

Jessica



Shortly after he sister was born in June 2003, Jessica began showing the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis. Unfortunately, we didn't realize what was causing her inactivity and awkward movement. After a few visits to her doctor, we were referred to a pediatric rheumatologist at Children's Hospital. During that visit in October, the diagnosis was made – Polyarticular Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. The disease was active in nearly every joint in her body. After 4 years, a lot of education and research, 2 flare-ups, 2 rounds of joint injections and weekly shots of methotrexate, the disease is currently under control. And, Jessica has grown into an extremely active 7 year-old. She enjoys dance class, horse riding lessons, soccer, basketball and baseball. As a first grader she loves school, especially PE, music and art. Her parents are blessed to have such a wonderful daughter. She genuinely understands what she is up against in dealing with arthritis. She takes an active role in maintaining her health by eating well and being positive and optimistic about curing the disease. Also, Jessica ran in the 2006 Seattle Jingle Bell Run and will be running in this year's race. So, get out there, form a team and run or walk. Or, join Team Jessica and run with this year's honoree.

Written by Jessica's parents