



Adalyn Hedrick
2015 Jingle Bell Run/Walk
Youth Honoree
Westville, Indiana

Adalyn Hedrick's journey as told by her parents.

Adalyn, 3, was diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis in 2013. Her diagnosis took many months, involved visits with three different physicians and many tests until she was finally diagnosed.

Adalyn currently takes oral medicine every day and an injection every week for her arthritis. She sees an eye specialist to monitor for inflammation of the eyes. She's gone through physical therapy and has received multiple steroid injections into different joints.

When Adalyn is in pain, she has a difficult time performing normal daily tasks such as going up or down stairs and even walking. Mornings are difficult because she wakes up stiff and it takes her some time to be able to move her joints. She has a hard time being a kid because she cannot always keep up or play the same as kids her own age. She also loves jumping on the trampoline but that can be very painful and difficult for her.

Adalyn started preschool this year and despite her challenges, she has excelled in school and enjoys her days at school interacting with her new friends. We are so proud of her and no matter how bad the pain is that day, she still tries her best at whatever the day brings, with a smile on her face.

Adalyn loves to go swimming and loves the beach. She has not been involved in any sports yet, but plans to take swimming lessons in the future and try new activities.

Adalyn has a big dog named Mater, a Bullmastiff, and a cat named Batman. She loves her pets.

Adalyn has two sisters. Her oldest sister, Alyssa is 11. Her other sister, Ava, is 5. Addy is very close to her sisters and says they are her best friends. Adalyn wants to be a mommy when she grows up and she hopes that someday there is a cure for childhood arthritis so she will not have any more pain.

The Arthritis Foundation has helped achieve our dream of going to the national JA conference in Orlando this year where Addy hopes to meet new friends who share the same obstacles as she does.

Adalyn's team, *Addy's Little Helpers*, raised enough money last year to earn entrance into this year's conference. Adalyn looks forward to being the honoree this year and hopes to raise even more money this year to help with research in finding new treatments and ultimately a cure! We are very honored Addy was chosen to be this year's River Valley Youth Honoree.

We are so happy to be here for Adalyn and the 300,000 young people who live with arthritis and other childhood rheumatic diseases. Multiply that by their parents, siblings, extended family, caregivers and others, and the number of people affected is astronomical. We applaud your positive attitude and we

encourage you to stay active. We are so thrilled to recognize you as the 2015 River Valley Jingle Bell Run/Walk Youth Honoree. You're the reason we do what we do.

About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation, www.arthritis.org is the Champion of Yes. We exist to conquer arthritis, which strikes one in every five adults, and is the nation's leading cause of disability. For nearly 70 years, we have upheld our unwavering promise to meet the unique and urgent needs of families living with juvenile arthritis (JA). We lead the fight for the arthritis community to help conquer everyday battles through life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connection. Our goal is to chart a winning course, guiding families in developing personalized plans for living a full life – and making each day another stride toward a cure. Our tools and resources help more children say Yes to making life better. Visit www.KidsGetArthritisToo.org, the online home for the 300,000 families living with arthritis.