



7th Issue: Summer 2023

# SWIM4 Elise

Elise loved swim meets with her swim friends.

A POSITIVE WAVE OF CHANGE

## The Foundation

The Swim4Elise Foundation works to honor the life of Elise Cerami by raising awareness of water safety. Elise had been a competitive swimmer for over 7 years, yet she fatally drowned 8 feet from an empty lifeguard chair during her club swim practice on June 20, 2016. No one saw Elise drown, as no one was actively scanning the water. A dedicated water watcher could have prevented her drowning.

As part of our awareness efforts, we share Elise's story in a relatable and meaningful way. Without a personal connection to the message, water safety may seem insignificant. Yet, it's absolutely applicable to anyone near water.



## Drowning Problem

In 2022, Texas lost 76 children to fatal drownings. Tarrant County lost 9. Five of those children were 2 years old. Two were teenagers. (TX Dept of Family Protective Services)

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages 1-4. It remains in the top 5 causes of accidental related death from birth to 54 years old. While younger children are more susceptible to accidents in tubs and pools, older children are at greater risk in open water. **Already before Memorial Day in 2023, Texas has reported 20 pediatric fatal drownings.**

## Elise Cerami Aquatic Center

In January of 2023, the Southlake Carroll Independent School Board unanimously voted to honor Elise Cerami (and the Cerami Family) by naming the Carroll Aquatic Center after Elise. The naming ceremony will be held at 4 PM on August 21 at the natatorium off of Southlake Blvd. The new name will be the Elise Cerami Aquatic Center. The naming honor acknowledges the tremendous amount of water safety work done on behalf of Elise. This also helps the foundation further our message in the community.

## Water Safety Efforts

Since 2017, the Swim4Elise Foundation has shared Elise's story with over 25,000 daycare-aged children. The primary focus of our water safety lessons are 1. Swimming Lessons and 2. Water Watchers. Together, this water safety partnership keeps the water safe and fun for everyone!

## 100 Lifeguards!!!

When we learned that Elise's teammates were the ones that pulled her from the pool, we wanted to empower swimmers with rescue and recovery skills. As of 2023, the Swim4Elise Foundation has awarded over 100 scholarships for competitive swimmers to earn their lifeguard certifications!



# Thank You Sponsors!



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