

HIGHLIGHT

CHECKING IN

UPDATE

Better Connections  
Better Community

SPOTLIGHT

CELEBRATE

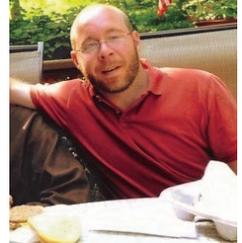
SOCIAL MEDIA LAB

THANK YOU!

SOCIAL  
CONNECTIONS

## Highlight: Sam Jones

My involvement with TotalLink began last summer when I helped out on the technology side of things for the Sip & Celebrate fundraising event. Since then I have become increasingly more involved with TotalLink, offering general tech support, participating in Community Action Team meetings, joining in TL2C social events, and volunteering for fun things like Treats 4 Paws sales events, to name a few. In January of this year I joined TL2C's Media and Technology Committee, and have since been excited to help out with TL2C seasonal newsletters, social media pages, the TL2C website, and other projects. In May TL2C sponsored me to take an IAMBIC PATH Facilitator training course, and I am very excited about continuing to practice and develop these skills. I work as a Systems Support Specialist for Northern Suburban Special Education District. I enjoy co-facilitating the Glenview Next Chapter Book Club on Sunday nights, spending time with friends and family, biking, traveling, camping, soccer, movies, and telling really awful jokes to anyone who might listen. *Written by Sam Jones*



## Checking In: SPACE: Peter ten Brink



Peter began his position at SPACE of Evanston in October, 2013. After discovery of Peter's interests and strengths, SPACE soon became the perfect environment for him to succeed and grow. SPACE is a concert venue for traveling musicians throughout the country, to display their talents and sound. Peter has tremendous passion for music, concentrating on Country and its history. He began this position working for two hours one day per week. His hours have now doubled to two days per week, equaling four total hours. Peter's professional relationships and natural supports have been amazing, allowing for great independence and the separation of his Job Coach. He has demonstrated true joy in his routine and continues to build each session. Often Peter has been told by his employer, Jake, that he "wishes he had more employees that share the same passion and drive for the goals and success of SPACE." Matt, a bartender and co-worker of Peter's, explains, "Peter has been an absolute joy to have

around, consistently making our jobs easier and bringing a new enthusiasm to our team." Peter's current workload include chair and table set-up, filling ice for the bar, assisting musicians with equipment, waste-management, inventory assistance, and several other essential tasks. His two favorite work tasks are lighting the candles and washing the chairs and tables. SPACE has become a great professional family for Peter, promoting his interests, passions, and his overall success. I would like to extend a special thank you to SPACE and its employees, as well as congrats to Peter on completing his eighth month on-site! *Written by Chris Lucente*

## Update: SNAP diagnostics: Matthew Maltz

Matthew Maltz joined SNAP in October 2013. He started out working 12 hours per week, quickly increasing his hours to 30. He works in the Production Area with his co-worker, Elliot, assembling brochures for prospective patients. Matthew has many other tasks, as well, including assembling sleep apnea kits and formatting analysis disks. Matt also does some filing for his supervisor, Kim. Matthew enjoys knowing what is expected of him at SNAP. When asked, "What is your favorite part of working at SNAP?" he happily replies, "the pace!" Join us in celebrating the productive, successful partnership between Snap Diagnostics and Matthew Maltz.

SNAP Diagnostics is a privately-owned company dedicated to improving the diagnosis of sleep-related breathing disorders, most commonly known as sleep apnea. SNAP is located in Wheeling, IL.

## Better Connections. Better Community.

TotalLink is proud to be moving into Phase 2 of the Everyone Works! Project with new funding from the Illinois Department of Rehab Services under the state's Balancing Incentive Program (BIP). This funding will provide an evidence-based approach to employment through a model combining best practices in Customized Employment from Griffin and Hammis with Individual Placement and Support (IPS) from Dartmouth University, using a fidelity scale for measuring outcomes. TotalLink has employed 3 additional Employment Specialists to begin working with clients immediately. Job Seekers can email Dr. Janice Weinstein at [JWeinstein@TotalLink2.org](mailto:JWeinstein@TotalLink2.org) to inquire about services.

TotalLink2 Community's vision is to realize a fully-inclusive community that values, accepts, and respects the abilities, talents, and rights of each and every person.



TotalLink2 Community is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.



## TL2C Spotlight: Treats 4 Paws



Let's celebrate the young adults who made possible the *Treats 4 Paws For the Love of Dogs* dog treats. Sarah Weinstein, Julie Halfen, Daniel Raviv, Daniel Eichengreen, Chris Pullman, Rachel Lipke and Marice Aiston came together for an eight-week micro-enterprise lab to invent and market a small business from the ground up. They learned and worked on such skills as Marketing, Testing, and the actual selling of their product. This summer they have had community sales at Uncle Dan's in Highland Park, Starbucks in downtown Northbrook, and at Egg Harbor Café in The Glen, and are always open to suggestions for future sale locations. The Treats 4 Paws members have all shown outstanding leadership skills, and they make a really wonderful team. *Written by Kaedi Young & Marice Aiston*

## Social Connections Group

- In May the group met at Whole Foods Northbrook for **Smoothie Tasting & Painting**, where we had a great time learning about the nutritional value of fruits and vegetables while mixing smoothies of our choice. We went on a tour of the store and learned how each department functions, and we made a group painting for the TL2C office. Thank you, Whole Foods!
- In June we gathered at the Northbrook Village Green for **Music in the Park**. We listened White Saddle play while eating, dancing, and catching up with each other. Thankfully the rain held off until 8:30, when we were ready to go.
- **Highwood's Evening Market** was an intimate yet lively group for our July Social Connection. We met at the Market to find good eats, music and crafts and lot of laughs. No Farmers at this Market!



## Celebrating Brian Martin!



Brian Martin had a year of many accomplishments. He completed his Associates Degree in Applied Science in Library Technology at the College of Lake County, graduating this past May. Brian completed a practicum in his spring semester in Northbrook at the Board of Jewish Education's Marshall Jewish Learning Center Library. He worked Monday through Wednesday mornings, and reported to Librarian Marcie Eskin. His responsibilities included checking books in and out, cataloguing books, reorganizing the books in the library, sending out past-due reports, and he also replenished curriculum boxes. Besides working at the Library, Brian also continued promoting his Microenterprise, Hard-backYoYo, and had an opportunity to speak to his peers at the Autism Speaks 2 Young Professionals at their Illuminate event in downtown Chicago. Good luck with your future endeavors, Brian!

## Social Media Lab

Social Media Lab, TL2C's latest workshop, helped our young adults "get their geek-on" and join in the conversation about social media. The lab introduced various social media sites and enabled the young adults to better connect and celebrate their strengths as in-the-know social beings. The workshop incorporated defining social media jargon, features and responsible use across all platforms. Each young adult brought her or his preferred technology, ranging from smartphones to laptops and tablets. Together the students learned how to safely post, pin, follow, create and explore interests and to communicate via social media with family, friends and peers. 'Like' the Social Media Lab on [Facebook](#) and check out our Lab on learning how to navigate the world of social media!



## Win:Win — Mini Man Monkey Brains: A Fresh Approach to Job Development

Anyone can tell you that their very first job was one of the hardest parts of their young life; this is even more true for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The opportunities for work training and employment are very hard to come by. Fortunately the team at Mini Man Monkey Brains has made a commitment to provide hands on work experiences that help people with ASD take their first steps towards independence in the working world. Mini Man Monkey Brains is a new establishment in the heart of downtown Skokie that has plans to help people with disabilities get their first job, without all the usual distractions. A few weeks ago, I decided to find this small candy store and talk with some of the staff about what its like to work there. Inside the store, it's very quiet and inviting, which is important since people with disabilities like ADD/ADHD can be easily distracted in louder environments. The store has only been open for a little over a month now, but the Skokie community has embraced the idea behind the store. During my visit I was able to speak with one of the volunteer store managers. These volunteers are mentoring young adults with autism spectrum as they practice and learn to perform tasks in a real retail environment. The volunteer I spoke to said one of Mini Man's goals is to eventually have people with different developmental disabilities work behind the counter. Mini Man Monkey Brains is located at 5047 Warren Street in Skokie. If you're ever in the area, please check them out and tell them TotalLink sent you.

*Sam Becker is a freelance writer specializing in video games and the video game industry. You can check out his blog at: [www.graysreviews.blogspot.com](http://www.graysreviews.blogspot.com)*

## Thank You! Fields Auto Group Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who voted for TotalLink in the "Recommend-A-Charity" campaign run by Fields Auto Group. We are among the group selected, so please stay tuned!

<http://www.fieldsauto.com/charity.htm>