



Board Member Profile: Matt Goldstick

Matt Goldstick is the newest member of the Links Board, recruited by Emily Hutter. Matt joined the Board to get involved with a non-profit that had a direct effect on his community. Growing up in Deerfield, he said that he was unaware of Links' services and knew many people that could have benefitted from them.

A Deerfield High School grad, Matt graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Illinois in Champaign. He later received a master's degree in accountancy from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. He currently resides in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood.

Matt worked as an auditor in public accounting for Ernst & Young for the first three and a half years out of college. He worked as a caddy and a valet parker while in high school, and moved on to employment as a real estate leasing agent and bar manager while in college. He showed off his bar talents when he volunteered at Links' 2010 spring fundraiser as a bartender – before he even joined the Board!

Matt currently works for Cornerstone Restaurant Group (CRG) as a consultant. CRG owns the Michael Jordan restaurant brand, including *one sixtyblue* in Chicago. In addition, he's a CrossFit trainer at Atlas CrossFit, a gym located in River North in Chicago. He combines work and pleasure at the gym, saying that exercise is his favorite way to relax: "I am an avid CrossFitter and although the workouts can be very intense and demanding, I love how I feel afterwards and it definitely helps clear my head." He also loves to ski in the winters in Colorado and play softball in Chicago in the summers.

Matt enjoyed early success in fundraising while a sophomore at U of I. He founded Tag Days Champaign to benefit The Les Turner ALS (aka Lou Gehrig's Disease) Foundation in April 2006. Tag Days had existed on the North Shore and the surrounding Chicago metropolitan communities but it was not being held in Champaign. Thanks to Matt's initial organization, the appeal has raised over \$10,000 since its inception in Champaign.

Since joining the Board, he and Emily Hutter created a mini-fundraiser called Lunges for Links, which challenged participants to perform timed walking lunges to raise money for Links. The event was held at Howard Orloff Imports in Chicago. Matt added, "Over 60 people attended, and we raised over \$2,000! We plan to make this an annual event and turn it into an even bigger success next year."

Matt concluded, "I think it's important that people in the community, especially young people in high school and above, know what Links is and how it can help their lives or their friends' lives. I hope that I can not only help spread the word about the great things Links does for the community, but also offer good insight based on my financial and fundraising background."