



# *The Will To Live Foundation, Inc.*

*"For The Kids, Through The Kids, By The Kids"*



Thanks To The True Lacrosse Program of Michigan for the wonderful "Blog" about Life Teammates!  
Love Ya Man!

## True Michigan Staff Blog - Life Teammates

By: Dan Catzere - MI State Team Coach

This past summer was a crazy one for the likes of a coach at True Lacrosse Michigan. For a few others with my self included 2012 Summer can be summed up in few words; hot, busy, and always on the move. We worked countless practices, leagues, lessons along with three overnight camps and six tournaments in eight weeks.

The first camp that we did was down in Atlanta Georgia held at Emory University hosted by True Lacrosse. It was only June but coming from Michigan it was Hot! We met a ton of kids that shared the same passion that we do for the game and by the end of the week we met some future True laxers. One kid that stuck out to me at the camp was a 7th grade goalie who we had stuck down with the high schoolers. He was not only holding his own ,he was owning the junior and seniors in the net. Long story short we had asked his dad if Ryan would like to join our Michigan team and he could meet us at the tournaments. With a great big YES next thing we knew Ryan was in Long Island with us and we were getting ready to play some of the best competition in the country. A little wide eyed and nervous to meet all these new kids Ryan stepped in cage and absolutely put on a show, from saving balls to perfect outlets we were impressed. Not only did we now have one great goalie from Michigan, now we had two and one was from Atlanta.



The next tournament was in Chicago and again Ryan and his father were waiting at the hotel for us when we arrived. This time was different, Ryan knew all this "life teammates" and I could tell he was so happy to be back with his Michigan team. Soon after check in Ryan and his dad approached me with a concept. We decided it would be a good idea to talk about this during one of our team meetings. One of Ryan's friends back home who was only a year or two older than Ryan had committed suicide. He was a lacrosse player, a son, and a friend. Ryan and his dad had brought bracelets and stickers for our entire team that were labeled "Life Teammates". We got all the kids together after dinner and decided to

not only talk about lacrosse but what it means to be apart of something that is way bigger than lacrosse. The message was simple, if you ever need anything do not be afraid to talk with parents, teachers, coaches and even teammates. The message was clear and all the kids got it. We ended up winning the tournament that weekend and all the kids were apart of something bigger than just a team. They were life teammates.



**The Will To Live Foundation, Inc. - a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization**

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Sometimes we are so tied up with work, school, sports and so many other things we forget to focus on what's really important. Ryan and the 2017 True Michigan team really put some things into perspective. The kids are not just apart of a team, its bigger than that. These are connections that they will have for the rest of their lives. Life Teammates.

Please check the website: [www.will-to-live.org](http://www.will-to-live.org)

The True Lacrosse Website Link is below:

[http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=ubvmabeab&v=001Qll-Xe3DdxEDD7piQ7Ha\\_YLfv89jcdhw93D\\_0zcFOKq\\_4mVjgEPkLUt8Q8Djc9hbbRQnb2OuNxiQvD6cpI0t2kHc5wUW3i40MThWvnkeAQuL6ZixhaAw%3D%3D](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=ubvmabeab&v=001Qll-Xe3DdxEDD7piQ7Ha_YLfv89jcdhw93D_0zcFOKq_4mVjgEPkLUt8Q8Djc9hbbRQnb2OuNxiQvD6cpI0t2kHc5wUW3i40MThWvnkeAQuL6ZixhaAw%3D%3D)