



8th Issue: Summer 2024

SWIM4 Elise

Elise (age 5) playing with swim toys in a pool. 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.

120+ Lifeguards!!!

As of 2024 the Swim4Elise Foundation has awarded over 120 scholarships for competitive swimmers to earn their lifeguard certifications!



Drowning Problem

As of April 23, 2024 Texas has lost 14 children to fatal drownings. 12 of these are ages 0-8. 8 were in pools, 2 in a bathtub, 1 in a pond, 1 in a horse trough. 2 of the 14 were ages 17 drowning in lakes. (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. Younger children are more susceptible to accidents in tubs and pools, older children are at greater risk in open water. **In 2023, TX lost 90 children to fatal drowning. Another 400-800 kids visited the ER for nonfatal drowning.**

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 was held on August 21, 2024 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 will help the foundation further its message of water safety in the community.

Water Safety Efforts

Since 2017, the Swim4Elise Foundation has shared Elise's story with over 30,000 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!

Arm Floaties Are TOYS

Similar to a pool float, arm floaties are filled with air. This means they are more like a pool toy than a life-saving device. Life jackets are made from foam/neoprene/nylon providing reliable buoyancy. Great for lakes where water is unforgiving.



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