

Vancouver Walk to Cure Arthritis Youth Honoree - Alicia Beck



Our daughter, Alicia Beck, was 8 years old when she was first diagnosed with Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA). However, if we had known the symptoms, she would have been diagnosed at a much younger age. Alicia had started having severe hives all of her body. This started right before her 3rd birthday. Her pediatrician did blood work; we saw an allergy doctor and they called it idiopathic hives.

We first really noticed something was wrong back in the summer of 2010, when our family went to Disneyland. Alicia was 4 years old then, and kept telling us her feet and knees hurt from walking and standing - we ended up getting her a stroller. As parents, we told each other it was just growing pains. As time went by doing family events and in every day activities we noticed she would also complain and want to rest or get into a stroller. When we went back to Disneyland 2 years later - the same thing happened. We took her to her pediatrician and all looked normal at that time.

Alicia was diagnosed in September 2014 Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. Currently, she has two injections per week. We give the injections every Saturday night that unfortunately puts a negative spin on what would normally be a fun filled weekend for most kids. Alicia is a very tough girl and takes her shots better than many adults would. She knows it's necessary and accepts it, but it is still an emotional roller coaster at times.

Last year was Alicia's first team at the Vancouver Walk to Cure Arthritis and she raised over \$1,800.00 for the Arthritis Foundation. We attended Camp Jam last summer, which was a great experience for our family. What makes Alicia stand out for the Youth Honoree is how she blends in with her peers. She appears as normal as any other girl. Alicia knows when to slow down when she starts to feel pain. She tells us when she hurts and where she hurts and that helps us move forward with her treatment. Alicia has a heart of gold for she would do anything for almost anyone. She wants to help everyone she sees in need. Alicia is just a great young lady and very much a giver. We could not be prouder of the young person she has become.

Our family is very committed to supporting the Arthritis Foundation's efforts to help bring awareness about arthritis to the public and to help find a cure for this debilitating disease.

To visit Alicia's fundraising page [click here!](#)