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**Contact: Mark Howell, Founder | 810.923.3757 | mhowell@fundalife.org**

**BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SURVIVOR RAISES $60,000+ FOR LOCAL NONPROFIT, FUND A LIFE**

***BHS Seniors Compete in 5th Annual Senior Survivor Event to Raise Funds for Local Charity, Fund a Life***

**Brighton, MI, July 1, 2019–** In Brighton High School’s 5th year holding the event, Senior Survivor was able to raise over $60,000 for local nonprofit, Fund A Life. Senior Survivor is hosted at Brighton High School the final week of school in May which coincides with the final week for seniors at the school, and consists of 8 teams of 2 BHS senior individuals teamed up in efforts of competing in challenges, fundraising, and events throughout the week. This year the NHS student lead Senior Survivor event chose to raise all funds for the charity Fund a Life, with a mission of emotionally and financially helping people facing major life-altering circumstances of all kinds, and awards personal grants directly to people when facing some of their darkest times and biggest hurdles. 100% of the nonprofit’s money is awarded to residents of Michigan, with a many of the recipients within the Livingston County area.

The event is lead not only by the NHS students, but by two selfless teachers who volunteer countless amounts of hours both in the preparation leading up to the week of events, and in all planning stages and execution of the week. Former BHS grads Sean Carney, now a Brighton Graphics teacher, and Kim Davis, now an AP Psych instructor, are not only deeply involved in numerous programs at the high school, but are the Senior Survivor staff leaders who make the entire event such a success.

“Brighton High School has created a tradition and culture of giving back to the community.  Senior Survivor, Pink Week, and a massive Food Drive are three events that the entire school community rally behind. National Honor Society is proud to have selected Fund A Life as our charity of choice for Senior Survivor, and raise as much money as possible for this amazing charity”, shared Sean Carney. Kim Davis added, “On the surface, it’s a week of sugary treats, fun activities, unusual happenings under the umbrella of raising money for a carefully selected charity.  Behind the scenes feels a lot like planning a 300+ person wedding.  I am able to witness seniors at their best, and see Brighton High School unified one final time during our senior's concluding months in public education.  In two weeks time, we become a family, we cry, we hug, we laugh.  The money raised by our students is imprinted with caring, selflessness, laughter, and love that we hope resonates and becomes transferable to the beneficiaries.

Each year the Senior Survivor effort grows and draws in more support from the community, families, and students that all rally behind one big week of hard work and fun in the name of supporting a cause. In addition to bringing a community together, which Brighton does very well across numerous efforts throughout the year, the entire event empowers the BHS senior leaders involved in planning the event to utilize skills that can be found in the most sophisticated of workplaces today, helping prepare many of them for their next journey after high school.

“Choosing to help with Senior Survivor and Fund a Life was the greatest decision I’ve made and I will forever be changed by it. Not only was I humbled by everyone who poured themselves into the cause, but I was able to help raise a huge amount of funds for a charity and founder I have such a special connection to. The planning and behind the scenes work started months before the event. Being forced out of your comfort zone to solicit businesses for sponsorships and donations was daunting and difficult. To have success with this you can’t fake interest, you actually had to be passionate about what you were promoting” shared Lindsay Hall, one of the key student leaders throughout the entire event.

By adopting a specific cause for the event that all the proceeds support, the students are able to deeply dive into the organization and really understand why the mission is so important to the community, and what needs it helps address. The students are able to form committees, organize tasks, build out a plan for the event, and see that plan through its execution. Giving back to the community and the selected organization is but one piece that the students are able to do through this event.

Nick Barr, a Senior Survivor competitor from the highest fundraising team this year (Team Orange), noted some of the great takeaways from being a part of such an impactful event. “Being a part of Senior Survivor was a very humbling and rewarding experience in many ways. The camaraderie and interaction with the other participants was amazing and having the opportunity to do something meaningful to closeout my senior year created memories beyond compare. It wasn’t about winning Senior Survivor, it was about helping others who are facing major life-altering circumstances. It was an honor to compete and raise money for Fund a Life.”

As the week wound to a close, and the staff and students packed up their belongings for the final time to exit the school, there was a somber feel that it all had ended. Working so hard towards one common goal for many months, combining all of that into one week’s effort, eating, sleeping, laughing, and crying together to raise funds has a way of uniting people of all ages, backgrounds, and lifestyles. Mark Howell, Founder of Fund a Life shared, “As I exited the building Friday morning for the final time in survivor week, I could not fight back the tears. Witnessing students, staff, and community members of all ages come together to support one united effort was an overwhelming experience, and one I will never forget. My life has been blessed many times over, and this whole experience has been one of the best I’ve been a part of. I will forever have a special place in my heart for each and every person involved in this amazing effort. I’ve always been a proud member of this community, but I have a whole new level of love for Brighton after this experience.”

Fund a Life (FAL) raises funds through various community events and campaigns, many championed by volunteers. FAL is a proud partner of the 2019 Brighton High School Senior Survivor campaign and will be hosting the 3rd Annual Fund a Life 5k and Yoga Event on July 13, 2019 at Brighton High School, which last year hosted over 300 participants and raised over $24,000.  Participants interested in upcoming events and ways to support can find more information at [www.fundalife.org](http://www.fundalife.org).

**Fund a Life NFP**

Fund a Life is a registered 501(c)(3) not for profit, established in April 2017. Fund a Life’s mission is to help individuals and families overcome emotional and financial obstacles caused by major life-altering circumstances, by any means possible. This broad mission enables the team to fulfill a wide array of needs that people encounter, regardless of what circumstance that has caused the need.