Kids, By the Kids" is the motto of the Will-To-Live Foundation, and with the help of Shubham Kadam, Ryan McDaniel, Music Matters and a tremendous amount of volunteers mostly kids, but adults too, they brought Willstock to life. Announcing each band name, helping sell t-shirts and food, and making sure everyone was having a good time, they showed everyone how much this foundation is kid based.

"Before I went on stage, I was so nervous, but when I saw all my friends and family standing in front of me, I knew I could do it." A quote by Liam McRae, showing exactly how all the inexperienced bands felt at Willstock. With such an eclectic array of bands, ranging from experienced, to first time performers, Willstock showed them no judgment, just a loving environment for them to express themselves.

Participating in Willstock meant different things, to different people. Some did it for the love of music, some did it in remembrance of Will. Ryan McDaniel told me that, "Being there, made me feel like Will was there with me." I think that feeling was shared by every person on that field, because Will would have loved that experience; music, friends and family. Three things that can help anyone get through anything. Willstock wasn't just a music festival, it was so much more than that. It was a time for people to come together to celebrate life, with its ups and downs, its good times and bad times. The amount of love and time put into Willstock, was more than worth it, and I know every single person there enjoyed their time.

In the end of it all, no matter if you were a performer, an audience member, or a worker, 'Love Ya Man!' was expressed to the fullest, and the 'Will To Live' was again shown to hundreds of people.

A special thanks to: Music Matters, all of the sponsors and to the entire Trautwein family for all that they do.