*Giving back while launching a career*

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Individuals with diverse skills and passions not only make for a strong organization, but can also benefit the community. Joining the right organization can help you fulfill your passion to help others and make a difference. This is the story of Adam, someone who was able to balance his desire to help people with disabilities all while launching a career at PwC.

For as long as Adam could remember, celebrating the abilities of all individuals had

been an integral part of his life. During his freshman year at Miami University, he became a member of Pi Kappa Phi, a social fraternity that is dedicated to serving others through Push America. Push America organizes cycling and construction events that raise money and awareness for people with disabilities. Through service leadership, the members of Pi Kappa Phi are able to experience firsthand the amazing contributions people with disabilities have made in our communities rather than focusing on what they cannot do.

Adam participated in local events with partner organizations and eventually served as an executive officer on their council. While he was gaining valuable leadership experiences with Pi Kappa Phi through Push America, Adam continued to pursue a degree in accounting and actively interviewed for summer internships. Adam received an offer to intern with PwC in the Cincinnati Tax office the summer before his last year at Miami University. He was excited for the opportunity to work at PwC; however, he also had a great opportunity to increase his participation with Push America by participating that same summer in the Journey of Hope a cross-country cycling event to raise money and awareness on behalf of individuals with disabilities. He was faced with the difficult choice of participating in a significant fundraising event for the organization he had grown to love, or accept the important internship offer he had received. After thinking it over for several days and asking his mentors, Adam decided to talk to the lead tax partner about his decision to participate in the event instead of the internship at PwC. In his own words, Adam “couldn’t have been more surprised with the results of the conversation,” when the firm supported his decision to participate in the Journey of Hope.

Adam’s year was filled with training and raising money for the event. He received support from people at PwC, both through monetary donations and encouragement. The Journey of Hope took place that summer, where he cycled an average of 80 miles each day and more importantly, helped serve individuals with disabilities in each community. He volunteered at pool parties, game nights, dances and other activities with local organizations in 13 states and more than 50 cities. He was able to help support the growth and development of individuals with disabilities during this long journey. He sent updates to the Cincinnati PwC office throughout his ride and received many letters of encouragement.

Adam’s involvement with Push America and the firm’s support didn’t stop there. After accepting a full time offer with the firm, Adam delayed his start date with PwC until October so he could participate in Build America, another Push America project. Adam worked as the Project Manager, leading a team of 19 people on a travelling construction project. In six weeks, they visited six different summer camps that serve individuals with disabilities, awarded grants, and built accessible amenities so campers could experience a typical summer camp experience.

Adam says, “Without the generous support of individuals at PwC, I would not have been able to participate in each of these events. It is directly because of its support and encouragement that I have been able to raise over $20,000, ride my bike countless miles and, most importantly, make a difference in the lives of others. I cannot even begin to tell the stories of the all the amazing individuals I met while travelling with Push America. There are campers and people I’m still in touch with today who have had a tremendous impact on my life. This story is still just beginning, and while I do not have any formal plans to participate in another event in the near future, I am able to advise the Miami University Pi Kappa Phi chapter and continue to spread the message of the abilities of all people.”

PwC acknowledges the importance of giving back in their communities and supports its employees in following their passions in community service efforts. Adam’s story is just one example of many that shows how individuals at PwC make a difference in their local communities. PwC has an emphasis on disability sensitivity and awareness as part of its diversity and inclusion efforts. Learn more how PwC supports individuals with disabilities.

PwC is also committed to helping employees make a difference in their local communities through it’s Earn Your Future campaign that will reach more than 2.5 million students and educators in the United States over the next five years. Learn more about Corporate Responsibilities.