



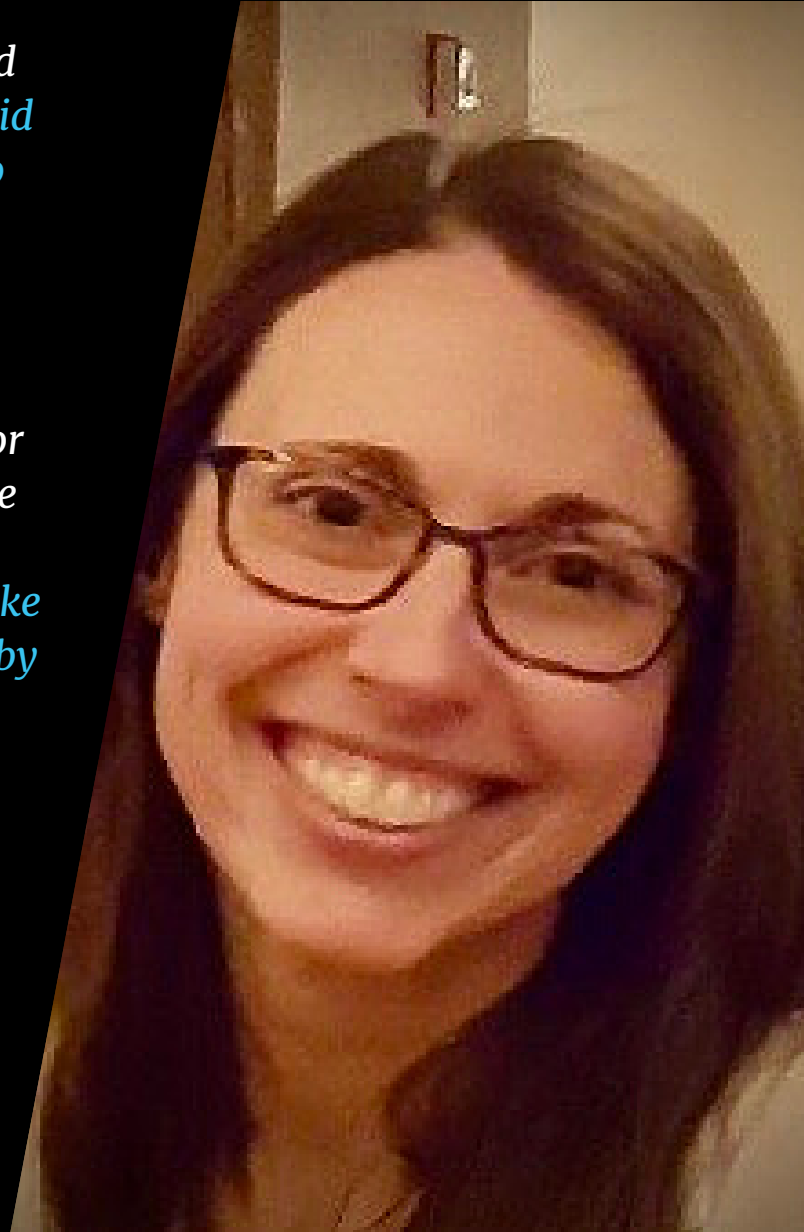
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*I initially thought that I would wait and see how the vaccine rollout went . . . I did some research on my own and spoke to several people in the medical field, which gave me some reassurance . . . I ended up deciding to get it because I understand that not everyone else can. Some people have medical conditions or belief systems which make them unable to get the vaccine, and others do not have the access to it . . . If I can help make the community safer for everyone else by being one less risk, that, to me, was worth it; and that is what made me decide to move forward.*

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KELSEY BALK

Director of Recruitment



My  
Why

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*She Shares Her My Why and My Experience*

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*I initially thought that I would wait and see how the vaccine rollout went. It seemed to come out fast, and I didn't think they could have had a lot of long-term results to know if it was effective or what side effects may arise. I did some research on my own and spoke to several people in the medical field, which gave me some reassurance. When I was offered the opportunity to get the vaccine through SOS Illinois, I still wasn't 100% sure I wanted to. I also felt undeserving of it. There are many people out there with higher vulnerabilities, and I felt like I had an unfair privilege being offered the vaccine so early.*

*I ended up deciding to get it because I understand that not everyone else can. Some people have medical conditions or belief systems which make them unable to get the vaccine, and others do not have the access to it. By getting the vaccine, I know I won't be the cause of anyone else getting sick because of me. If I can help make the community safer for everyone else by being one less risk, that, to me, was worth it; and that is what made me decide to move forward.*

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*I had a lot of anxiety about getting the vaccine, but it was an easy process. The centers were clean, had friendly and knowledgeable staff, and they got me in and out of there quickly. The shot was completely painless. They had warned me about potential symptoms, but the day of the first vaccine I felt fine. The next day I had a sore arm, a mild headache, and some fatigue. In a few days I felt fine. I had been warned that the 2nd vaccine could have worse side effects. I felt lightheaded the first day after I got the shot. The next day, my arm was much more sore than the first time and this time I had a large red bump where I got the shot. It also itched at the injection site. I had a headache, fatigue, and felt lightheaded for several days. My symptoms were mild, I know that others experienced worse symptoms and some lasted a lot longer.*

*Several days later, I'm feeling fine and feel less anxiety in general knowing that I have the vaccine and that others are getting it as well. It is finally starting to seem like there is an end in sight.*

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KELSEY BALK

Director of Recruitment