Former Boston Red Sox pitcher John Trautwein, and his wife Susie, a two sport athlete (Lacrosse and Field Hockey at the University of Virginia), are no strangers to teammates, and when their son Will, 15 year old freshman in high school, tragically took his own life in October of 2010, it was their Life Teammates that came to their rescue to support them through an incomparable tragedy. These life friends, through their love and support, inspired John and Susie to turn devastation into a wonderfully positive foundation to help the teens and young adults of communities all over the country.

In honor of their son, John and Susie created the Will To Live Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity, that is dedicated to working with with the teens & young adults of our communities in an effort to help increase their ‘Will to Live’ by recognizing the Life Teammates that exist in their lives already.

The many activities and programs of the Will To Live Foundation has positively affected well over 100,000 kids around the country. Sports teams, school clubs, youth groups, and other groups like boy scouts and girl scouts, are learning to help each other via the Life Teammates message. Kids helping kids to recognize the love and the good in life’s most difficult times.

“We all have teammates in our lives. Someone we share or have shared a dream with – someone we go through successes and failures with. The Life Teammates program teaches the kids of today to recognize their Life Teammates now – as teenagers. They are your life friends – always there for you – and you for them – on and off the field!”

WTL Foundation co-founder and ex Boston Red Sox Pitcher, John Trautwein

The Will to Live Foundation
FOR THE KIDS THROUGH THE KIDS, BY THE KIDS
Life Teammates®

“The Human Spirit Craves Companionship.”
~ Brian Holman, Former Seattle Mariner Pitcher

Over 20,000 kids wearing the Life Teammate decals and wrist bands around the globe!

“John Trautwein and his family have taken the most difficult tragedy a family can know, and turned it into a message to help us all. Our kids are at risk and we need to make sure they always have a will to live, and the Will to Live Foundation’s Life Teammates message is helping to make this happen.”

~ Dan Shaughnessy, Boston Globe

“The Will to Live Foundation’s compelling message to young people comes from John’s 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
As a member of the “Will to Live Life Teammates Club”, my teammates and I:

- Are proud to be part of a team and know the importance of being a great teammate and always putting the team first.

- Know that our teammates today are your Life Teammates tomorrow. We are always there for each other, on or off the field.

- Realize that we need to look out for each other in today’s negative world. We are always there for one another, helping to find the good in all of life’s difficult trials.

- We will always try to make sure that our Life Teammates know how we feel about them and will never be afraid to say “Love Ya, Man!”

Life Teammates - Showing each other Love, Hope and the Will to Live!
The Will to Live Foundation

FOR THE KIDS, THROUGH THE KIDS, BY THE KIDS

The Will to Live Foundation’s Mission

To create a non-profit organization that is dedicated to improving the lives and the WILL TO LIVE of teenagers everywhere. Through education, motivation, consultation, charity, support and most importantly, love and fellowship, we will work for and through these young adults to help them always find the “Good in Life” and a “Will to Live” through all of life’s trials.