



# *The Will To Live Foundation, Inc.*

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



## **“A Positive Passion - A Positive Will”**

**Motivational Speech, By John Trautwein of The Will To Live Foundation**

### **“A Positive Passion – A Positive Will” - Talking Points:**

John Trautwein’s speech/presentation entitled “A Positive Passion & Will” is designed for both teenagers and the trusted adults in teenager’s lives (Parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, coaches, teachers, counselors, ministers, pastors, scout masters, etc.). By telling his personal story about losing his teenaged son to suicide in October of 2010, John focuses on what he learned as a grieving parent who was unaware of the issues that faced not only his son but millions of teens across America: The three main points of the presentation are:

#### **1. Raising Awareness & Education:**

- a. The fact that mental health illnesses such as depression that lead to teen suicide are unfortunately extremely common in America and no-one talks about it.
- b. One in six of the teenagers in our lives are suffering from some sort of mental illness that is “treatable and beatable” but only if we talk about it and treat it as what it is, an illness and not a character flaw.

#### **2. The Power of Life Teammates to Deliver Hope:**

- a. Trautwein, in a very positive way, details how his life friends, who he terms his “Life Teammates”, who he met when he was a teenager, were instrumental in helping him not only get through the most difficult time of his life, after the death of his son, but also how they delivered hope and inspired him in a way that no others could.
- b. Trautwein challenges us all to be that friend, that teammate that delivers hope and love to his friends, creating an atmosphere of understanding. It is through this understanding that we can “reach out and talk to each other.”

#### **3. A Different World Today:**

- a. The world in which the teenagers are growing up today is different. Not only is it a different world than what their parents faced, it’s a more difficult world and Trautwein makes this very clear. Whether it be social, athletic, or academic, the pressures of today are not only more extreme than in previous generations, they are coming at an earlier age.
- b. Trautwein emphasizes the importance of everyone recognizing this fact, something that he himself did not while his teenage son was alive. “I was always so positive, not once did I ever say to my son, ‘Wow, Will, this is hard, I didn’t have to do this when I was your age!’”
- c. Despite being difficult, the world is still a positive place with so much opportunity, but we need to go through these challenges and opportunities together. Trautwein emphasizes the importance of the positive role (in this negative world) that the trusted adults in the lives of these teens can play, simply by being aware and showing understanding. “This world is hard, and a true trusted adult knows it and shows it”

John’s speech is designed to be a very positive and motivational despite originating from a very tragic event and topic.



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Like the Will To Live Foundation itself, John’s speeches have been very well received by hundreds of audiences across America. Feedback from sports teams, youth groups, parent organizations, corporations and middle schools, high schools and colleges alike has been extremely positive.

As a former major league baseball player (Boston Red Sox) and successful international businessman who has lived in Germany, the UK, and many cities, across America, John is able to weave in stories of “Life Teammates” and positive focus and motivation into his presentations. His speech is truly meant to help his audience increase their ‘Will To Live.’

*“I have had the pleasure of seeing John Speak on three occasions. WOW what a message! As a coach and financial services professional for over 30 plus years, I have seen hundreds of prominent CEO’s, Keynote Speakers and College and Professional Coaches speak. John is hands down one of my top three speakers I have had the pleasure to witness. His thoughtful and moving presentation is incredible and he hits all the positive notes you want to aspire to as a coach and mentor of young people. Go and see him as soon as you can!”*

- Lou Corsetti, Coaching Coordinator, Atlanta Youth Lacrosse, US Lacrosse Convention Committee Chair, 2012, GA Lacrosse HOF Member

*“Thank you, John Trautwein, for teaching the U11 Outlaws the concept of Life Teammates last night! You have an amazing ability to tailor your speech to your audience to make just the right impact. I’m so glad the boys now know the meaning of the logo they’ve been wearing on their uniforms and can share your message and strive to be the best teammates they can be. I whole heartedly believe in the importance of Life Teammates as my best friends to this day are those who have supported me and been there for me through good and bad on and off the field. Love ya man!”*

- Elle Race, Coach, the Georgia Outlaws Club Lacrosse Program, Atlanta, GA

To read more reviews of John’s speeches and the positive impact he’s leaving on audiences everywhere click here and visit the Will To Live Foundation’s website:

<http://will-to-live.org/what-they-are-saying/>



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## **John Trautwein’s Bio**

- A native of the Chicago area (Barrington, IL), John, along with his wife Susie moved to Johns Creek, GA in 1997. He is the proud father of four beautiful children, and Chief Customer Officer of Source Support Services, a global IT Services company headquartered in the Atlanta area (Lawrenceville, GA).
- In October 2010, John and his family suffered the tragic loss of his oldest child, his 15 year old Son, Will, who took his own life. Will, a strong, popular and successful young man was a freshman at Northview High School, and his death devastated not only the Trautwein’s but the entire community.
- As a result, John and his wife Susie along with their surviving children and Will’s closest friends, started a nonprofit foundation called “The Will To Live Foundation” to work closely with the kids and through the kids of communities across America, to not only help spread the awareness of mental illness, and teen suicide, but also help these teens recognize the wonderful bonds of friendship they have in each other. We call these friends Life Teammates – and who better to help a friend find the good, than a Life Teammate.
- John is a Graduate of Northwestern University and an Ex professional baseball player, playing 7 years in the Expos and Red Sox organizations, including pitching for the 1988 American League East Champion Boston Red Sox. His wife Susie was a lacrosse and field hockey player for the University of VA, thus you'll understand why the foundation’s message is so focused on the concept of “teammates” whether it be sports, clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth groups, churches, bands, orchestras, choirs or families, Life Teammates are in our lives today!
- Since the foundation started, John has been making well over 100 speeches and presentations annually to high school students, college students, teams of all kinds, parents, coaches, teachers in communities across America. He has mastered the ability to deliver the Will To Live Foundation’s message of “love” and “hope” and being there for each other.

*“John’ compelling message to young people comes from his heart. He has always had a passion for youth and now he combines that passion with a life experience to reach out through the “Will To Live” Foundation. His message to his audiences about loving one another is not only strong and full of impact but it also motivates them to establish caring relationships with their peers.”*

*- Ron Wellman, Director of Athletics, Wake Forest University*

- John has turned the tragedy of the loss of his son, into a positive message that improves the lives and the Will To Live of kids everywhere. The “kids of Will To Live” have raised over \$1,000,000 in an effort to raise awareness, increase education and deliver hope to each other, and their efforts have funded the acclaimed “Signs of Suicide” Program in schools not only in Atlanta but all over the country.
- The Will to Live Foundation has been recognized nationally on CNN, Major League Baseball, The Big Ten Network, and Fox Sports, just to name a few. In 2012, John and his wife Susie were awarded the “**Presidential Point of Light**” award for their work with the Will To Live Foundation.



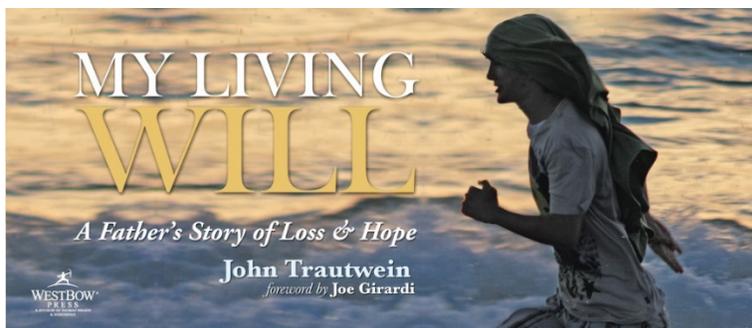
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## **MY LIVING WILL – A Father’s Story of Loss & Hope – By John Trautwein**

- In late 2014, Westbow press released the story of the Trautwein family and The Will To Live Foundation is found in the critically acclaimed book “MY LIVING WILL – A Father’s story of loss & hope” by John Trautwein. Like John’s speeches, and the events of the Will to Live Foundation, MY LIVING WILL has also succeeded in inspiring its readers to increase the Will To Live of the teenagers and Life Teammates® in their lives.



- My Living Will is the story of former major league pitcher John Trautwein, and the unbelievable tragedy which befell him and his family when his fifteen-year-old son, Will, took his own life. There had been no warnings, no obvious signs of anxiety, depression, or unhappiness; nothing. A family and a community were left stunned as they pondered how a young man like Will Trautwein, a healthy, happy, popular, athletic, and musical teenager, who came from such a loving home, could lose the will to live.

***“John Trautwein writes straight from the heart. And his words will save lives. The story Trautwein shares in these pages—a remarkable journey of passion and purpose—will literally save lives.”***

- Jeffrey Marx, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of Season of Life

***“This is one of the most thought provoking books I have read. Every person who has any contact with young people should take time to read it. It opened my eyes to so many things and I always thought my eyes were open!”***

- Jennifer Blazek, school teacher, Fulton County, GA

***“In my twenty-two years of broadcasting, I have told many stories of triumph over tragedy, but the story of Will Trautwein and his family has stayed with me. The loss of such a vibrant young man and the strength of his family to use their heartache to help has had an impact on how I parent my daughter, and how I report stories of teenage depression and suicide. This is a must-read if you have a teenager in your life.”***

- Stephany Fisher, Anchor, CBS News, Atlanta

- My Living Will is for sale at all of John’s speeches, and can be purchased on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble.com or on the Will To Live Foundation’s website: <http://will-to-live.org/my-living-will/>
- 100% of all proceeds for My Living Will go to the Will To Live Foundation



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## A Father’s Story of Hope!



John and Susie Trautwein –  
Founders of the Will To Live Foundation



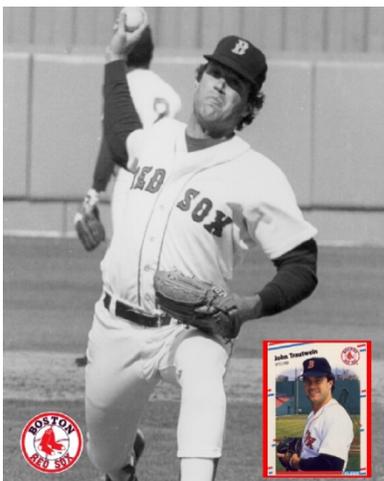
John and Will Trautwein – May 2010



John having fun with the audience, Blessed Trinity High School, 2016



The Trautwein Family, April 2010



John Trautwein with the Boston Red Sox - 1988



John Trautwein  
Giving his “Life Teammates” Speech

To learn more about John Trautwein’s speaking engagements, please visit us on-line at  
<http://will-to-live.org/speaking-engagements/>