

THE TRELLA TRIBUNE

WINTER 2020 | ISSUE II

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! This year has brought nothing but the unimaginable circumstances. For a bit of normalcy, we are proud to release the second issue of The Trella Tribune. While adapting to numerous cancelled events, we were still able to share our story and mission with numerous people. Thank you for your continued support of I Love You More / The Michael Trella Foundation.

As we continue our journey we welcome you to follow along a bit more closely and help us broaden our reach.



THE MICHAEL TRELLA FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

Our primary mission is to provide bereavement support to families who have lost a child. We provide financial assistance for funeral costs and other support as requested.

In addition, we encourage others by supporting various youth programs, post-secondary scholarships and families in need. Please join us as we celebrate Michael's life and kindness while raising money to show our love for others.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARK TRELLA
PRESIDENT

BILLY SCHERFEL
VICE PRESIDENT
CHARLEY KENNEDY
TREASURER

FRANK STERATORE
SECRETARY

DAN OTTO

MARIO PANUCCI

AMY WATKINS

ANDY YANOSICK

JOSEPH PICCARELLI
JR. BOARD MEMBER

KYLIE DOWNS
MARKETING DIRECTOR

LISA CATANZARITE
CHIEF EDITOR

CONTACT US

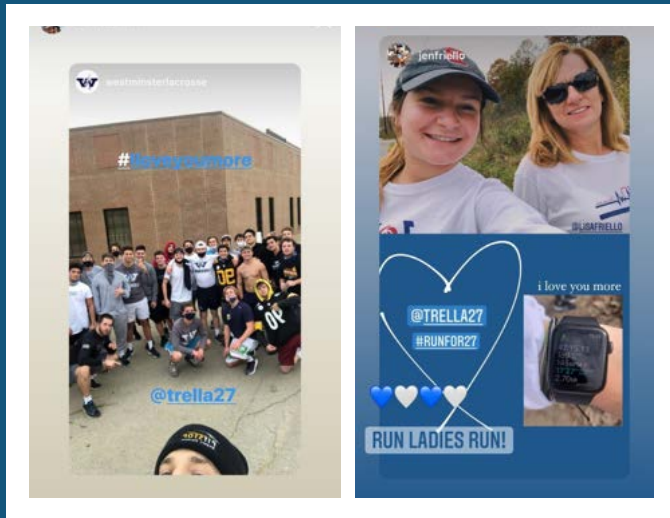
www.iloveyoumorefoundation.org

FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY





RUN FOR 27



October 27 was the four-year anniversary of Michael's passing. In addition, Michael's lacrosse jersey number was 27. The event's goal was to run, bike or walk 2.7 miles to support awareness of the Foundation. Many accomplished that goal, with some going above and beyond the nearly three-mile marker. However, Matt decided to take his personal ambition to an entirely different level, and ran an astounding 27 miles for the event. "I always have wanted to run a marathon," said Matt. "Because all of the in-person events were cancelled due to the pandemic, I thought this would be a great tribute to do it for my brother." Matt admits it became grueling nearly halfway through his run, but he was able to complete the daunting task in just over four hours. "I wasn't sure if I would finish, but my adrenaline made me power through it," said Matt. "I'm happy I could do it for Michael."

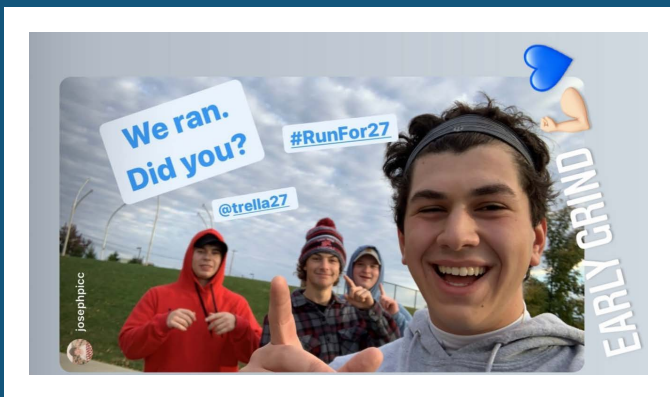
On Sunday, October 25, the I Love You More – Michael Trella Foundation hosted Run for 27—a fun and spirited virtual event for individuals, groups and families to run for a great cause. "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were looking for a way to promote the Foundation, and also to encourage people to get some fresh air," said oldest brother, Matt Trella. "It was a great opportunity to get people outdoors and staying healthy."



#2.7FOR27



Participants eagerly posted their mid-run and post-run photos and videos to Instagram. Runners joined from as far away as Virginia, Massachusetts, California, and Florida. Brother, Nick, who is second in the Trella lineup, enlisted his entire Westminster College men's lacrosse team to partake in the run. "I'm on the team with a great group of about 40 guys, and they were all in," said Nick. "One of our coaches even joined us, and we finished in about 23 minutes." Nick said there was great camaraderie among his teammates, and it was exciting to run around the entire campus as one.



Running reminds a person that even in your weakest moments, you are able to find strength. On behalf of the entire Foundation, a heartfelt thanks to all who participated, and to those who offered generous monetary gifts of support.

Michael's Angels

THE MICHAEL TRELLA FOUNDATION

Guitarists get it. They just do. They completely understand the power of music reaching a person's soul. Rhythm and blues great, B.B. King, always wanted to connect his guitar to his human emotions. Reggae artist, Bob Marley, believed that when music hits you, you feel no pain—and Eddie Van Halen said his guitar was a personal extension of who he was—both spiritually and emotionally.

Enter teenaged amateur guitarist, Christian Botwright, whose own passion for his instrument brought joy to his life, as he knew it. A 17-year-old Junior at West Allegheny High School, Christian enjoyed playing to the riffs of great bands like Metallica and AC/DC. His personal jam sessions were places where he could express himself freely, openly, and away from the stress of everyday, teenager life.

But Christian's stress was far from ordinary or superficial. First diagnosed at just six months old with Bilateral Retinoblastoma, Christian suffered through his teenaged years from Osteosarcoma, an aggressive cancer of the bone. It was a condition found by doctors when he was just 13 years old, as an eighth grader at West Allegheny Middle School. According to his mother, Shelly, "Christian remained strong throughout his entire diagnosis." Those who knew Christian would speak of how resoundingly positive he was.

"He maturely took control of his disease and made a point to have his doctors listen to him," according to Shelly. It was Christian's strong personality which kept him brave and optimistic throughout his shortened lifetime.

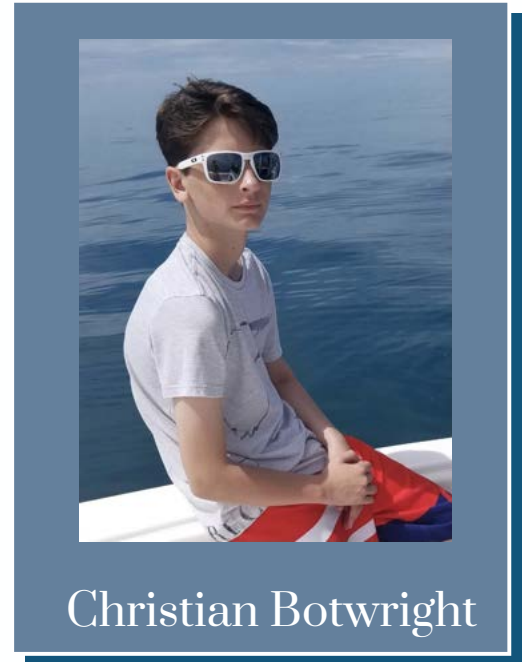
As to be expected, treatments were invasive and difficult. Rounds of chemotherapy weakened Christian's body, and his tibia was removed and replaced with a titanium rod.

He continued to battle through surgery after surgery to remove ongoing, growing tumors. According to Shelly, oncology specialists Dr. Michael Woolman of Children's Hospital and Dr. Kurt Weiss of Shadyside Hospital were dedicated to keeping Christian strong, happy, and enjoying his teenaged years as well as he could. Their professional relationship with her son was very compassionate and unequivocally encouraging at moments when they could be.

In addition to his mother, Christian lived with his father, Tom "Bud" Botwright, and his sister, Lauren. Lauren and Christian had a very tight bond as siblings, and their family was a unit tied together with their love and strength for one another. Christian also had unwavering support from a large group of friends who were important in his life.

"Christian had a contagious, hilarious personality," Shelly said. "His ever-persistent positivity spread throughout the school district and community."

On June 12, 2018, Christian Botwright passed away. Shelly reflected on how much support she had from the entire community. "The SNPJ Hall where we had Christian's wake was completely full. To see it at capacity made me realize how blessed we were to have so many caring people in Christian's life. He touched the lives of so many people he knew."



Christian Botwright

During Christian's passing, Shelly and Bud were put in contact with the I Love You More- Michael Trella Foundation through friends, Ken Brandy and Dan Otto. "The Foundation gave us some sense of relief during our loss of Christian,

Shelly said. "Of course, it couldn't make everything right, but it helped me to cope in my grief of losing Christian, knowing I had the support of the Foundation. We have an overwhelming appreciation of what they did for us."

It has been two years since Christian left the world—and while music doesn't fix problems, sometimes it provides an added sense of comfort. Shelly and Bud understand that, for it was Christian's guitar—and his passion for music—where he found his peace.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A Little Ditty 'Bout Frankie and Bailey

American Bandstand iconic host and radio personality, Dick Clark, once said, "The music of your youth stays with you throughout your lifetime." Often times, songs are reminiscent of particular moments gone by. But for Frankie and Bailey, music is all about the here-and-now.

Their story reads like a Rom-Com. Two friends who met in eighth grade, began dating in eleventh grade, and graduated from Moon Area High School in 2018. Frankie Steratore would go on to college at Kent State University, where he is in his junior year, pursuing a degree in construction Management.

Bailey Taylor would find a unique and different path. She decided to forgo college to pursue her dream of becoming a professional country singer, and moved to Nashville, Tennessee to chase it. Known by her stage name as "BayTay," Bailey started writing her own music at age 8, and was inspired by her late Uncle Bill, known professionally as B.E. Taylor. At age 16, Bailey started taking guitar lessons and got her first guitar.



Frankie was also intrigued by the guitar, and decided to buy one of his own. He taught himself how to play it, and became good at it. Very good. Today, these two almost 21-year-olds decided to give their music a shot together, and created the sounds of perfect harmony. Attendees at past "Derby Day" events for the I Love You More-Michael Trella Foundation got to hear first hand of the start of something big.



The Steratore family grew up a mere few doors down from the Trella family. "We were always really good friends with the Trellas, and I grew up playing with Nicky and Michael in the neighborhood," said Frankie. "When the Foundation started doing the Derby Day event, I wanted to help out in any way I could, so I volunteered Bailey and myself to be the entertainment."



While Frankie says he and Bailey casually play music together just for fun, he greatly admires her drive and determination in reaching her lifelong goal. At their high school graduation commencement ceremony, Bailey wrote and performed her song, "Last Four Years." She also has released an official music video, debuting the song. It can be seen on her website at baytaymusic.com.

A special thanks to Frankie and Bailey for their gifts of time and talent. They are inarguably the next generation of superstars in the years to come.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Sofa Kings, Rich Irr and Steve Thomas

No grand event is ever complete without the power of music. Its sole purpose is to set the mood, keep the mood, and enthusiastically bring people together. It's a big job—perhaps the most important job—but one these members of the band, the Sofa Kings, know exactly how to handle.

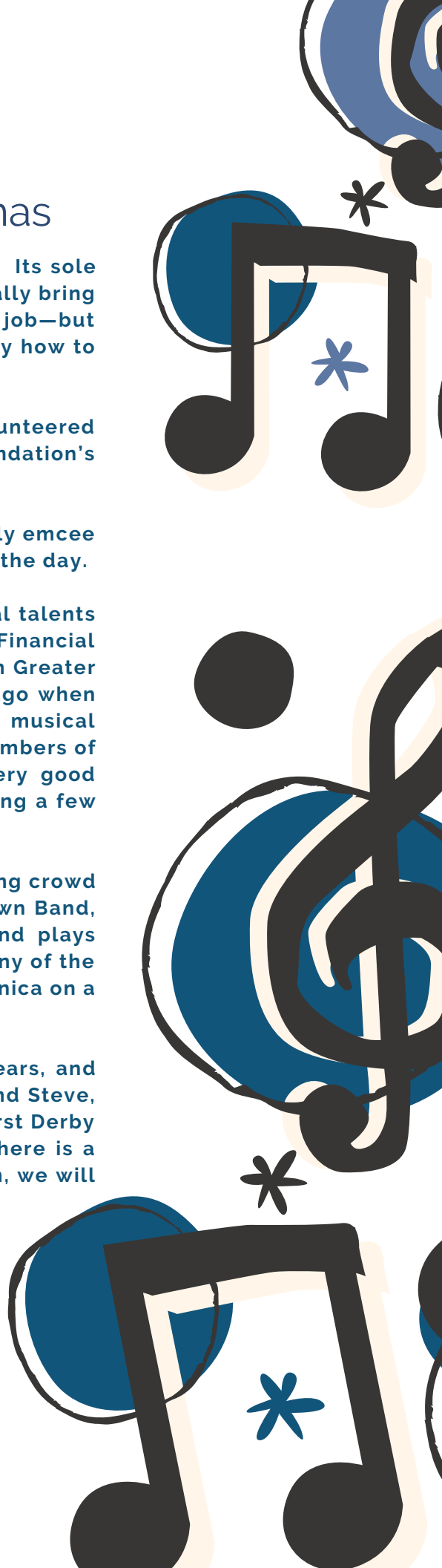
Over the past two years, Rich Irr and Steve Thomas have volunteered their talent as the day-long entertainment for the Foundation's annual Kentucky "Derby Day" event.

While the men played riffs in between horse races, they dually emcee the event and provide well-received comic relief throughout the day.

Both men are residents of Moon Township, and their personal talents stretch far. By day, Rich is a Financial Advisor at J Cubed Financial Advisory Group, Inc. and Steve is an Orthopedic Surgeon with Greater Pittsburgh Orthopedic Associates. Both men met ten years ago when their sons played baseball, and decided to pursue their musical hobbies further. "I was playing gigs with one of the other members of the Sofa Kings, and a friend told me that Steve was a very good singer," according to Rich. "I called him and asked him to sing a few songs with us and the Sofa Kings were born."

The band plays covers from just about any top group, including crowd favorites such as Bon Jovi, Hootie and the Blowfish, Zac Brown Band, Billy Joel and Fleetwood Mac. Steve sings lead vocals and plays guitar, while Rich plays guitar and provides harmonies on many of the songs. "We both play some percussion and I also play harmonica on a few songs," says Rich.

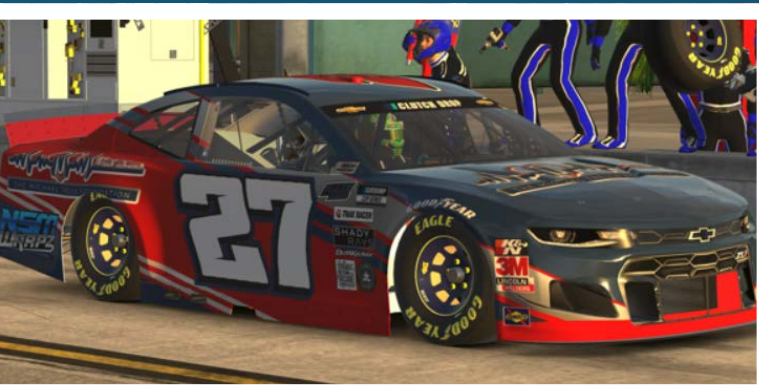
The men have come to know the Trella family over the years, and their sons are friends with one another. According to Rich and Steve, when Mark and Charley Kennedy asked them to play at the first Derby Day, they jumped at the opportunity to help. "As long as there is a Derby Day for the I Love You More-Michael Trella Foundation, we will be there."



REV YOUR ENGINES AND BRACE YOURSELVES!

THE FOUNDATION FINDS A NEED FOR iSPEED

The I Love You More-Michael Trella Foundation enthusiastically joins the iRacing community with a personalized racing car, thanks to family cousin, Bob Carroll, of Center Township. Bob, along with business partner Travis Dally, founded NeedSpeed Motorsports early in 2020. Both men have been avid racing fans most of their lives. Virtual racing (or iRacing) is the leading computerized sim racing game. It organizes, hosts and officiates online racing on virtual tracks all around the world, and gives NASCAR racing fans the chance to live out their dreams of racing, professionally. It is a true simulation down to the cars and tracks being laser scanned, realistic sound effects, and motion. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, many professional NASCAR drivers joined the iRacing platform, and participated in live races broadcasted on Fox Sports. Today, iRacing has grown exponentially, and membership has soared into the thousands.



According to Bob, "We compete in numerous broadcasted leagues with announcers and interviews, as well as having a handful of drivers live streamed from an 'in car' vantage point." Bob says his weeks consist of countless hours of tuning the cars, and adjusting them so they are as competitive as possible come race day. "The team has picked up eight sponsors and we will soon be able to start selling products, establish further corporate sponsorships, and pursue additional monetary avenues to assist with expenses."

Bob wanted a way to support his extended family, and the Foundation. "We have set up a special link on our team's website, so people can read about Michael's story and donate directly from our page to the Foundation." Bob is an advocate for finding ways to help others through his site. "We also are partnered with a non-profit group called Struggle Beyond the Decade, which helps veterans and their families who struggle physically, emotionally, and are troubled with suicidal tendencies. Because we have an opportunity to do some good in this world, we definitely want to play a part."

**For more information about the iRacing
community, please visit the following links
to get involved:**

www.needspeedmotorsports.com

<https://www.facebook.com/needspeedmotorsports>



A GIVING OPPORTUNITY DRIVEN BY THE AYMAN FAMILY

A Zeyn Ayman was a grade below Michael at Moon Area High School. He often hung out with Michael at football games, and played soccer with Michael's brother, Nicky. Zeyn and his family always participated in the fundraisers in the community for the I Love You More-Michael Trella Foundation. Recently, they found a way to proactively help the fundraising efforts of the Foundation through an initiative of their own.

When Zeyn's mother, Christine, a Program Manager at Google, became aware that she could set up a giving campaign through her company—helping the Foundation was the first thing that came to her mind.

"I reached out to Mark and he was immediately on board, and helped me complete all the necessary paperwork," said Christine.

According to Christine, Google employees have the opportunity to set up a campaign for a charity of their choice during the company's Giving Week, held in November. Google offers a generous charitable donation-matching program, and we can publicize our own campaigns within the company," said Christine.

"I created posters and brought in doughnuts for our employees, and placed them in our common areas."

Christine said she also emailed colleagues to promote her campaign for the Foundation. "A coworker helped me set up advertising for a few hours in our coffee shop, which was well received," said Christine.

"Many people came up to me to learn about Michael's story."

Christine's efforts were very kind-hearted, and her campaign is now registered with Benevity.org, a software company that powers corporate giving, volunteering and grant-making solutions for hundreds of Fortune 1000 companies from around the globe, including Google. "Being registered with Benevity means my campaign for Michael's foundation is always available for donations—not just from Google employees, but from any company that participates," said Christine. "I would encourage everyone to learn about their employer's charitable programs to see if they participate in Benevity or a donor-matching program of their own."

On behalf of the Foundation, special thanks to the Ayman family for their thoughtfulness, generosity, and above all, their friendship.



Need A Stocking Stuffer?



CHECK OUT "THE COOLEST HOLIDAY RAFFLE"

The Foundation is currently selling "The Coolest Holiday Raffle" tickets, which are based on the Pennsylvania lottery drawing on Monday, December 14. The price of a ticket is \$50. Each ticket contains four 3-digit numbers, and a straight number wins \$3,500. In addition, the winning ticket is also eligible for a double day drawing on December 15.

Proceeds benefit families in their child bereavement needs.

The Coolest Holiday Raffle	Name _____
	Address _____
	Phone _____
The Coolest Holiday Raffle Monday, December 14, 2020 Winner Based on PA Lottery 7:00 PM Drawing If one of your 3 digit numbers hit straight, you win the payout of \$3500. The winning ticket is now eligible for the double day on December 15th. If any of the four numbers on the December 14th winning ticket hits boxed on December 15th, 7:00 PM drawing, the winner on December 14th, will receive another \$3500.	
Donation: \$50.00	Proceeds Benefit:  <small>THE MICHAEL TRELLA FOUNDATION</small>
In appreciation for everyone's donation we are also giving out a 2020 ornament free to any who purchases a ticket.	

THOSE WHO PURCHASE A TICKET WILL RECEIVE A 2020 HOLIDAY ORNAMENT. TO PURCHASE A TICKET, PLEASE CONTACT MARK TRELLA AT (412) 297-6830.



AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping by going to smile.amazon.com, and then select the charity of your choice. Amazon will make a donation at no cost to you!

How to use AmazonSmile



Go to smile.amazon.com. Sign in with your Amazon.com username and password. (If you do not have an Amazon account, you may follow the prompts to register.)



On the homepage, go to "Accounts & Lists" and click "Your Amazon Smile."



In the charitable organization field, we ask that you type "I Love You More-Michael Trella Foundation" and select our cause.



Once you designate our charitable organization, donations will be made based on your purchases. Look for the AmazonSmile logo in the upper left hand corner to know a portion of your purchase will be donated.



Have the Amazon Shopping app? Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

"To date, the I Love You More-Michael Trella Foundation has received more than \$600 in donations from consumer purchases through the AmazonSmile program. We thank you for your continued support and thoughtfulness."

- Mark and Sue Ellen Trella