



**takepart**  
FOUNDATION

Fighting For Possible.

**PRESS KIT**



## Who We Are

The Take Part Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping children with rare and undiagnosed diseases thrive.

Too often, the research needed to advance life-altering therapies for children with rare conditions lacks adequate funding. Take Part funds research, provides resources for rare and undiagnosed families to better tell their stories and assists with access to genetic testing needed for a diagnosis. The nonprofit was founded by Matt and Maria Granados, parents of Natalie, who suffers from a rare genetic disorder, PYROXD1. The foundation empowers families of children with rare diseases, allowing anyone to “take part” in fighting for what’s possible.

### MISSION

Take Part identifies existing medical research for rare pediatric conditions that likely will not be able to find funding elsewhere and funds it until it reaches the point where the research team can apply for funding from larger organizations and foundations. Take Part also provides funding for families who are denied

access to genetic testing by their insurance but need testing to help diagnose their child in order to receive coverage for their needs. The nonprofit helps rare disease kids thrive through research, resources, and a place to tell their story.







## Our Founders

Matt and Maria Granados are parents to 7-year-old Natalie, who suffers from a genetic disorder called PYROXDI. They are a family of faith—and a family of action. Tired of waiting for answers that would likely not come in time to save their daughter, they felt called to create the Take Part Foundation, funding research to find answers for Natalie and others like her.

### MATT GRANADOS

Matt Granados is co-founder of the Take Part Foundation, and CEO and founder of Life Pulse Inc., a company that helps individuals and organizations achieve their desired results with current resources. He has over 14 years of experience in leading and growing businesses, nonprofits, and coalitions across various industries and sectors.

As a productivity coach and speaker, Matt has developed and delivered effective and easy-to-duplicate systems that enhance the life and performance of anyone, from corporate teams and CEOs to business owners and individuals. He is passionate about connecting purpose and career and empowering people to live intentionally and productively. Matt has spoken at numerous conferences and events, and has authored multiple books and articles on productivity and motivation.

### MARIA GRANADOS

Maria's mission is to empower people to live a full and powerful life through both nonprofit and for-profit ventures. As Executive Director of the Take Part Foundation, Maria advocates and advances research funding for rare pediatric diseases across the globe. She works closely with small research teams on groundbreaking, life-saving therapies and cures to complete their research in order to take the next step — applying for funding from major pharmaceutical companies and research organizations.

Maria is also the co-founder of LifePulse, Inc. where she assists mission-driven organizations, teams, families, and individuals build productive and intentional lives. Believing that there is a gap between personal and professional development, she believes in LifePulse's mission to bridge that gap, and provides life-changing team trainings to help individuals connect who they are to everything they do.



# Our Work

Since Take Part's founding in 2021, the foundation has raised more than \$500,000 to fund crucial research and close the gap for families who are denied coverage to testing by their insurance.



## PROJECT-BASED RESEARCH

Take Part's approach to funding research is unique. Similar to how an idea becomes a sustainable business, projects have a plan, anticipated milestones and are reviewed by the foundation's advisors to ensure validity. The organization aspires to be a hub of information for families and doctors around the world who are working on rare pediatric diseases. Sharing findings mitigates the communication disconnect that often occurs. Take Part's approach leads to collaboration and potential advancement.

## HOW TAKE PART'S RESEARCH PROJECTS WORK

Each project is required to present a research case description, anticipated funding needs, project timing and proposed milestones. Take Part also requires that the team applying have 20% of the initial project funding in place. The foundation's advisors (composed of doctors, business executives and leaders within partner organizations) then review the application for validity of the project model and medical assumptions, financial evaluation and proof of concept.

Once accepted, the foundation assigns a project manager to each Take Part project. The project manager will be responsible for oversight, including collaborating to set agreed-upon project milestones and metrics, ensuring the receipt of updates on results, reporting to and validating with the foundation's advisory board, and allocating project funding to the designated institution. It's important to note that funding will only be issued to the institution affiliated with the project; funding will not be given directly to the research team or any individual.



## GENETIC TESTING RESOURCES

Many families struggle to receive a diagnosis for their children who have rare or complex conditions. Genetic testing can help them find the cause of their child's symptoms and seek the appropriate treatment. However, some insurance companies do not cover genetic testing, leaving these families with an insurmountable financial burden. Take Part provides funding for families whose insurance denies them access to genetic testing, ensuring they can obtain the test needed to diagnose their child and secure necessary coverage.





# How We Fundraise

## DONUT RUN

Every year Take Part combines our childhood (and adulthood) love for donuts with the camaraderie of a community 5K run to help bring awareness to kids battling rare diseases. What better way for runners, joggers and walkers to finish a race than to enjoy donuts?

## TAKE PART GALA

Take Part hosts their annual gala every spring to raise proceeds for children battling rare diseases. In 2024, the foundation held its very first gala in partnership with Wine Women and Shoes St. Louis, where guests enjoyed wine, luxury marketplace vendors, a silent auction and a live fashion show.

## OTHER EVENTS

There are a variety of family-friendly fundraisers that Take Part holds throughout the year! Be sure to follow their [Facebook page](#) for everything Take Part is up to.



# Facts About Rare Diseases



### What is a rare disease?

A rare disease in the United States is any disease, disorder, illness or condition affecting fewer than 200,000 people. [\[source\]](#)



There are 7,000 known rare diseases. [\[source\]](#)



30% of kids with rare diseases will not live to see their 5th birthday. [\[source\]](#)



95% of rare diseases have no FDA-approved treatment. [\[source\]](#)



30 million Americans are diagnosed with a rare disease. This equates to 1 in 10 Americans. [\[source\]](#)



Rare diseases impact more people than cancer and AIDS combined. [\[source\]](#)



According to the EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases, the total direct medical costs for those with rare diseases in the United States is approximately \$400 billion annually. [\[source\]](#)

*Take Part is working tirelessly to help change these unfortunate statistics.*

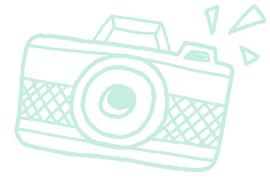


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# Creative Assets

View additional [creative assets here](#).








# Quick Links

## TAKE PART RESOURCES

- [Take Part Foundation Website](#)
- [WHY: Take Part in the Fight for Possible Video](#)
- [Natalie's Story: Living w/ PYROXD1: Nat G's Story](#)
- [Importance of Funding Genetic Testing: Life-Saving Impact for Undiagnosed Families](#)
- [Take Part Donation Page](#)
- [Take Part Projects](#)
- [Take Part – Welcome Warriors Video](#)

## SOCIAL LINKS

-  [@TakePartFoundation](#)
-  [Take Part Facebook Page](#)
-  [Matt Granados LinkedIn Page](#)
-  [Maria Granados LinkedIn Page](#)

## Take Part News

- [Learn More](#)



# Media Contacts

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