

# WALK to CURE ARTHRITIS<sup>SM</sup>



**Nikky Saxon**  
**2015 Walk to Cure Arthritis**  
**Adult Honoree**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

Nikky Saxon isn't your average college student. An aspiring racecar driver, Nikky has been burning rubber and leaving opponents in the dust since she was in kindergarten. These days, Nikky is facing a different kind of opponent – arthritis.

Originally from Las Vegas, Nikky moved to Indianapolis two years ago to pursue a degree in Motorsports Engineering at IUPUI. Within two weeks of arriving in Indianapolis, Nikky began noticing painful swelling in her left knee. As her condition worsened, Nikky was forced to take a break from her racing dreams to focus on her health. In early 2014, Nikky was finally diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

"After searching for answers for more than a year, I was relieved to finally have a diagnosis," Nikky says. "I was able to put a name to this horrible pain I was feeling."

Unfortunately, Nikky's condition has continued to worsen, spreading to other joints all over her body. Already struggling with colitis, Nikky was determined not to let anything stop her from achieving her racing dreams.

Nikky faces her arthritis and colitis day by day. Although medications and therapy help her manage the inflammation, she's continued to struggle with pain.

Nikky recently got back in the driver's seat to begin racing again, but admits that racing with arthritis has been a difficult adjustment.

"There have been times when I'm in the middle of a race just screaming in my helmet because the pain is so intense," she says.

Nikky is thrilled to participate in the 2015 Walk to Cure Arthritis as the adult honoree. She hopes this role will help her bring arthritis awareness to the Indianapolis and racing communities.

"We need more insight, more research and better ways to manage the disease," Nikky says. "I want to be an advocate. We must find a cure."

## **About the Arthritis Foundation**

The Arthritis Foundation ([www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)) is committed to raising awareness and reducing the unacceptable impact of arthritis, which strikes one in every five adults and 300,000 children, and is the nation's leading cause of disability. To conquer this painful, debilitating disease, we support education, research, advocacy and other vital programs and services.