



Remy Martin
2014 Jingle Bell Run/Walk
Youth Honoree
Peoria, IL

Remy was just six years old when she was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA). This brave little fourth grader has endured stiffness in both knees, ankles and her right arm, along with some loss of mobility. Like most kids with arthritis, the winter is always worse than the summer.

Despite the challenges she faces, Remy remains as active as possible. She may have to miss a game or two if the pain is bad, take frequent breaks, or move slower than the other kids, but she is determined to not let her JRA stop her from playing.

Remy's family and friends are very supportive, and big sister Kayla babies her to the point of annoyance. "I know she is just trying to help" says Remy. JRA means days missed from school because of the pain, and Remy's little brother, Ricky, doesn't understand the complications she faces and why she often gets to stay home. When asked what she wants people to know about kids with arthritis Remy said, "Even though we look just like you, sometimes we are in lots of pain and please be nice even though you can't see anything wrong on the outside it can hurt pretty bad on the inside."

Remy takes three medications daily for her JRA and hopes one-day a cure can be found. She said, "I want to be a doctor for kids and take away all the pain for other kids like me." When asked why she is involved with the Arthritis Foundation Remy said, "They sent me my very first rice pack for my knee. It was a bear and I still have it (and three others). They raise awareness about how serious arthritis is and advocate for kids like us. All the funds that I help them raise go to research to hopefully find a cure so that I won't have to take medicine or feel pain every day for the rest of my life!"

The Arthritis Foundation is working hard to live up to Remy's hopes for the future, and we are proud to recognize her as the 2014 Jingle Bell Run/Walk Youth Honoree.

About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation (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.