

## Youth Honoree – Emily McNaughton

Emily has had arthritis since she was just 18 months old. Her parents noticed something was wrong when she started limping and her knees were swollen. After a hospital visit and many tests, Emily was sent to see a rheumatologist who told her parents she has juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

At her young age, Emily received many shots and treatment to remove fluid from her knees and elbow. A year later she was put on weekly injections of a chemotherapy drug, which caused her to be very nauseous.

Several years later when she was 8 years old, Emily had another flare. Her treatment included various medications and injections. Even while receiving various treatments, Emily was in a lot of pain. She started to become hopeless and was diagnosed with depression. Emily remembers thinking, "Why is this nasty disease ruining my childhood?"

Today, Emily is thirteen and she and her family will tell you she is in a much better place. In fact, Emily says she is the happiest she has ever been. She is so happy to be the Youth Honoree for the Walk to Cure Juvenile Arthritis, "I am so excited to help fundraise for this disease that shouldn't exist. I can't do it without you though, so please donate to my team. Every donation we get means the world to me and helps research."

Emily hopes to turn pain in the bone into a party. She is a true Champion of Yes and we are honored to recognize her as the Youth Honoree!