

# Miles For Matt Foundation



## The Sculpture to Celebrate Matt's Life Takes Shape.

Matt's story is one that should never have to be told. On a beautiful Monday evening, July 20, 2009, Matt put his Colnago into the back of his car and drove to Cedar Creek Park. He had been working many days, evenings, weekdays and weekends. Matt wanted to go out to enjoy the day with a bike ride. Matt chose the Wantagh State Bike Path because he did not want to contend with cars and trucks on the road. Although he thought he had made a wise choice, a drunk and drugged motorcyclist, traveling at speeds estimated to be between 85-100 mph, left the Wantagh State Parkway and struck him. Concerned citizens, police, EMS and fire fighters responded to the scene and Matt was airlifted to Nassau University Medical Center. He was too brutally injured to be saved. Matt, who had completed his freshman year at the University at Buffalo, had just turned 19. There were many dreams that will never be fulfilled.

In 2010 we closed the Wantagh Parkway for three hours to host a bike ride and dedicate the beginning of the promised guardrails on the 4.5 mile stretch, south of Merrick Road, protecting the Wantagh State Bike Path from the Wantagh State Parkway traffic. We were supported by our family, friends, neighbors, strangers and elected officials, who had committed to help us make the Wantagh State Bike Path a safer place for all who use. We were happy to have Governor David Paterson, Senator Charles Fuschillo, Assemblyman Dave McDonough, Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano, Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice, Legislator Dave Denenberg and Gina Russo, President of LiFun4Kids.com. One of the most special moments of that day was the presentation of a ghost bike from Matt's friends. Although we were hopeful that this symbol of Matt's last ride would be placed along the Wantagh State Bike Path, this plan was rejected by New York State authorities.

We began to work with Nassau County Park officials, who were helpful in expanding our vision of the tribute to Matt's last ride, incorporating a likeness of the rider. Our plan to enhance Cedar Creek Park with a sculpture and plantings is taking shape and with your help will be dedicated in the Fall of 2013.

*"Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength."*

-Mahatma Gandhi



Maquette of the Bronze Sculpture to be placed in Cedar Creek Park

Near the entrance to the Wantagh State Bike Path from Cedar Creek Park, where the Sculpture will be placed.



# Ways to Participate

*This sculpture will be dedicated to all who struggle and survive; to all who play hard, but do not always win, but still participate; to the indomitable spirit that is in each one of us. We salute all of you who strive every day, in the face of all odds. You are everyday heroes and there is nothing ordinary in that. Please join us in the celebration of life!*

## Recognition Level

Visionary Circle	\$10,000 and above
Believer Circle	\$ 5,000 to \$ 9,999
Champion Circle	\$ 2,500 to \$ 4,999
Leadership Circle	\$ 1,000 to \$ 2,499
Family & Friends Circle	\$ 500 to \$ 999

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## Make a Gift

YES! I'll help the Miles for Matt Foundation. I know that I am making a difference.

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift.**

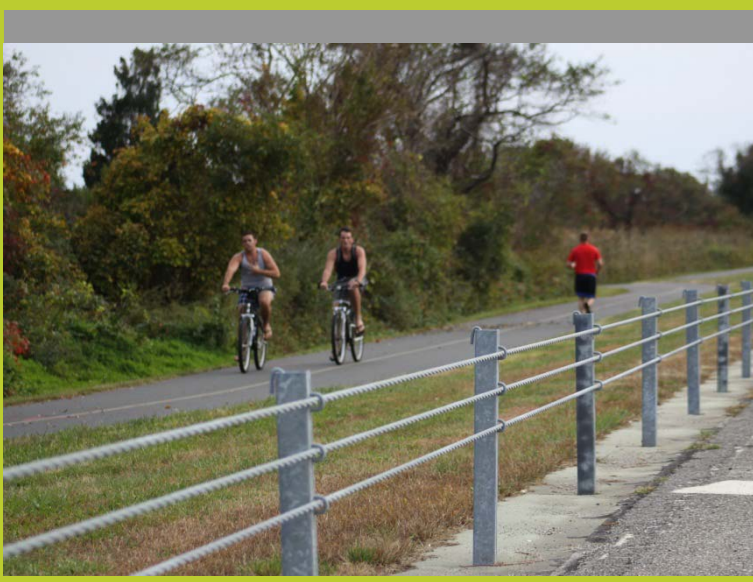
\$10,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

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Or, you may donate securely via credit card online at [www.miles4matt.org](http://www.miles4matt.org).



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Guardrails were not in place on July 20, 2009. Through collaboration with our Governor, State Senators and other elected officials and **“we the people”**, guardrails were installed in 2010.