



April 18, 2023

To all the Friends, Supporters, Donors, and Volunteers of the BeLikeTommy Project,

It has been a little over a year since the BeLikeTommy Project was founded and an update on how things are going is more than past due. It is hard to believe and tougher to accept, but the last time Tommy barreled down our front stairs in the morning, dove on the couch and cuddled his furry friend Finnegan was over 16 months ago. The support our family has received as we work to adapt to this new normal has been incredible and starting the BeLikeTommy Project has also played an important role in our healing process. It has offered a unique opportunity to keep Tommy's loving spirit alive and spread joy to others while making a meaningful impact in the community as well. An added bonus is the BeLikeTommy apparel line is becoming quite popular with the kids! Here are some highlights from the past year:

- 1st Annual Tommy's Olympic Speed Walk
 - This BIG event was pulled together in under 3 months had over 500 attendees and raised more than \$15,000
 - Donated 5 AED devices to the Westonka School District
- Tommy's Birthday Toy Drive
 - Minnesota Children's Hospital received a van full of toys thanks to the generosity of all of you and toys purchased by the BeLikeTommy Project
- Spirit of the Lakes Parade
 - In partnership with MWHS Deca, we had a huge group team and an impressive float
 - We handed out #BeLikeTommy bracelets and cards encouraging people to be kind, do nice things for others, and post to social media under the hashtag #BeLikeTommy
- Golden Gala
 - Another amazing night celebrating what it means to BeLikeTommy
 - We had over 300 people in attendance and thanks to an incredible silent auction, raised more than \$10,000.
- Tommy's Trees
 - An effort to bring joy and cheer to others, Tommy Trees lit up the yards of over 100 families across the metro leading to a beautiful KARE 11 feature story about Tommy.
- Tommy Nash Scholarship Fund
 - A member of the class of 2023 at MWHS will be the first to receive this annual \$1,000 scholarship given to the student who best exemplifies what it means to #BeLikeTommy
- Play for Patrick Heart Screen
 - The foundation was instrumental in bringing this event to the west metro, which offers free heart screening to kids between the ages of 14-24.
 - We will sponsor the hospitality for volunteers and hope to have over 200 kids screened for heart abnormalities



As a result of the kind donations we have received and the efforts put in by so many to make the events successful, we raised the funds needed to get the foundation up, running, and on solid financial ground. In addition to covering our startup and ongoing administrative costs, we have purchased 10 AED devices, along with the cases needed to house them. Most have been donated locally, but a few have gone out of state as we have become aware of busy sports arenas and other schools that are in need. We have also allocated some money in the form of donations to organizations that embody who Tommy was and what he was passionate about.

Despite all of the good that has come from starting the BeLikeTommy Project, we have much to learn and there is ample room for improvement. It has been very challenging for all of us to acclimate to our new normal given everything that has happened. The foundation was started less than three months after Tommy's passing without any strategy sessions or real focused planning at all, but simply out of our deep love for Tommy and the desire to do something to fill the void that was created in the world when he left us. Grief is both an emotional and a physical drain, so some days there just hasn't been anything left in the tank. That said, as this heavy fog we have been operating in and adapting to starts to thin a bit, we are committed to dedicating more time and effort to tighten up some of the fundamental areas that have not gotten the focus they need.

We met as a board last week and the kids were asked what they wanted the BeLikeTommy Project to be? Do they want to run it some day? Do they want their kids to run it some day? The resounding answer was YES, and we are all in on making this organization a driving force for good, and to impact as many people's lives as possible. In the coming months look for a more refined and focused mission, a detailed plan on how to activate that mission through our acts and giving, and progress on advancing and growing our fundraising efforts beyond just events. We also look to expand and bring outside expertise to our board of directors, and more dedicated resources to the daily operations of the foundation.

Thank you for your support, for your love, and for being part of the #BeLikeTommy movement that we are all starting together. It is setting up to be an exciting year 2 for the Project and we are so grateful you are along for the ride.

Regards,

The Nash Family