



Chase Talon Lannom
2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis
Youth Honoree
Carbondale, IL

Chase Talon Lannom was born on January 29, 2007 to two incredibly lucky and grateful people. He was a joy from the very beginning, always smiling and full of so much energy and love. In April of 2010, his mother and father noticed that their racy Chase wasn't moving as fast as normal. In fact, he wasn't just moving slowly, he was limping. Their beloved pediatrician thought he might have twisted or sprained it. Chase's mom said, "Over the course of two weeks, our precious one went from limping, to crawling down the hall, tears of pain streaming down his face. He had to physically be held up to use the bathroom." His pediatrician sent them to Cardinal Glennon. After two days of multiple tests Chase was discharged with no diagnosis. The family was told to wait for a rheumatologist to call them. After a month, and buckets of tears from their angel, they got into a facility in St Louis that wasn't very familiar with how to treat the disease. The family was told Chase had juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA).

His parents could only wonder how did their THREE year old have arthritis?! His mother recalls, "We never even knew children could get arthritis, we had always thought it was a horrible disease that attacked those in their later years. Not our precious baby, we had no idea." They were told it was something Chase would probably have for life, although some children do grow out of it. The diagnosis was correct, but the doctors were not very experienced with treatment for children. After more pain, and more tears they finally found a home at Children's Hospital in St Louis. His mom and dad said, "They were incredible!" Chase's mom went on to say, "We started crying, because as soon as they saw Chase, they told us exactly what they were going to do, they did it, and they had our Chase up and running and playing soccer that very same Fall!" Chase hasn't stopped since; basketball, baseball, soccer, tag, jumping off the top bunk, nothing stops him. He is fearless again. Chase's mom said, "I thank God for beautiful doctors, beautiful people and knowledge!!! And of course, I thank God every day for my precious Chase. My fighter, my hero!"

The Arthritis Foundation honors the courage and bravery of Chase Talon Lannom, and we are thrilled to recognize him as our 2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis 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.