

2015 Fargo Jingle Bell Run/Walk Youth Honoree



In early April 2013, five year old Brenna, limped off the school bus with a swollen knee. Her parents thought it would get better quickly with lots of TLC and a little Advil. Next, a visit to the clinic where the Doctor said to give it two weeks. Many follow-up visits to the Doctor were made, as there was no improvement. In late May 2013, the knee was still so stiff and swollen Brenna was carried to the Doctor as it was too painful for her to walk. An MRI found excessive fluid on her knee. In June 2013, Brenna went to Altru in Grand Forks, and had an aspiration of the knee. The fluid from her knee was sent to Mayo Clinic for a biopsy. The suspect was Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, or JRA. In July 2013, Brenna and her parents met with a pediatric rheumatologist at the Mayo Clinic where her diagnosis of JRA was confirmed; specifically, poly-articular JRA, meaning arthritis in at least four different joints. Brenna has inflammation in her toes, ankles, knees, hips, wrists,

elbows and fingers. She also learned she has Uveitis, an inflammation of the anterior of the cornea, which can lead to blindness. Since the diagnosis, she has battled painful flares and stiffness while making numerous treks to her Pediatric Rheumatology Team at University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital and Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic in Minneapolis, in an effort to find medications that can stabilize her symptoms. JRA impacts Brenna's mobility. At times it makes movement painful. At its worst, there are days it hurts her too much to walk. It causes her to miss school quite often. The arthritis in her hands and fingers make simple tasks like dressing herself and handwriting very difficult. Brenna is currently on weekly subcutaneous injections of Methotrexate, and



bi-monthly subcutaneous injections of Humira to combat arthritis flares, stiffness, and inflammation. Brenna is also on multiple daily oral medications to calm the side effects from the arthritis medicines. She has seen promising results from the new medications that so far appear to keep her inflammation at bay. Through her diagnosis, Brenna has become a 7 year old who is passionate to help find a cure, by advocating and raising funds for the Arthritis Foundation. Brenna is a happy second grader who loves to read, play with her siblings, help bake treats, and is very proud of the fact that she can give herself her own weekly shots! She believes a cure for Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis is in the future. She has no intention of accepting that this diagnosis will remain her future, and along her family, plan to advocate and raise funds to make arthritis go away forever! Brenna is young, but she is brave!

Brenna Drevlow- Age 7

Thief River Falls, MN