

Your Team Makes A Difference

Support the fight against arthritis.

Start off your holiday season running or walking at the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis®. Join our honoree Miranda and run, walk, pledge or donate to support the 1.1 million Wisconsin residents living with arthritis.

Miranda, now 13, was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA) when she was 6. At first, her doctor said nothing was wrong, but a new pediatrician thought it might be arthritis. Her mom was skeptical about this “old person’s disease” until her body scan revealed arthritis in all Miranda’s joints except the tips of her fingers and her toes.

Miranda’s difficulties with arthritis touched every area of her life. At school, she was having difficulty with writing, getting picked on, and doing physical activities. She tried an arthritis exercise class, but the older participants complained and didn’t understand that kids get arthritis too. Anti-inflammatory medications and flare-ups caused Miranda to stop eating until she could control her JRA with biologic drugs. Within an eight-month period, she had broken her foot and her tibia. Miranda’s bone scan revealed that she has osteoporosis – at 13, she has the bones of a 70-year-old woman.



Fortunately, Miranda has the help of a metabolic bone specialist in Milwaukee and a pediatric rheumatologist in Green Bay despite the long drives to get to appointments. The Arthritis Foundation is also close to Miranda’s family with knowledge and understanding. She’s been fortunate to receive scholarships to Camp M.A.S.H. (Make Arthritis Stop Hurting) otherwise she wouldn’t be able to go. She loves camp and says this is the only place that kids who have her disease can “fit in”.

Miranda is still a very happy child and is learning more about her disease. She struggles daily with pain and questions. She has a long road ahead of her, but she has progressed so much. Now she needs you to join her and her family at the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis so that we can find a cure for Miranda and the millions like her who have arthritis.