



## Make-A-Wish – Natalie's Story

### Arrowhead Aftermarket – Overland Park, KS

For their first quarter charity initiative the office in Overland Park, KS committed to become wish granters as part of the Make-A-Wish foundation. In doing so, their goal was set at \$5,000 to grant the wish of their "adopted" child in need and so their story began.....



Meet Natalie – Natalie is a 5 year old girl who was diagnosed with Tracheal Esophageal Fistula and Esophageal Atresia type C (EA/TEF, for short). Natalie was born with a birth defect which tipped doctors to her condition. EA/TEF is a condition that happens around 6-8 weeks in utero where the esophagus does not form correctly. It then creates a blind pouch where the esophagus (or food pipe) should go to the stomach but also attaches itself to the trachea. Natalie has several accompanying issues related to this birth defect such as a laryngeal cleft, asthma, chronic pneumonia, GERD and was also fed through a gastronomy tube placed when she was only a few weeks old. Natalie has had several surgeries to repair some of these issues. She periodically has to have her esophagus dilated because the area where the scar tissue is can become too narrow and food can't pass.

# charityinitiative

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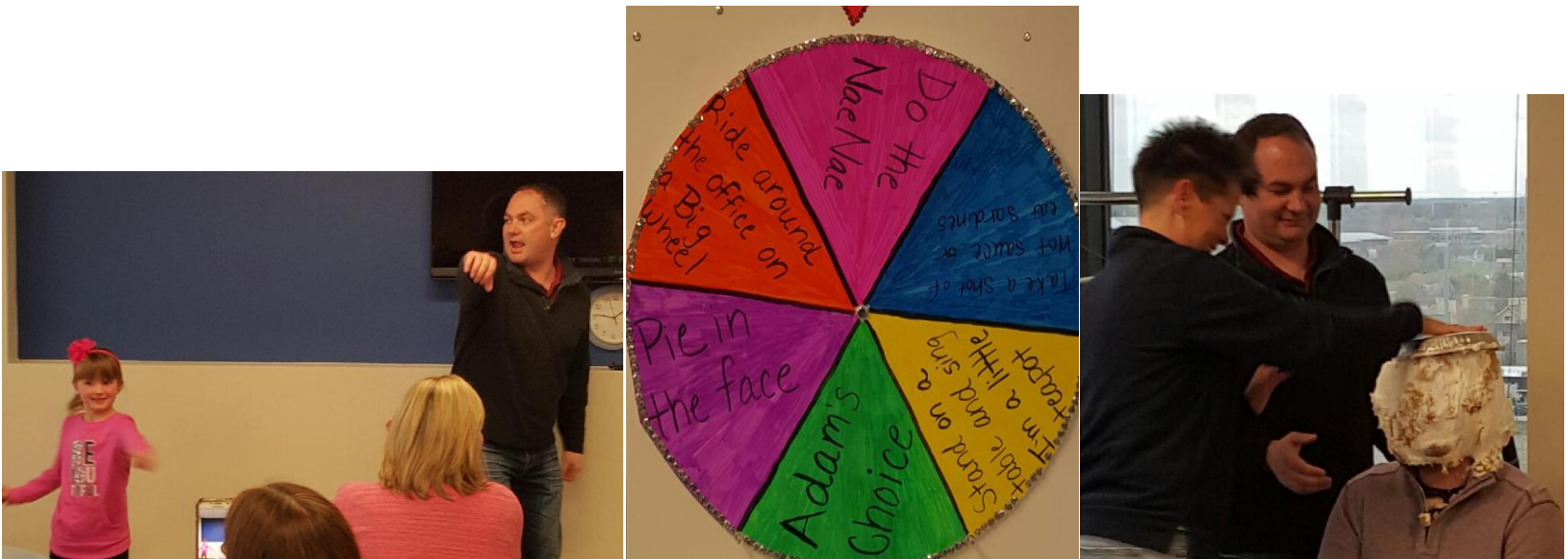
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Natalie loves to stay active and positive. She loves dressing up like her favorite princesses, loves doing art projects, riding her bike, singing, having dance parties and driving her power wheel car. She is learning to read and has a big plan of writing a book someday. Natalie has big dreams and a great outlook on life.

To make Natalie's wish of going to Disney World come true, the employees in Overland Park began their efforts of raising money right away. To kick things off in February, what better way than to celebrate Royals spring training and have a tail gate lunch and raffle off a pair of Royals tickets! In March, they raised money with a "Chili Cook Off" and a 50/50 drawing! They also sold t-shirts to begin gearing up for the big event!

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Make-A-Wish foundation held a Walk for Wishes event. The event included a 5K walk/run, a 1 mile family fun run, food, bounce houses, petting zoo, face painting, and much more! Several co-workers along with their family and friends participated in the event and every dollar raised by the "Arrowhead Avengers" helped to make Natalie's wish come true!

Management, of course, took their turn and agreed to participate in "Change Wars" battle! The object was to load up the individual of choice's jar with loose change. At the end of the "battle", whoever had at least \$50 in their jar had to spin the "Wheel of Misfortune". The wheel was made up of receiving a pie in the face, taking a shot of hot sauce, eat a sardine, dance the whip and nae-nae, stand on a chair and sing I'm a little tea pot, and ride around the office on a big wheels. All managers who participated were unfortunate enough to spin the wheel! It was great fun and everyone was a good sport and over \$400 was raised just in loose change!!



Over the next few months, the Overland Park office held additional fundraisers in an effort to make their goal of \$5,000 such as a Cinco de Mayo fiesta, ice cream floats, jeans days, and raffles. All hands were on deck, including the San Diego office! They held a bake sale and made an amazing contribution to the Make-A-Wish fundraising of \$1,576!!!! WOW!!!!

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Make-A-Wish initiative was wrapped up with a visit from Natalie and her family. The employees were able to meet her and wish her well as Natalie and her family will be traveling to Disney World next week. Natalie and her whole family were so appreciative of the outstanding efforts of the Arrowhead employees. Natalie was beyond excited to see her face on the poster in the break room. She felt like the star of the show and told everyone how her bags were already packed!

We are so thankful for everyone's amazing efforts and generosity to make this goal a reality. In the end, Arrowhead Aftermarket exceeded their goal of \$5,000!!!

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Lindsay Durand at [ldurand@arrowheadgrp.com](mailto:ldurand@arrowheadgrp.com)

*Employee participation is entirely voluntary and not required by Arrowhead, ACM or OnPoint.*