



On July 28th, 2019, my 16 year old son, Thomas Ocasio III, lost his battle with depression and took his own life. There has been a tremendous amount of support from the community following the death of my son. He was a popular kid, an athlete, honor student, and had even been approved to graduate early in order to enlist in the US Army. Since his passing, many people have come to me and said, "I never thought it would be him." But mental illness and suicidal thoughts/behavior do not discriminate. It can happen to anyone. For that reason, and for my son, it has become my life's mission to change the face of suicide and break the stigma.

During his funeral service, the hashtag "LIVEFORTHOMAS" took hold and has become the slogan for suicide prevention and awareness in his honor. In order to continue to honor Thomas' memory, **a toy drive is being held and every toy collected will be donated to "The Bridge", the Cecil County Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Center, for their children's Christmas party and to provide a Christmas to the families they work with.** Thomas loved to celebrate Christmas, loved kids, and always talked about wanting to become a dad too.

## **Friday, November 15th-Friday, December 6th**

### **Drop Off Locations For New Unwrapped Toys:**

#### **North East**

Cuzinos

North East High School

Studio 13

#### **Elkton**

Armed Forces Recruiting Station (US ARMY)

Blue Iris Day Spa & Salon

Dr. Wyman Orthodontics

Union Hospital (in the cafeteria)

Walk-In Chiropractic

**For More Info: Contact Amy at [LIVEFORTHOMAS@gmail.com](mailto:LIVEFORTHOMAS@gmail.com)**

