



Carson Rose
2015 Walk to Cure Arthritis
Youth Honoree
Indianapolis, IN

Carson Rose has never known life without arthritis. This sweet-faced toddler was diagnosed when he was first learning how to walk.

"I noticed he was limping, so I called the pediatrician" Carson's mom Chrissy recalls. "Little did I know how our lives were going to change. We were about to embark on a seven month journey to find out the cause."

They started where any parent would – the pediatrician's office. They were told Carson had simply hurt his knee and to call if it didn't get better. It didn't. Back at the pediatrician a week later, the doctor prescribed a steroid to help with inflammation.

"We let the medicine run its course, all the while, watching our baby, still learning to walk, struggle to bear weight on his left knee," Chrissy recounts. "When the medicine was gone, and the limp wasn't, we were back on the phone with our pediatrician."

X-rays and ultrasounds showed nothing out of the ordinary.

"There were murmurs of growing pains," Chrissy says. "But at this point we had to follow our parental instincts. We were requesting any and every test that could be run."

Abnormal blood work finally got them a referral to a pediatric rheumatologist. But the wait time for new patients was eight months. The Rose family decided instead to make the two-hour trek to another hospital where they could get an appointment in a month. Doctors there diagnosed Carson with juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

"Part of us was relieved," Chrissy recalls. "Finally! A diagnosis! Then confusion sank in. Arthritis? I remember the words coming out of my mouth before I could stop them. 'He can't. He's only one.'"

By this time, the arthritis had attacked both Carson's knees and his wrists. The relief from his first round of joint injections was immediate. His walking improved significantly and the mobility in his wrist more than doubled. Since then, Carson's diagnosis has changed to juvenile polyarticular arthritis. His disease now affects at least eight joints.

Carson, by all definition, leads a very "normal" life. This bubbly 3-year old is all boy. He loves trucks, dinosaurs and playing ball.

"Still, there isn't a day that goes by that this disease doesn't affect our lives in one way or another," Chrissy admits. "But we are confident that with our aggressive treatment plan, and the help of the wonderful staff at Riley Hospital, that Carson's future is extremely bright. We feel blessed to have an early diagnosis, and the support of amazing friends and

family.”

Carson is such a brave little boy. We admire his determination and tenacity, and we are thrilled to recognize him as the 2015 Indy Walk to Cure Arthritis youth 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.