



**Christina Delgado**  
**Arthritis Walk Honoree**  
**Fort Wayne, IN**

Christina is a sixteen year old sophomore who was diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) at the age of four. Her charming personality and beautiful smile give no hint to the pain she has suffered during her young life. With red, swollen joints appearing and disappearing, the doctors were at a lost. Christina endured a full year of countless doctor visits, blood tests, and a variety of medications. Eventually, Systemic Onset Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis was found to be the culprit. By age six, Christina became bed-ridden, and simple tasks like brushing her teeth became too painful to endure. Some days just getting out of bed was a chore and quite a battle for such a little kid.

Her parents suffered along with her, not being able to provide any comfort to their daughter. The search to find the right medicine to relieve the pain and discomfort seemed to drag on, and even sleeping became an agonizing experience. Christina and her family soldiered on through the crying and uncertainty until the right combination of medicine was found, and provided Christina with an eight year remission.

She returned to life with very few bumps in the road, and became an active teen who loved school, playing sports, and engaging in her new passion, dance. Her body began to become immune to the medications that had once been wonder drugs for her. A new search was launched to find replacement meds that would once again allow Christina to live a full and vigorous life. She had to miss many days of school, and sports and dancing were now a thing of the past. Today, she is receiving an IV treatment every other week that has worked miracles for her; and she is looking forward to the day when she will once again return to the active life style she loves.

Christina's courageous journey, and optimism for life is what makes the Arthritis Foundation proud to have her as our 2012 Arthritis Walk Honoree.

**About the Arthritis Foundation**

The Arthritis Foundation ([www.arthritis.org](http://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.