

Introducing The Will To Live Foundation

A 501(c)(3) Public Charity

“For the kids, through the kids, by the kids!”

July 1, 2016



Our Vision:

To implement successful programs that enable us to achieve the goals of our mission statement 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!

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)

Susie Trautwein
(Secretary & Treasurer)

Wendy Lowenthal

Candice Porter

Steve Quamme

Grace Dunn

When John and Susie Trautwein founded the Will To Live Foundation in October of 2010, after the suicide death of their teenaged son, Will, their main focus was to get teens to “talk” to each other. They realized that most teenagers, especially high school and college age 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, want to be there for them, so we encourage them to reach out to those who understand them best.

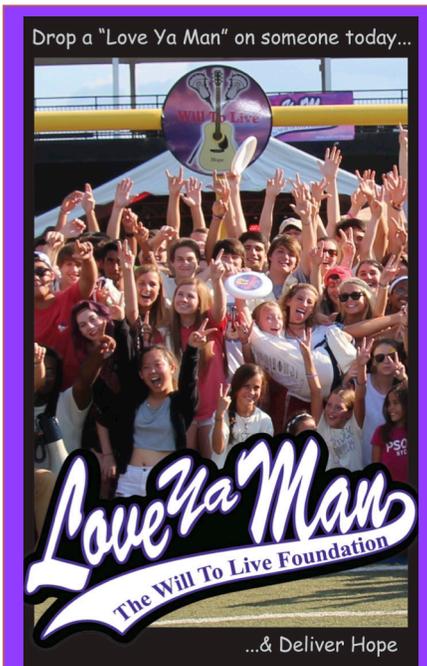
As John Trautwein often states: ***“We all agree that sometimes it’s easier to talk to a friend than to an adult.”***

Thus, 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 goal is to teach importance of being able to say not only “love ya man” but also, “hey, I need to talk – I could use some help.”

The Programs of Will to Live



Activities like the **WILLSTOCK Teen Music Festival** and the **“Where There’s A Will There’s a Way 5K**, help teens create events that they, plan, organize, implement and own. These wonderful fundraisers generate surprisingly high levels of revenue for the foundation that can then be put towards the awareness and education programs of Will To Live.

Team Will To Live Lacrosse, and Baseball and other team sponsorships, have been an excellent way to get kids to spread our “Life Teammates” message to each other as well.

Finally, The **Club Will to Live** program, which started at Northview High School, in Johns Creek, GA has expanded to other schools and is now “packaged” for schools across the country to implement. Club Will To Live acts as an ambassador of the foundation’s message throughout the schools.

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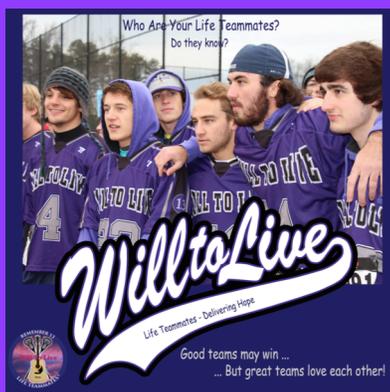
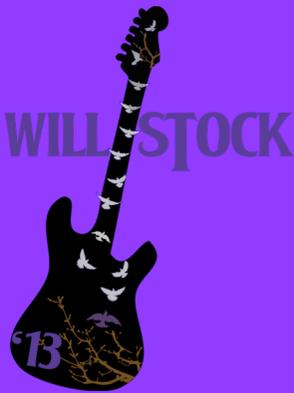
Education & Awareness Programs

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 an 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!

Will To Live co-founder, John Trautwein, is the voice of the foundation, and gives over 100 speeches every year to teams, schools, churches, clubs, groups and committees, trying to make people, both teens and the trusted adults in their lives, more aware. In 2011, the foundation began a long standing partnership with a Boston based non-profit called Screening For Mental Health (SMH), who created the acclaimed Signs of Suicide® (SOS) program for schools across the country.

The alliance offered Will To Live an excellent way to achieve our mission of educating people about mental illnesses and actually training key trusted adults on the signs of suicide as well. Thus SMH became a key focus area for the foundation and by the end of 2015, the Will to Live Foundation had helped fund the implementation of the SOS program in over 2000 schools



across America. Kids raising money to fund the training and education of the trusted adults in their lives. Our wonderful "Circle of Hope."

The foundation also supports other suicide education and prevention organizations such as *NAMI, American Association of Suicidology, The Families for Depression Awareness Organization*, and several others. These "industry experts" are tools used by the Will To Live Foundation to help educate the community, and an excellent use of funds raised.

In our community in the Atlanta area, one of the most impactful partnerships has been its relationship with the Summit Counseling Center, in Johns Creek, GA. WTL has partnered with the Summit to create a "fund" with monies raised by the kids of WTL to be put towards teens and families of struggling teens who cannot afford proper counseling or treatment. The foundation's own version of "no child left behind"

Will To Live 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 in Johns Creek each year.

In 2015 over 20 scholarships were given with each one being 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®.

Thus, not only do we have over 1000 kids voting each year, and thinking about what it means to be a Life Teammate, but by the time they are seniors, these students would have voted four times. This program continually drives the life teammate message home! Thinking about it – talking about it. Every year, the LT Scholarship from WTL is considered the "highlight" of the awards season at Northview High.



Life Teammates® because ***"Good teams may win but great teams love each other!"***

For more information, please contact the Will To Live Foundation by emailing friends@wil-to-live.org

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