

Hannah Mangrum-Age 12
2016 San Tri Valley Walk to Cure Arthritis Youth Honoree



In 12-year old Hannah Mangrum's own words:

"I want people to know that I am a Dance Commissioner at my school and that I love the leadership class I'm in."

"For fun, I like to practice my volleyball in my backyard or watch cheer routines and try to do them."

"The best thing about school is my leadership class and my friends."

"My favorite book is Maximum Ride by James Patterson."

"I want to be either a pediatrician or a teacher because I love kids."



Hannah is my hero, and it is an honor to be her mother. She is the strongest little girl I know. I have seen her go through countless trials due to her arthritis. She has had to be strong through years of taking various medications such as painful injections we must administer at home, 5 years of injections at an infusion center, countless doctors appointments, surgery, a liver biopsy which she had a horrible reaction to, countless missed days of school which meant she had to work that much harder just to catch up, missing field trips with her classmates because she has some kind of appointment with a specialist and even the loss of her vision in her right eye due to the Uveitis and through it all she has stayed strong.



There have been many ups and downs through it all. When we reached out to the Arthritis Foundation for support they were more than happy to help. We jumped in with both feet about 3 years ago. I wanted to show Hannah there actually was something we could do about this. We weren't going to just sit on the sidelines and watch this happen and hope for the best. We were fighters. We were going to help raise money for a cure and step out of ourselves and help other families just like ours. That's how we were going to make a difference in Hannah's life and other

families lives. We were going to raise awareness that children get arthritis too. And Hannah did just that. She has done it in several ways.

Last year the ladies from Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority at San Jose State reached out to Hannah and I asking if we wouldn't mind sharing our story to raise awareness about children getting arthritis too. They wanted their sorority sisters to see how their fundraising efforts were not going in vain and it was for a worthy cause. There were 80 girls in attendance the night Hannah told her story as she held tight to a blue stress ball because she was so nervous. There was not a dry eye in the house. She did an amazing job. The ladies even donated money in our name that night as a thank you. At the following Walk to Cure Arthritis, AOII had the largest registered team at the Tri-Valley walk.

This past October AOII asked if we would come back and speak to the student body for an informative presentation about the Arthritis Foundation and asked Hannah to share her story again, but this time it would be to several hundred students in various fraternities and sororities. So on November 12th, we did just that. It was an amazing night for all of us. Hannah spoke with such confidence. No stress ball was needed. I couldn't have been prouder of her!



Hannah has attended 3 JA conferences, been to JA camp 3 times, JA Day and countless other AF events. She has learned so much about herself. She is a shy girl but this school year she went out for a position on student council and is now the co-chair of the dance commission on the student council for Mable Barron Elementary in Stockton CA. This is the direct result of the Arthritis Foundation helping her find her voice.

We will never be able to repay the AF for all they have done for us by providing us with love, support and the tools to fight back. We are forever grateful. Thank you.