



**Evan Messinger
South Bend, IN
Arthritis Walk Honoree**

Little Evan has the face of an angel. His infectious smile gives no hint to the pain he has suffered. It was January, 2010 when Evan began to use his right arm less and less. He and his younger brother Nick are wrestling fanatics and spend many long hours imitating their favorite moves. His family thought this was the cause of his pain and that he would soon be on the mend.

Several weeks later when accompanying Nick to the doctor, Evan asked to have his arm looked at because he had been experiencing so much pain. The doctor suspected a sprain and ordered an x-ray and gave Evan a shoulder brace. Still finding no relief, Evan began to even write left-handed to avoid any movement of his right arm. It was at this point that he was taken to a specialist. An MRI was ordered which revealed Evan's condition; Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA).

Evan was thrust into a world of hospital visits, injections and medications. He has been on Methotrexate for the last year and a half and he is doing extremely well. He has been pain free and has experienced no flare ups in the last eight months.

Evan is a real trooper and an inspiration to everyone he meets. It is because of his fierce determination and strength that the Arthritis Foundation is proud to have Evan as its 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.