NEW DAY NEXT Spotlight



MATT WAGNER

What is your day job?
I am the Industrialization Manager at Mayco International, a global Tier-1 automotive supplier. My primary role is to help successfully launch all of our new business opportunities with the highest safety & environmental, quality, and financial results. This includes providing our executive management team with the data to make the best strategic decisions, while also interfacing with our customers and internal teams to ensure alignment with program milestones. Mayco's Core Values (Family, Integrity, Pride, and Vision) align perfectly with the New Day Foundation!

How did you get involved in New Day NEXT?
I have actually known about New Day for about five years or so. Mutual professional connections brought me to a few different events over the years. Mayco introduced me to the Christmas time "Adopt-a-family", as the company sponsors a family each year. We have since elevated our participation the past two years with my wife and my combined family adopting a New Day family of our own! (It's a great tradition we plan on continuing for years to come!) After getting back on my own two feet from surgery, I reached out directly to one of the founders of New Day, Gina Kell Spehn. She graciously met with me, and basically, the rest is history! She got me in contact with Katie Bryk and Sarah Smith, two of the active New Day NEXT Leadership Council Members / Committee Leaders. As I gain more exposure to the full group, I have nothing but wonderful things to say!

Why did you join NEXT?
I thought my war with cancer was done in 2019, but unfortunately that wasn't the case. As I continue my current recovery from my latest (and hopefully last) cancer battle, I've felt God calling me to take more action this time around (hence, reaching out to Gina!). I keep pondering the question "How can I use my Three T's (Time, Talents, Treasures) to best glorify God?". The New Day Foundation struck me as a place that I can utilize all Three T's! Additionally, New Day NEXT is an avenue for both personal and professional development along the journey! The successful longevity of any organization depends on the "NEXT" generation to take the ball and run. I don't want to over commit and under deliver, but the passion and drive to be more involved grows every day! I'm excited to see where I go NEXT!

Who are you fighting for?
Everyone, whether intensely close to home or somewhat distant, has been affected by cancer in one form or another. I've been so blessed to work for a company who cares about me and supported me through every one of my cancer battles, surgeries and recoveries, as well as having such fantastic family support! I'm fighting for all of the families New Day currently supports, and all the future ones as well, to ensure that nobody needs to choose between supporting their loved ones or getting the cancer care they need. The physical and emotional burdens of cancer are already more than enough to bear; no one should have to deal with the financial burden on top of it all!

What is your favorite New Day charitable event?
I've been able to attend a few different New Day events over the years, but I think it will be a tie for my 2026 favorite events. I have the honor and privilege of attending the New Day Golf Classic, in which I hope I can contribute on the scramble team from at least 50 yards and in! (Not sure how well the swing will be, but I still have a month or so of Physical Therapy between now and then!). Additionally, I'm leading a team to walk/run in the Woodhouse 5K for New Day! Even though I'll be using my cane, I cannot wait to walk alongside my beautiful bride, our 15 month old son, and all the team members who have joined Team Cane't Stop Won't Stop! Both of these events will bring a wonderful collaboration of my personal and professional networks, all to help raise awareness and financial support of New Day!

How are you inspiring the next generation of leaders through NEXT?
Inspiration comes through many different avenues. I hope to inspire everyone I can through my faith, positivity, and generosity. I have been abundantly blessed, and it's amazing to have God's plan and timing align with new connections in New Day NEXT. If I can help even one person going through a cancer battle / recovery through my experiences and support (in any ways they need), that's already a win in my books!

How can people get involved?

a. As I am relatively new to the NEXT family, I'll defer to my tenured members for specifics! That being said, a few great places to start would be:
   i. Follow New Day on social media!
   ii. Sign up for monthly giving to New Day–every amount truly makes a difference!
   iii. Volunteer at one of New Day's events, or come as a participant / spectator! You can walk with my team in the 5k, as an example, with details found here: https://give.foundationforfamilies.org/team/829360
   iv. Reach out to me in the upcoming days / weeks / months! I'll gladly share my personal updates along the way!