

THE **Best**
PLACES
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IN EVENTS
2017

**CULTURE
CLUB**



AARDVARK
EVENT LOGISTICS

NAME: **AARDVARK EVENT LOGISTICS**
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NAME: **MIKE FOSTER**
TITLE: **PRODUCTION MANAGER**
YEARS WITH COMPANY: **3**

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED THERE AND WHAT DO YOU DO?

I discovered the company via a Facebook job posting 3 years ago. I'd been working in the financial services industry out of college and quite frankly I was bored. Aardvark was looking for a driver to work a tour for the summer in beach towns up and down the Jersey Shore and I said 'Sign me up!' Leaving financial services felt like a huge risk, but I quickly realized that Aardvark was a perfect match for me. I instantly appreciated the independence that comes with being a tour driver and I really meshed with the team back at HQ. When that initial tour ended Aardvark offered me an opportunity to work in-house as a production coordinator. In that role I still got to hit the road while also learning the production side of our business. Just two weeks ago I was promoted to production manager and it was literally the proudest moment of my life. It validated for me all of the hard work I'd put in, and that original decision to leave financial services. The promotion confirmed what I guess I'd known all along - that Aardvark is where I belong.

GIVE US THE REAL SCOOP. WHAT'S SO AWESOME ABOUT WORKING THERE?

For me it's about being around like-minded people. I'm somewhat of a perfectionist and that's a value that all of us at Aardvark have in common. Whether we're building a custom vehicle from the ground up or setting up in the field, it only takes a little extra time to do it right. There are a lot of people out there



that don't take the extra time - but we do. As I said before, my personality meshed with the culture at Aardvark and it just felt right to me - right from the start.

FAVORITE EMPLOYEE ACTIVITIES?

The holiday party for sure. Our owner Larry Borden does it big every year with something special - like a super amazing dinner or a very cool show. My friends talk about their company holiday parties as if they're a chore just to get through, but for me it's just the opposite. All of us at Aardvark genuinely like one another and enjoy being together. Add to that the fact that it's the time of year when we are celebrating another year of record sales, and it makes for a very memorable night out with good friends - definitely a highlight of my year.

WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES ARE SO HAPPY?

This will sound egotistical, but we're good and we know it. People feel good when they're part of a winning team and that's what Aardvark is. We don't have to worry about chasing after business - our reputation keeps us super busy and we are free to focus on what we love to do; which is working together to plan, build and operate mobile tours that exceed the expectations of our customers. It's fun to be part of something great and it's fun to win. That's why we're all so happy at Aardvark.

WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY LIKE?

Three years ago when I worked in the financial services industry I could have answered that question easily, but today I would say that there is no typical day - and that's what I love about this industry and working at Aardvark. Every customer is unique and every job is custom. We work on a wide variety of programs across different industries on B2C jobs and a rapidly growing B2B business. Right now we're in the process of building a fleet of mobile pop-up stores for one customer, which we will operate in 28 different markets across the US. We're innovating every day to deliver for our customers who are looking to wow their target audiences. That means different materials, different vendors, different methods.... it's a huge challenge and it's different every single day. And I love it.