



Dan
Griffin

Contact Information for Dan Griffin:

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Are you currently a member/involved with other non-profit organizations? If Yes, please list them below:

- No,

What volunteer experience do you have?

- My most recent job was with the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. Prior to working for them, I volunteered for the organization for one year. I co-hosted a fundraising event in Washington, DC, for young professionals, wrote blog posts for the website, and reviewed grant applications for the Foundation's Quality of Life Grants Program. As an individual living with paralysis due to a 2005 car accident, I volunteered as a guest speaker at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Illinois District 214 high schools for three years. These speaking opportunities and Q&A sessions centered on adjusting to life's challenges, promoting healthy and active lifestyles, and empowering individuals to be advocates for the issues directly affected their lives. While an undergrad at Illinois State University, I served as President of the Kappa Alpha chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity for two years. Leading an 80-man chapter, I headed the executive board, ran weekly meetings, set up community service events, communicated with the international headquarters, and oversaw a \$150,000 budget. I have also volunteered in different capacities during the 2008 and 2012 Presidential Elections. As someone with an interest in politics, as well as professional experience in the area, I plan to continue volunteering during future election cycles.

What contributions would you make as an Associate Board Member for Dreams for Kids?

- I have a passion for helping younger, diverse, and underserved populations and I am open to hearing the different areas Dreams for Kids can benefit from assistance. When thinking about my professional background, I am currently ready to help in a few areas: With experience coordinating travel operations for Vice President Joe Biden at the White House, I am confident in my abilities to manage fast paced program needs and meet objectives. I look forward to collaborating on event planning and other activities. My experience on the Obama for America campaign, where I co-managed over a hundred volunteers in addition to directing a staff of ten, provided me great insight into successful teamwork and empowering others. I hope to learn from, and with, other Associate Board members at Dreams for Kids. If given the chance, I also look forward to leveraging speaking and writing opportunities that advance community efforts and other Dreams for Kids priorities. I am happy to provide my resume and provide further professional/personal background, as needed.

Why are you interested in serving as a member for the Dreams for Kids Associate Board?

- I want to be involved in causes I believe in, as well as an organization dedicated to helping others. Particularly, I have always been interested in increasing opportunities for those who are too often forgotten when tough decisions are being made. It was this desire that motivated me to join the early days of Barack Obama's long shot Presidential campaign, initially as a volunteer, and then eventually where I became Operations-Communications Manager. It's why I went to college to be a teacher and later worked as Confidential Assistant to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in Washington, D.C. And it lead me to the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation with a strong desire to improve quality of life and advance cures for individuals living with paralysis. I grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and spent the first 24 years of my life around the city. The majority of my family and friends remain there and I return home often. I'd take great pride in using my volunteer efforts to benefit a place I call home.