

Arthritis Walk®



Arthritis Walk Youth Honoree

**Zoe Jo Newman
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Zoe Jo is an eight-year-old little girl with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA). When she was two years old, her daycare teacher noticed that she didn't run around with the other kids and had a hard time sitting "criss cross applesauce." She was then taken to her pediatrician who diagnosed her with arthritis and sent her to Children's Hospital in Omaha for treatment.

It took several medication trials and almost two years before a suitable treatment was found to help Zoe not walk as though her body had seen many more years of life!

Zoe is an amazing little girl. She loves to do yoga, dance, read, and play all kinds of sports. She has a huge imagination and has big plans for herself. She wants to be a professional surfer someday.

Zoe has a great support system which includes her parents, Brent and Jackie, little brother Dane, and two puppies, Herbie and Marshall.

When asked how arthritis has affected Zoe's life her mom Jackie said, "Even though it is hard living with arthritis, Zoe's attitude remains positive. Having been chosen as this year's Lincoln Arthritis Walk Honoree has already been such an amazing experience for her. She recently got up enough courage to make a presentation to her class about her disease. She was presented with many questions and answered them all like a pro."

Zoe's courage reflects the courage of each of the 1,800 youth in Nebraska that suffer from arthritis. When asked how she copes with her arthritis Zoe replied, "I don't believe in the words 'Can't do it', because I know I can do things I love."

Zoe's bravery and determination make us proud to honor her as the 2013 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.