

WALK to CURE ARTHRITISSM



Anna & Elizabeth Campbell
2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis
Youth Honorees
Des Moines, IA

Anna and Elizabeth have more in common than their last name. They are sisters who both live with a disease that causes daily pain.

Elizabeth, a seven-year-old first grader was diagnosed with polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) while she was at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota for other appointments. She is also being treated for epilepsy, hypercalciuria, hypothyroidism and Hashimoto's disease. Elizabeth's symptoms started with pain in her knees and ankles, but the disease has also affected her toes, hips, fingers, wrist, and shoulders. Elizabeth loves gymnastics and playing with their other sister, Jasmine on the trampoline.

Shortly after Elizabeth's diagnosis, Anna was referred to a rheumatologist for joint pain that would not go away. Anna's initial diagnosis was mixed connective tissue disease. Her disease does not look much different from her sisters, except that it is still changing. She has daily pain in her knees and ankles and has Raynaud phenomenon, which affects her hands and feet. Our family is unsure what Anna's disease will look like in the future, but we do know that she will not let it stop her from doing the things she loves. Anna will be running in track for Ballard Junior High School this spring, and enjoys gymnastics and basketball, too.

Anna and Elizabeth's mom said, "They are both strong girls who continue to inspire our family!"

Anna and Elizabeth inspire us, too! Their bravery, courage and determination make us proud to recognize them as the 2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis Youth Honorees.

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.