

Bringing Families Together

Every year since 1984, the Arthritis Foundation's Juvenile Arthritis Conference has offered kids, teens and their caregivers the chance to meet other families going through similar challenges. Over the past decade, we've seen far fewer children depending on wheelchairs, thanks to medical discoveries supported by the Arthritis Foundation that have led to new, more effective drugs for children with JA.



1,400+

In 2013, we had record attendance at the JA Conference in Anaheim, CA.

Kids and their families dared us to **dream of a future without arthritis pain.**



[Click here to see what kids dreamed at our 2013 JA Conference.](#)

“ *The Arthritis Foundation opened a window to our ‘new normal.’ We got the answers we needed and met other JA families who helped us adjust.* ”

— *Chris Andersen, whose daughter, Nikki, was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis more than 10 years ago*

Left: Now 14, Nikki Andersen can again enjoy her hula-hoops after having both hips replaced.



You Have the Power

The Arthritis Foundation's JA Power PackSM is our gift to kids and teens newly diagnosed with arthritis or related conditions. It's a special backpack with a therapeutic teddy bear (make it warm or cool to soothe pain), our "Raising a Child With Arthritis" book, brochures and local contact info — generously funded by Abbvie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Genentech and the AOII Foundation. After testing the Power Pack in five U.S. regions, we plan to make it available nationwide in 2015.



FEEDBACK:

“ *The Power Pack was just what our family needed. There was a wealth of information for not only myself, but that I could also pass along to my child's teachers.* ”

“ *My son was thrilled with the bear and backpack. The bear works magic on his knee, and I was thrilled with the book.* ”

“ *Thank you for the generosity and amazing work that the Arthritis Foundation is doing. You are changing lives and making it a lot less scary.* ”