

## **CHASE JONES BIO**

Walter “Chase” Jones was born and raised in Carrollton, Georgia – a place he fondly refers to as the “City of Dreams.” Chase graduated from Carrollton High School in 2003 and went on to attend the University of Georgia, where he graduated with honors and received a Bachelors degree in International Affairs.

In January of 2008 he entered the Georgia political arena as Representative Bob Smith’s Legislative Aide, before going on to manage campaigns in Henry and Polk County. Chase joined the Capitol staff permanently in November of that year in the House Budget Office, where he was tasked with managing the Human Services Budget. He worked as a budget analyst for three years until taking a position with the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, where he currently serves as their Government Affairs and Project Manager.

In his spare time, Chase enjoys anything that allows him to meet and interact with other people. Those who know Chase will tell you that his passion in life is being around people. He is the epitome of a social butterfly and has never met a stranger. His hobbies include all things outdoors - playing golf, fishing, water sports, and camping. He also dabbles in wood working, rock climbing and intramural sports like dodge ball and soccer.

On Friday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chase suffered a spinal cord injury as a result of diving into an unfamiliar pool. From what we can determine, he did not realize the pool was shallow, struck his head on the bottom and was knocked unconscious. Fortunately, his distressed state was noticed almost immediately by someone else at the party who jumped into the pool and pulled him to safety. The owner of the home/pool is a former Army Medic and was able to perform CPR on the spot - which surely saved Chase's life. Paramedics arrived within minutes and transported him to Grady Hospital where it was determined that he had broken the fourth and fifth vertebrae in his neck and cracked the sixth. His family was cautioned that there was a possibility of paralysis from the sternum down.

Chase spent 6 days in the ICU of Grady before being transferred to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. His injury is currently classified as an incomplete C-5, which means he has limited mobility down to his wrists. Chase is able to move his arms up and down and shrug his shoulders, and has shown great resolve in learning to do more things for himself. Doctors have cautioned that it is still too soon to determine what the future holds for Chase’s future mobility, noting that his body will continue to recover over the next two years. He will remain at the Shepherd Center until November 14<sup>th</sup> for in-patient therapy and may need full time care throughout the remainder of his recovery.

Chase is admired by his friends for his compassion and outgoing nature. It is the hope of his family and friends that proper treatment will lead Chase back to doing all the things he loves.