

## Arthritis Walk



### **McKenzie “Kenzie” Leigh Shoff Arthritis Walk Youth Honoree Manhattan, Kansas**

McKenzie Leigh Shoff, who likes to go by Kenzie, was diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) in August, 2012. JIA is an autoimmune disorder, which means that the immune system malfunctions and attacks the body’s organs and tissues; in this case, the joints. Despite the challenges of her JIA Kenzie has remained as active as possible.

This little Kansas native loves to draw and write stories. At just 11 years old, Kenzie is very busy participating in Taekwondo, Girl Scouts, cheerleading, guitar lessons, and art classes. She most recently performed in the community play, “The Secret Garden.”

There are 497,000 people living with arthritis in the state of Kansas, and Kenzie is one of them. Brave and courageous beyond her years, her zest for life has been an inspiration to those who come in contact with her. We are proud to honor her as the 2013 Arthritis Walk Youth Honoree.

### **About the Arthritis Foundation**

Striking one in every five adults and 300,000 children, arthritis is the nation’s leading cause of disability. The Arthritis Foundation ([www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)) is committed to raising awareness and reducing the unacceptable impact of this serious and painful disease, which can severely damage joints and rob people of living life to its fullest. The Foundation funds life-changing research that has restored mobility in patients for more than six decades; fights for health care policies that improve the lives of the millions who live with arthritis; and partners with families to provide empowering programs and information.