



**Bloomington-Normal, IL**  
**Jingle Bell Run Youth Honoree**  
**Brianna Groth**

Brianna Groth is determined not to let arthritis put her on the sidelines. This tenacious 13 year old junior high school student was first diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) in both knees at the tender age of just 4 years old.

Brianna has persevered through the pain and even though she had to sit out the later part of her softball season, she still cheers on the Lady Minutemen! Getting around school can be hard and the books she has to carry puts extra stress on her knees and intensifies her pain. But that doesn't stop Brianna! With the help of two good friends she is able to get to class on time with books in tow.

Brianna's mom is a great source of support, and makes sure her teachers and classmates have an understanding of what Brianna is going through. She even makes information packets so that the teachers and Brianna's classmates can learn more about JRA and its effects.

Although her current medicines are have caused her some discomfort, she looks forward to her upcoming visit with a new Rheumatologist for a re-evaluation of her medical needs. It is because of Brianna's courage and determination that the Arthritis Foundation is proud to have her as the 2012 Jingle Bell Run Youth Honoree.

**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.