

WALK to CURE ARTHRITISSM



Jacob Kuhn
2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis
Adult Honoree
Warsaw, IN

Jacob was diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis (AS)/ osteoarthritis (OA) in September, 1996. His diagnosis process was very exhausting. He was in a leg cast for about a year while awaiting a diagnosis. He was eventually diagnosed at Riley Hospital with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA)/ juvenile ankylosing spondylitis (JAS) at the age of 10.

Jacob is currently recovering from a major flare up and he is looking into different medications. His cervical spine is fused together so he can't be too physical anymore. Jacob also has a slight hunch which makes it difficult for him to look around, and he can no longer sit or stand for long periods of time. This has made working difficult and he is currently on disability.

Despite the many challenges that he faces Jacob is proud of the way he has handled his arthritis; he remains positive and never lets his disease bring him down. Jacob said, "I am very proud that I haven't given up and let my disease take over my life."

Jacob played baseball as a kid, but had to give it up because of his arthritis pain. He enjoys reading, watching movies, playing board games, and spending time with family and friends. Jacob has been active with the Arthritis Foundation, and is involved with a support page where he is featured as face #855; <http://thefacesofankylosingspondylitis.com/a-s-face-0855-jacob-kuhn/>.

When asked about his hopes for the future Jacob said, "I hope to eventually be off disability and able to work again. It is actually my dream to work for the Arthritis Foundation." He went on to say that, "I am currently trying to go to school for occupational therapy and I would love to work at a pediatric rehabilitation center."

Jacob told us how the Arthritis Foundation has helped him by saying, "They showed me that I'm not alone in this fight and they inspired me to try and make people aware of this very real and debilitating disease." He added, "I have 17 years of experience with this disease and I know what it's like to be a kid and go through all this and I want to help show that it's not just older people that get it."

Jacob, the Arthritis Foundation is inspired by you! It is because of your courage and determination that we are thrilled to recognize you as the 2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis 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.