



Liam Blader
Cedar Rapids, IA
Arthritis Walk Youth Honoree



Liam's grandmother first noticed he was limping when he was just a little over 2 years old. The family thought it was because of his new shoes, but later discovered that wasn't the case. His doctor thought Liam was suffering from Hip Dysplasia, and ordered numerous x-rays, and countless follow-up doctor visits. It wasn't until Liam was seen by Dr. Polly Ferguson, at the University of

Iowa, that his diagnosis of Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) was given. His condition causes him knee, ankle and foot pain.

Liam has been a real trooper through it all, and faces his biggest challenge during his frequent blood draws. Despite his pain, Liam has not let his JRA slow him down. He is an active 3rd grader who loves to play baseball, run and swim. Liam is also a Cub Scout, and he has taken part in the Arthritis Walk for the last two years

He enjoyed a trip to Camp Spirit last year, and loved participating in horseback riding, rock climbing and swimming. He is looking forward to returning this year, and taking his twin brother Owen with him. While at Camp Spirit, Liam was thrilled to meet Todd Peck of Peck Motorsports at Iowa Speedway. Peck treated Liam like the hero he is, and allowed him to wear his equipment and visit the pit stop!

Liam and his family have proclaimed, "The Arthritis Foundation has been a great resource for us." We support Liam and cheer him on for every victory he makes. The Arthritis Foundation is proud to have Liam as the 2012 Arthritis 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.