



## For Immediate Release

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### **\$15,000 committed by Drennen's Dreams to support drowning prevention and youth development**

Centennial, Colo. (March 16, 2016) – The Drennen's Dreams Foundation is extremely proud to announce a \$15,000 commitment to support drowning prevention initiatives and to encourage the leaders of tomorrow made possible by the support of donors and sponsors in the local community. This financial commitment is a 25% increase over support given in 2014. The Drennen's Dreams Foundation, a stand-alone 501(c)3 non-profit, was created in 2014 and is a successor organization to the Drennen's Dreams fund at the Denver Foundation. The fund was founded in the fall of 2012 by Bill and Melissa O'Melia after the death of their son, Drennen Peter O'Melia, in a tragic drowning at a local community pool in June of 2010.

The foundation carried out its mission in 2015 by providing donations to non-profit organizations which were divided into two categories to match the mission of the organization: swimming pool safety and youth organizations that support the leaders of tomorrow. Organizations that received donations included: The American Red Cross, the National Drowning Prevention Alliance, Local Park and Recreation centers, Littleton Youth Sports; and the Littleton Public Schools Foundation. Funds to the LPS Foundation were designated for lifeguard training, a contribution to the Class of 2016 class gift at Arapahoe High School and other ongoing programs within the district. Drennen O'Melia would have been in his senior year at Arapahoe High School.

A major initiative in 2015-2016 is sharing Drennen's story with Lifeguarding staff and aquatics facilities managers. Word has spread quickly about Drennen's story, presentations delivered by Bill O'Melia, Drennen's father, and our common goal to make lifeguards lifesavers. Drennen's Dreams receives requests from parks and recreation departments and aquatics facilities throughout the state. To date, over one thousand Coloradoans have heard the presentation. This education is provided at no cost to local pools, country clubs and Denver metro area Park and Recreation centers. Details and available dates for scheduling can be found at [www.drennensdreams.org](http://www.drennensdreams.org).

"It is wonderful to be able to witness the Drennen's Dreams Foundation continue to execute on its core mission of increasing awareness around pool safety and drowning prevention," says Dave Hanna, board president of the Drennen's Dreams Foundation. "Though our partnerships and financial support of like-minded organizations, and especially our outreach efforts, we are making a difference in educating the community. We want everyone to share our belief that drowning *is* preventable. This is only possible by the incredible generosity of our supporters."

#### About the Drennen's Dreams Foundation

The Drennen's Dreams Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2014 and led by a 15-member Board of Directors. It is a successor organization to a donor advised fund

within the Denver Foundation created in 2012 by Bill and Melissa O'Melia to honor their son. The foundation's mission is to continue Drennen's legacy by promoting pool and water safety to prevent unnecessary deaths due to insufficient training of lifeguards, lack of necessary monitoring and medical equipment, and mismanagement of pool facilities; and by supporting initiatives that inspire well rounded individuals and the leaders of tomorrow. More information about the organization can be found at [www.drennensdreams.org](http://www.drennensdreams.org). Donations to Drennen's Dreams can be made through the Drennen's Dreams Foundation website at <http://drennensdreams.org/donations>.

#### About Splash Dash

The Splash Dash is a 5K run that begins and ends at Arapahoe High School and winds through the adjacent Southglenn subdivision. The third annual run in 2015 had over 500 runners. The June 5, 2016 race will be certified and timed, and we hope runners and walkers of all types will join us. For sponsorship and registration information, please visit [www.drennensdreams.org](http://www.drennensdreams.org) or contact Melissa O'Melia at [macomelia23@gmail.com](mailto:macomelia23@gmail.com) or 303-489-7440.

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