



## Erin's Purpose

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, my daughter, Erin, was 13 years old when she took her own life. When we went to the investigator's office to see what information he had found, I was shocked when he said, "After looking through her laptop, phone and social media, it appears that Erin suffered from Anxiety and Depression". I looked at the investigator and said, "That doesn't make sense, you can't see anxiety and depression". The day Erin died, we prayed that God would make something good come from this. Over the course of two months after Erin died by suicide, I had received multiple messages from kids and adults alike - they were struggling. Struggling with low self-esteem; struggling with depression, anxiety - asking me questions like "How do I get close to God?" I got messages like "I found a suicide note in my daughter's room, what do I do?" I realized why people were reaching out to me when one person said, "All I struggle with is paying bills but you have gone through hell and back and you are genuinely happy - what is it that you have that I don't have?" It was approximately 1:30am and I had spent the last hour on the phone with a mom who was driving to her son's house because he had called her and told her he was going to take his life. She was afraid to call an ambulance because she didn't want her son mad. She asked me to stay on the phone with her until she got there. I had no idea what she was going to find, and I paced back and forth through my house praying over this person who must be feeling so terribly low. Once she got there, he was ok. After some convincing, she did call the police. The next morning on my way to work, I had a talk with God. I said "Ok, I see what you're doing. We prayed for you to make something good come from Erin's death, and I see now how you are going to use me. I have no idea what your exact plan is but if this is what you're going to do then you need to help me be strong and you need to guide me because I have no idea what I'm doing." I then asked God - "If everyone has a purpose, then what was Erin's? Surely, Erin's Purpose in life wasn't to die by suicide." And God's response was this, "No, Erin's Purpose wasn't to take her own life but when she chose that path, I had to switch it up and now through you, **Erin's Purpose is to save lives.**" And I knew right then that it wasn't **just** about saving lives from suicide, but also helping people to live a life that God has meant for them - a life of peace, even (especially) in hard times. I believe that the first life Erin saved was mine. I am a true testimony to what God can do in a life, if only we allow Him.

We appreciate all of your support!