

Your Town

search GO

[< Back to front page](#)

Text size

ALLSTON BRIGHTON, CHARLESTOWN, DORCHESTER, MATTAPAN, ROSLINDALE, ROXBURY, SOUTH BOSTO

New initiative aims to connect young Hub professionals, aid youths

Posted by Matt Rocheleau August 24, 2011 01:00 PM

[Print](#) | [Comments \(\)](#)

By **Matt Rocheleau**, Town Correspondent

Earlier this summer, former college roommates Tyler Wakstein and Ryan Barry began to ponder a solution to two challenges: ensuring that their far-flung friends had a way to reunite and finding a way to give back to young people.

So Wakstein and Barry, both marketing professionals in their mid-20s, recently formed a Brighton-based philanthropic effort that connects, or reconnects, Boston-area young professionals with peers at periodic events that simultaneously raise money to aid local youths.

The initiative, "[Doing it 4 the KIDS](#)," which is in the midst of applying for nonprofit status, has secured a partnership that will give all of its net proceeds to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, which serves around 14,000 youth aged 6 to 18 across nine clubs within Boston and another in Chelsea.

Both 25-year-old Wakstein, who is from Framingham, and 24-year-old Barry, from Cumberland, R.I., grew up regularly attending Boys and Girls Clubs.

"I think there's a lot of other young people like me – once they start making money and finding their place in the world – who want to give back, but don't know how exactly to do it," Wakstein said.

He donates to charities including Children's Hospital Boston, the Jimmy Fund and the American Cancer Society, but Wakstein said he'd rather do more than just write a check.

Preferably, he said, "I would want to take part in a fun, social or friendly-but-competitive event for a good cause." And, he said he believes many of his peers feel the same.

To help plan and host its charitable events, the initiative has partnered with [Social Boston Sports](#), a four-year-old company that organizes sports leagues, social events, and weekend trips in and around Boston.

Doing it 4 the KIDS will launch at its inaugural event, a [golf tournament](#) with quirky contests such as the "Happy Gilmore Shot" – who can hit the longest drive using a hockey stick. The tournament will be held Sunday at the [Sandwich Hollows Golf Club](#), where Wakstein first brainstormed the idea for the organization during a round of golf in June.

Event sponsors include some well-recognized area organizations: Modell's Sporting Goods, Narragansett Brewing Company, The Boston Red Sox, and

ADVERTISEMENT

ALLSTON-BRIGHTON REAL ESTATE

86
Homes
for sale

160
Rentals
available

6
Open
houses this
week

0
New listings
this week

ADVERTISEMENT



Waiting for Twitter to feed in the latest...

[Follow other Boston.com Tweets](#) | [What is Twitter?](#)

Kiss 108 FM, organizers said.

"From the moment Tyler and I had an idea of what we wanted to create, we knew we could engage the right partner, but even we didn't anticipate the incredibly generous and immediate support we received from sponsors that have donated resources to make this event a success," Barry said in a release from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston.

The program is run by a staff of six volunteers, including Wakstein and Barry, who each graduated from Johnson and Wales University in Providence and now work full-time jobs in the Boston area alongside their roles as Doing it 4 the KIDS co-founders.

"It's something that's catchy, fun and important," Wakstein said. "It's really investing in our future."

"We kind of take a big brother mentality," he added. "We realized that we want kids to have these same opportunities to be active and successful that we've had. The idea that we can change a young person's life for the better is what inspires us."

The initiative hopes to eventually expand into a program that provides coaching clinics, mentorship programs, and experiential opportunities to Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston members. And, Wakstein said he envisions the organization will expand to other markets across the country.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau mattrochele@gmail.com.



[◀ Previous entry](#)

[Next entry ▶](#)