

Programs 2017

The Will To Live Foundation

A 501(c)(3) Public Charity

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

September 1, 2017



Our Vision:

To implement successful programs than 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*

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*

Advisory Board:

*Joe Girardi
Julie Williams
Cheryl Greenway*

The Programs of Will To Live!

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.

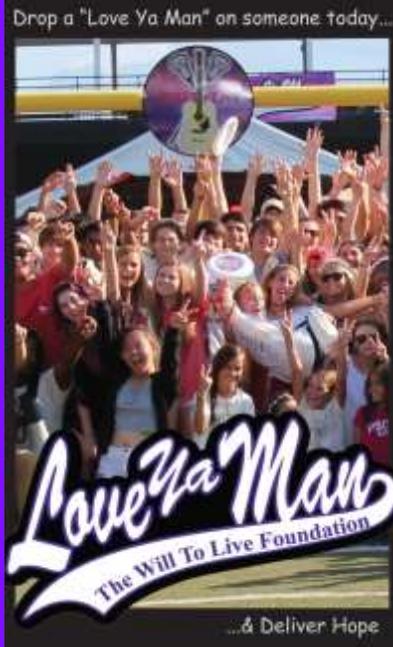
As John Trautwein often states: *“We all agree that sometimes it’s easier to talk to a friend than to an adult.”*

In 2016, the programs of Will To Live continued to make an incredibly positive impact on our communities.

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



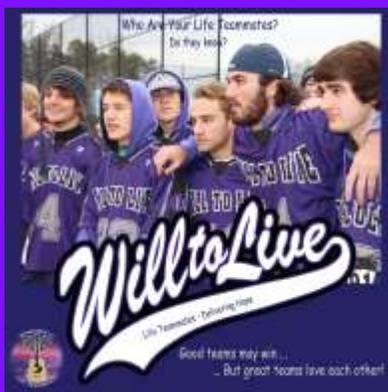
In 2016 our major activities, the **WILLSTOCK Teen Music Festival** and the “**Where There’s A Will There’s a Way 5K**”, both of which were owned and organized by the kids themselves, brought in \$43k and \$75k respectively in revenue (before expenses). The 5K, had a record crowd of over 1700 people on hand- most of them being kids.

As part of the many Life Teammates sponsorships, in 2016, Northview High School (Johns Creek, GA) renamed their baseball field “**Will To Live Park**” in 2016. .

Finally, The *Club Will to Live* program, which started at Northview High School, in Johns Creek, GA has expanded to ten additional schools and is now “packaged” for schools across the country to implement. IN 2016, the NVHS Club WTL raised \$8,000 which they used to fund a “Make-A-Wish” here in GA. A wonderful example of kids delivering hope to kids..

☆☆☆

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!

In 2016, Will To Live co-founder, John Trautwein, continued to be the voice of the foundation, by giving well over 100 speeches to school, parents, teams, 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.

This 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 2016, the Will to Live Foundation had helped fund the implementation of the SOS program in over 3000 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, SPAN GA* 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.

WTL continued to expand its partnership with the Summit Counseling Center by continuing its "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 2016, 28 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!"***

FUN FACTS ABOUT WILL TO LIVE - 2017!

With the help of so many [Life Teammates](#)[®] - We:

- Have Now Raised Over \$1,000,000 (as of summer 2017) through:
 - Amazing fundraising events such as [WILLSTOCK](#)[®] and the [Where There's A Will There's A Way 5k](#)
 - Generous donations from our friends and [Life Teammates](#)[®] from all over the world.
 - Grants from wonderful corporate supporters such as - State Farm, the Ripken Foundation, The Stratton Foundation, Catch 25 Foundation, The Red Sox Foundation, and many more nation-wide.
- Have funded the [Signs of Suicide](#)[®] (SOS) Program for well over 2000 high schools and middle schools across the country - including every public school in Fulton County (Atlanta, GA). We are educating the educators and positively effecting well over 1,000,000 students around the country.
- Have handed out over 50,000 [Life Teammate](#)[®] wrist bands and stickers to kids, families, teams, youth groups, scouting groups, bands and fine arts organizations across America.
- Have awarded over 100 [Life Teammates Scholarships](#) to high school seniors, voted on by their peers.
- Have been honored as recipients for the [Presidential Point of Light Award](#), as well as recognized by CNN, CBS, ABC, Fox Sports, the Boston Red Sox, the Big Ten Network, the AJC, the Boston Globe and many other media outlets, schools and universities, across the nation.
- Have given hundreds of speeches each year. Positive [Life Teammate](#)[®] presentations to kids, teams, schools, parents, coaches, teachers, youth groups and churches.
- Have sponsored [Team Will To Live](#) lacrosse, baseball and soccer teams, as well as games and tournaments in Atlanta, Chicago, New York, New Hampshire and Philadelphia.
- Have created a [Club Will To Live Program](#) for high schools and colleges, giving kids a platform to be there for each other and "talk about" the fact that it's "OK to not be OK!"
- Have helped thousands of pre-teens, teens and young adults fulfill volunteer hours for various Honor societies, school credits & college applications.
- Have been honored to be a part of something so special!

For The Kids, Through The Kids, By The Kids

Thank you to all our supporters for carrying Will To Live's light of hope! Love Ya Man!