

**The Feeney Legacy Project: Turning Grief**

**into Action**

***By Victoria R. Crosby***

On April 15, 2022, Kathy Feeney

Armistead lost her son Feeney, whose

death might have been avoided had 911

been called and CPR been administered

immediately. During his thirty-three

years on this earth, Feeney embraced his

life and everyone who was a part of it.

Feeney’s trademark stance in pictures

was with arms flung wide open and an

exuberant grin on his face. He excelled

at playing baseball, was goofy, athletic,

a storyteller, and a writer, as well as

big-hearted and loyal. He loved his DAWGS and the Atlanta Braves with

boundless passion. A big dude, Feeney’s booming laugh filled the room.

He pushed boundaries and lived on the edge. Again, Feeney might have

had a second chance at life if 911 had been called immediately, followed

by CPR when he collapsed from cardiac arrest.

Kathy founded the Feeney Legacy Project (FLP) in memory of her

son. FLP advocates for the public to take immediate action to call 911

and administer CPR for anyone in medical distress. This mother is

turning grief into action.

The Feeney Legacy Project is a group of determined women – sisters,

family, and friends aged 13 to 85 – bound by their mutual love of Feeney

and Kathy, each motivated to ensure the FLP mission is spread to ALL.

The FLP aims to advocate for the life-saving actions of calling 911 and

administering CPR so that another may not experience the tragic loss of

a child, a family member, or a friend.

The mission of the Feeney Legacy Project:

• ADVOCATE for the immediate calling of 911 and administering

CPR to one in medical distress

• EDUCATE about the protection provided by the Good Samaritan and

911 Amnesty Laws to one who acts to save a life. CALL 911…BE

SOMEONE’S SECOND CHANCE.

The goal of FLP is to educate teens and adults about the laws in

Georgia so that they may not fear repercussions if they call 911. Some

may be reluctant to call 911 in an emergency where there are drugs or

alcohol involved out of fear: fear of arrest; fear of trouble with parents,

partners, or peers; fear of school suspension; fear of financial impact;

fear of employer; and fear that they do not know how to administer CPR.

Armistead said, “If 911 is not called immediately and CPR isn’t

started immediately when someone goes into cardiac arrest, the lack

of oxygen to the brain will cause permanent damage in as little as four

minutes. In another four to six minutes, without the brain receiving

blood, will result in increased brain damage, coma, and death.”

When 911 is called immediately, the dispatcher will give the

caller instructions on CPR. The Good

Samaritan Law protects anyone from

civil litigation “who in good faith renders

emergency care at the scene of an

accident or emergency to the victim

or victims thereof without making any

charge.”

Armistead’s heartfelt wish is to spare

other parents from losing a child in the

way she lost her own. “We must ensure

that everyone understands the urgency

in calling 911 and administering CPR

to try to save a life,” she said, “and that

these lifesaving attempts are legally

protected – Life over Law. This message

takes on even more urgency in the

face of the fentanyl crisis, but kids and

adults need to understand that alcohol,

cocaine, and other drugs can cause

cardiac arrest.

“Don’t walk away from a friend in distress,” she continued. “Act. Be

someone’s second chance. FLPers need you to help build a stronger

community by teaching those in your life the importance of calling 911,

to be sure CPR is in everyone’s toolbox, and reminding all about Life

over Law.”

As Armistead says, “Let’s save lives.” Become part of the Feeney

Legacy Project – passion, talent, skills, and wanting to make a difference

for our community is all it takes.

*More information at https://www.feeneylegacyproject.org/*