



Our Vision:

To be a positive & motivational resource for teens, young adults & their families in the global fight against teen suicide, depression and the stigma surrounding mental illness in our communities. Achieving our mission year after year 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 & Chair)

Susie Trautwein

(Secretary & Treasurer)

Wendy Lowenthal

Candice Porter

Ron Wellman

Michael Trautwein

Ab Igram

When John and Susie Trautwein founded the Will To Live Foundation in October of 2010 after the suicide of their teenage son, Will, their main focus was to get teens to "talk" to each other. They realized that most teenagers, especially high school and college aged 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, are the ones that truly understand the challenges that they face, and want to be there for them. Thus, the Will To Live Foundation encourages kids to reach out to one another and **"talk about it"**, reminding us all that it is **"OK to not be OK"**

We all agree that sometimes the easiest person to talk to is a friend - be that friend!

As a result, the foundation created three major programs that are designed to enable us to achieve our mission the programs are:

The Education & Awareness Program

The Life Teammates® Program

The Will To Live Scholarship Program



Education & Awareness Programs

Summary:

Raising awareness of teen suicide and mental illness in our communities is best done by talking about it. The stigma that exists around mental illness is devastating and as John Trautwein says in his presentations to students, teachers, coaches, administrators, families, parents, corporate executives, clergy and anyone who will listen, "An illness that goes untreated, can lead to a tragedy - and because I was unaware and uneducated, this is exactly what happened to my son Will, and it led to his taking of his life." As a result, the education and awareness program works to get people to talk about it by becoming more aware, via the many presentations, speeches, articles and social media posts, and getting people to become more educated via the implementation of the Signs of Suicide in communities all across America

2023 Goals:

- 1) Will To Live to present a minimum of 30 speeches reaching over 10,000 people
- 2) Will to live to fund the implementation of the Signs of Suicide (SOS) program in over 100 schools
- 3) Will to live to raise and donate a minimum of \$50,000 to fund the "Summit On-site" program

Did We Achieve Our 2023 Goals

- 1) An estimated audience of over 15,000 people attended 27 Will To Live Speeches in 2023
- 2) In 2023, the SOS program was implemented via Will To Live's funding to 110 schools
- 3) The Summit Onsite program grew to over 15 schools in 2023, with a \$50,000 donation from WTL

The Future:

The Will To Live Foundation is committed to continuing an increase of the Education and Awareness Program. By supporting additional suicide prevention and awareness programs and continuing our aggressive presentation schedule in 2024 and beyond.

*"Will To Live is so proud of the fact that the funds raised by the kids of Will To Live are being used to fund the training and education of the trusted adults in their lives. Our wonderful "Circle of Hope" that we are committed to continuing year after year."
- John Trautwein*

"ACT" Like a Life Teammate
If you or someone you know needs help, call now!



Suicide Prevention LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
www.will-to-live.org

GA Crisis & Access Line
1-800-715-4255
www.mygcal.com



The Life Teammates® Program

Summary:

Our Life Teammates program has one major goal: Deliver Hope to teenagers and their families everywhere. As we learned through our education and awareness program, talking about it is an absolute necessity in fighting the stigma of mental illnesses like depression. The foundation firmly believes that the easiest people to speak to are our friends, our peers, our Life Teammates. Thus this program works with the teens themselves and their families to run “Life Teammate events, Sponsor teams and organizations, and help create a culture where it’s okay to not be okay - so lets talk about it!”

2023 Goals:

- 1) Work with the students to run a successfully “Where There’s A Will There’s A Way 5K” and raise over \$150k to be put towards the programs of Will To Live
- 2) Sponsor a Minimum of 5 Organizations in 2023 to embrace the Life Teammates Message
- 3) Apply and get approval for a “NATIONAL LIFE TEAMMATES DAY”

Did We Achieve Our 2023 Goals

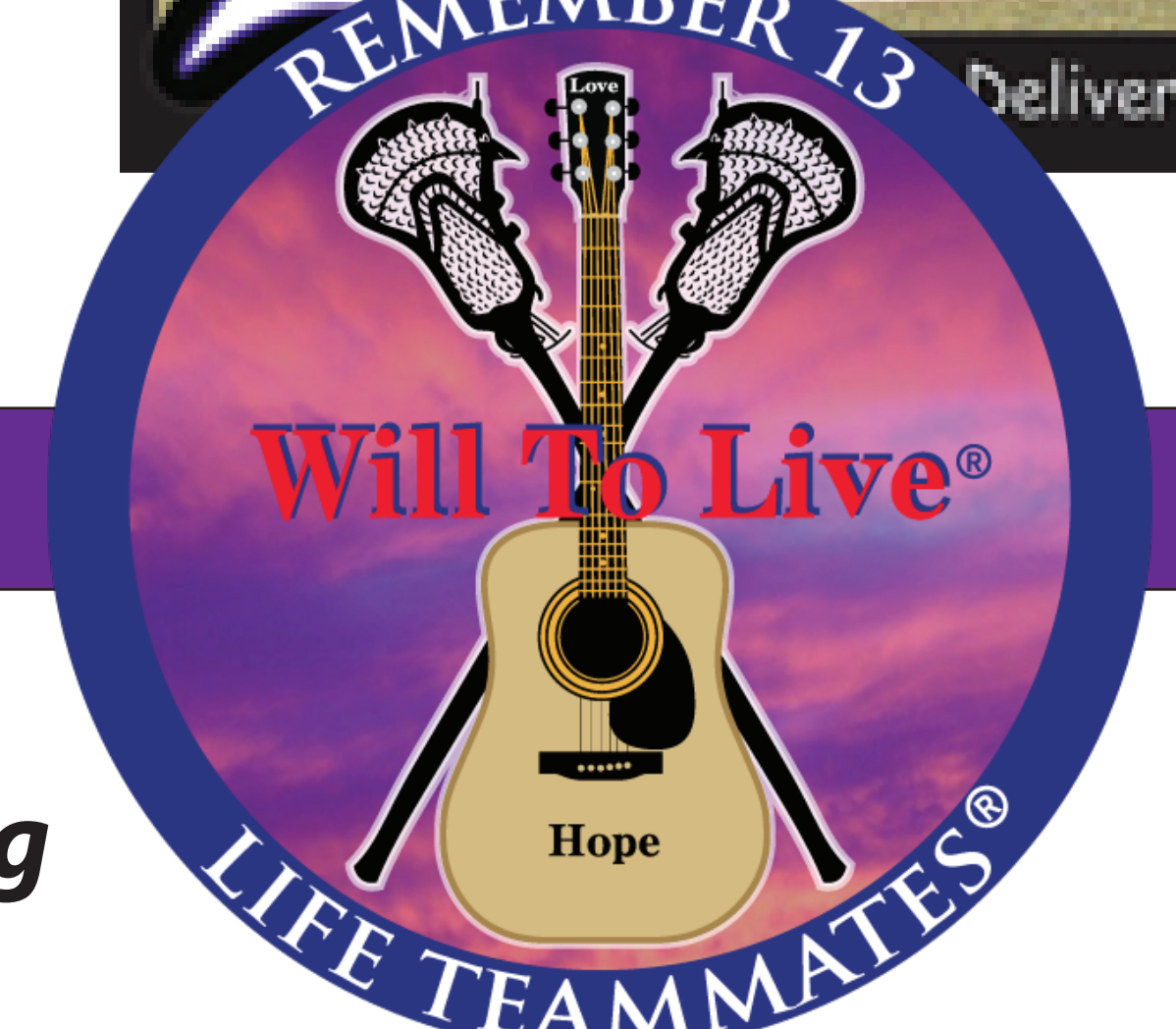
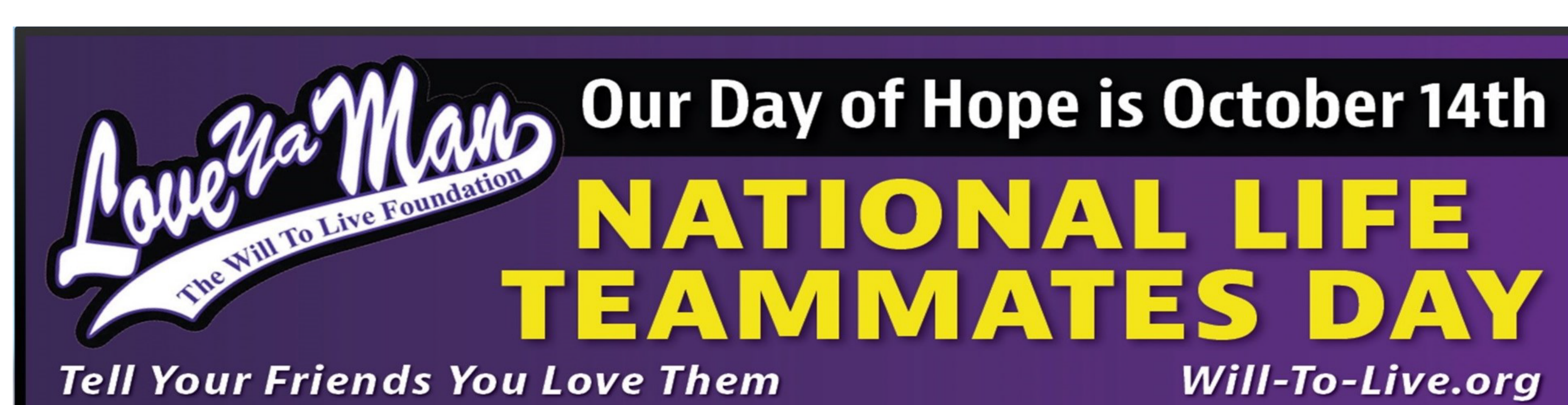
- 1) The 2023 “Wills Way 5K” raised over \$245K, attracting over 1100 attendees!
- 2.) The foundation sponsored a Homers For Hope Program and Life Teammate sponsorship and events at 11 organizations and schools across the country in 2023.
- 3) “NATIONAL LIFE TEAMMATES DAY” was implemented - October 14th (see more below)

The Future:

The Will To Live Foundation’s Life Teammates message is the heart of the foundation. It is the avenue we use to teach kids and families of the ability we all have to Deliver Hope to each other. By showing Love, hope and understanding, we all can create a culture where it is indeed “Okay to not be okay” - Watch this space for even more hope delivered in 2024

National Life Teammates Day! Our National Day of HOPE!

The Will To Live Foundation’s Life Teammates message has been so well received that now on October 14th of every year, is National Life Teammates Day. This day represents the last day on earth for Will Trautwein, a great Life Teammate to so many, the Will To Live Foundation was created in honor of. A great day to drop a “Love Ya Man” on a friend!



The Will To Live Life Teammates® Scholarship Program

Summary:

The final of the three programs supported by Will To Live is the **Life Teammates Scholarship** program, where multiple scholarships (typically \$500 - \$1k/each) are given to senior students at high schools in the Atlanta area as well as others in schools around the country.

2023 Goals:

1) Utilizing the monies raised by our Life Teammate Program, award a minimum of 25 Life Teammate Scholarships in 2023

Did We Achieve Our 2023 Goals

1) 2023 was the largest year ever for the Scholarship program at Will To Live with 35 scholarships awarded

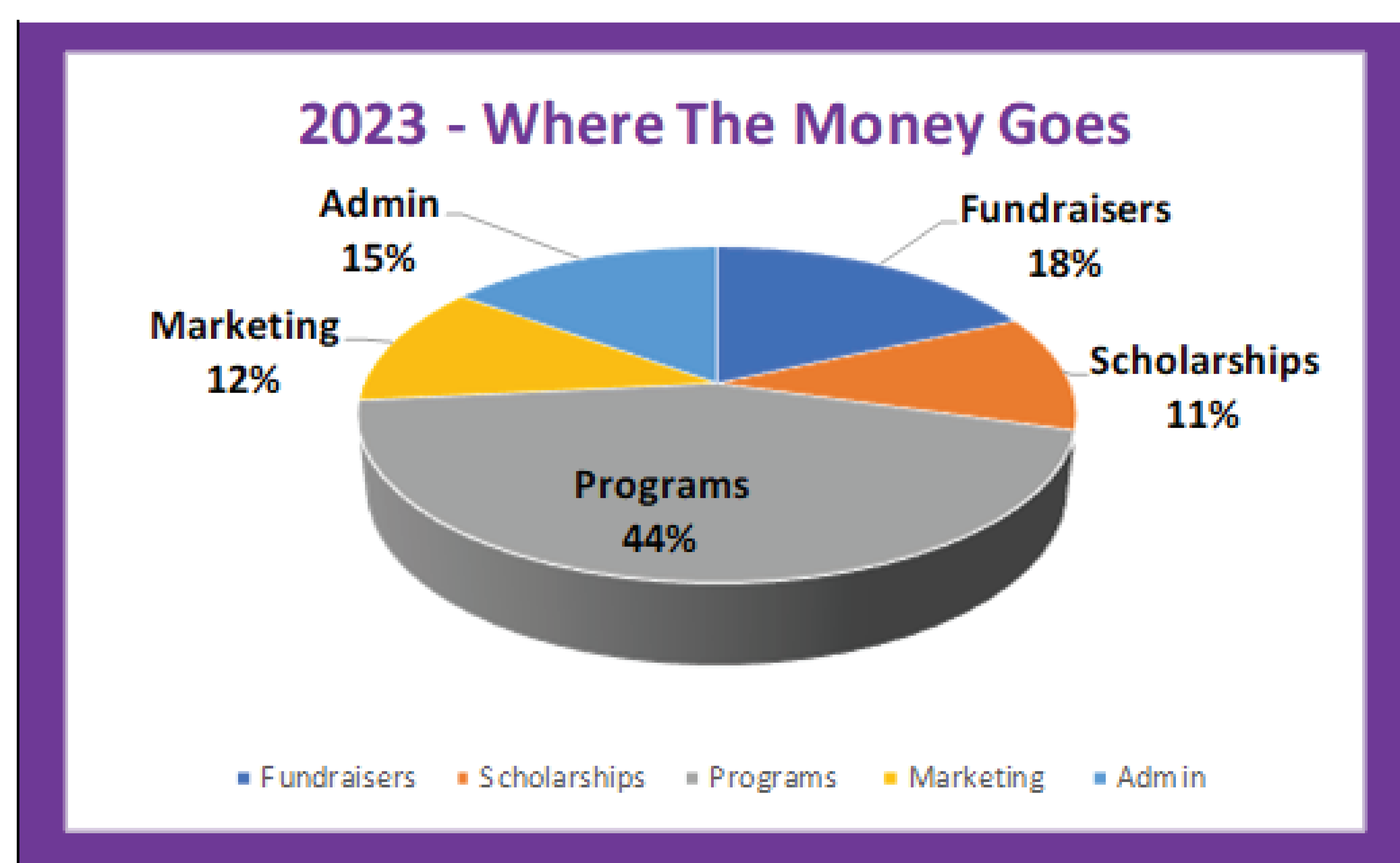
The Future:

What we love most about the foundation's message and the scholarship program, is that each year there is a new audience - and this will never change! As John Trautwein points out, "what I love most about the Life Teammate Scholarship Program is not the award or the award winner, it's about the fact that every student votes every year for what it means to be that "friend" that "Life Teammate" who motivates his friends and teammates, who is there for them and shows them love and understanding - and delivering hope!" Our message needs to be repeated every year, because life can be very hard, and sometimes you need a friend to help you through - be that friend"

Putting Your Donation \$\$ To Work!

The Will To Live Foundation, as a small non-profit public charity is committed to putting the generous donations of our supporters right back into our communities. Year after year, we achieve our goal of having 85%+ of the funds we spend go right into our programs that we have outlined in this document.

Our budget for 2024- our 14th year is committed to not only increasing the percentage of the annual spend that goes to the programs themselves but to dramatically increase our reach! Our message needs to be heard!



For more details on the Will To Live Financial information, please contact us at friends@will-to-live.org

