



# I'm dancing because...

All people deserve to live a life free of the fear of abuse. Project Safe helps people leave abusive situations and live with less fear.

### What are you hoping to gain from participating in Dancing with the Athens Stars?

I can think of nothing better than to raise money for an organization like Project Safe that helps those in need in our community.

#### Team 4

## Matthew Lawing

#### about me:

Matthew Lawing grew up in Alexis, North Carolina and studied music education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In 2007 he moved to Athens with his wife, Sarah, for her to attend graduate school at UGA. He became a teacher at Colham Ferry Elementary school, where he has been teaching music to students in grade kindergarten through 5th grades ever since. He lives in Watkinsville with his wife and two daughters. Matthew loves live music, hiking, and traveling. He is so excited to be dancing with his dance pro Natalie Cox and more importantly raising money for a wonderful organization like Project Safe.

### What interested you in participating in Dancing with the Athens Stars?

My wife and daughters have been part of Dancefx for many years. I have been to many many dance recitals and have seen how much confidence and happiness dance has given my family. My wife and I started taking salsa class with Natalie Cox, and I had the best time challenging myself with something new. Now I am able to continue challenging myself while raising money for an organization that provides support to individuals here in Athens.