

4th Issue: Summer 2020

SWIM4 Elise

A POSITIVE WAVE OF CHANGE



The Foundation

Through the Swim4Elise Foundation, the Cerami Family works to honor their daughter Elise. As a 7-year competitive swimmer, Elise could swim a mile in under 20 minutes. Hence, drowning NEVER crossed their minds. At 13-years-old Elise was an incoming freshman named to her varsity high school swim team. Yet, on June 20, 2016, only 15 minutes into her club swim practice, Elise was pulled from the bottom of the pool by her teammates. She had been there for over 6 minutes. Sadly, no one saw Elise drown, as no one was actively scanning the water. Elise drowned 8 feet from an empty lifeguard stand.



#NotOneMoreDrowning

Families United

So that "Not One More" family has to experience the loss of a child due to drowning, Families United to Prevent Drowning share their child's tragedy. Elise's story joins the collection. View the collection at <https://www.familiesunitedtopreventdrowning.org/>

Drowning Problem

Each year in Texas, 80-100 children fatally drown in tubs, pools, lakes, ponds and oceans. As of Memorial Day, 30 children have already lost their lives to drowning. (23 male, 7 female.) Statistically, boys drown more often than girls.

Regardless if it's a public pool or a backyard pool, water watchers are critical to prevent drowning. Drowning is silent and quick. Hence, the American Red Cross requires its lifeguards to respond to a drowning victim within 30 seconds. The sooner a person is removed from the water and receives care, the greater the odds are at stopping the drowning process.

Resources

Teach children to get an adult before they get in the water. Watch children in all types of water, regardless of skill or age. Early recognition and recovery can stop the drowning process. **Learn more about water safety at www.Swim4Elise.com or follow us on Facebook @swim4Elise Make a donation to support our efforts at www.Swim4Elise.com/donate**

Water Safety Efforts

Some parents may worry that learning about water safety might be scary for little kids. Yet, avoiding these lessons, can be detrimental. Swim4Elise makes water safety fun. We share the Clifford "Takes a Swim" book along with the Cook Children's "Watch Me Around Water" message with thousands of children each summer in an effort to help them be smarter around water.

2020 Graduation

Along with the Cerami Family, House Rep. Giovanni Capriglione championed a bill that would allow grieving families access to their child's posthumous high school diploma. Governor Abbott signed this into law allowing Elise to be honored at graduation on May 29.

