



Thuy Beam
2014 Indy Walk to Cure Arthritis®
Medical Honoree
Indianapolis, IN

Thuy Beam doesn't have arthritis, but she knows firsthand how it can ravage a young body. A pediatric nurse in the rheumatology department at Riley Hospital for Children, Thuy is the first person most families talk to when they learn their children have arthritis.

"Thuy is a very caring and compassionate nurse," boasts Dr. Peter Chira, a pediatric rheumatologist. "She always has the patients' best interests at heart and goes the extra mile in helping them understand their disease. She has served our patients well and has positively impacted many lives over the years."

Thuy's bedside manner and ability to calm nerves are what set her apart from her peers. Pam Gebhardt's daughter was diagnosed with arthritis when she was eight years old. Thuy called Pam to see how she was doing – even though she herself was on vacation! "That phone call was a prayer answered," Pam says. "Thuy is truly an angel."

Outside of work, Thuy helps plan JA Fun Days and an annual Teen Retreat for kids with arthritis. They spend the weekend dining, shopping and hanging out at a hotel.

"I talk to and see some of our families more than my immediate family," Thuy quips. "But the appreciation that our patients and families feel is well worth the small investment of my time."

Thuy also helped plan the 2012 JA Conference in St. Louis and served as an on-call nurse at the week-long event. There, the Arthritis Foundation honored her with the Patty Rettig Award for Health Care Professional Leadership. Now in her 17th year in rheumatology, Thuy considers many of her patients' family.

"I've been lucky enough to watch my patients grow into wonderful adults," Thuy notes. "I have received graduation and wedding invitations and birth announcements. This is how I know that I'm truly making an impact in their lives."

In her free time, Thuy enjoys cooking and gardening. She and her husband Mark have been married for 24 years and have three boys, ages 19, 21 and 24.

Thuy's sincere dedication and commitment make us proud to recognize her as the 2014 Indy Walk to Cure Arthritis® Medical 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.