



Wyatt Williams
Arthritis Walk Honoree
Omaha, NE

Wyatt is a brave 9 year old who was diagnosed with Polyarticular Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) at just 20 months old. As Wyatt learned to walk he would complain that his legs hurt and he often had a limp as a result. His pediatrician sent him to an orthopedic doctor who performed x-rays and put a cast on one leg. After a month of little relief the cast was removed and an MRI was performed. The test results called for a trip to a pediatric rheumatologist who confirmed that little Wyatt did indeed have arthritis.

Wyatt's parents said, "Not a day goes by that we don't think about arthritis. Whether it's the medication that Wyatt takes and its side-effects, his doctor visits, or physical therapy; dealing with this disease has meant good days and bad days for all of us." Wyatt has remained a trooper through his ordeal and remains as active as possible. He participates in gym class and recess at school, and also swims and plays soccer. Even though he often gets fatigued he never gives up and is always willing to try anything. He frequently has to take breaks, but he always starts again. The pencil he uses at school has a special grip for ease of use, and his teachers are accommodating to his needs. Wyatt has made tremendous progress.

It has been helpful for Wyatt to know he is not alone, and that there are other kids who suffer with the same challenges he faces every day. Wyatt is known for his caring and sweet disposition, positive outlook, and the fact that he has never used his disease or illness as an excuse. He is a fun loving kid, with a great sense of humor, who always makes everyone around him laugh. It is because of Wyatt's courage and determination that the Arthritis Foundation is proud to have him as the 2012 Arthritis Walk 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.