

Meet Our Adult Honoree



Emily Browne, 26, has been living with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) since she was 17 years old. During the summer between her junior and senior years of high school, busy days filled with cross country running, waiting tables, and basketball camp transformed into hours spent in bed. Over the course of one week, Emily went from being an active teenager to a girl who could barely dress herself. Fear of the unnamed pain throughout every joint in her body consumed her, until she found a doctor who gave the disease a name: Rheumatoid Arthritis. After months of taking new medication and fighting through weekly physical therapy sessions, Emily was able to return to basketball for her senior year!

Despite the relief of pain, being 17 with RA was not easy. So often people tried to sympathize with her slow-moving walk and new life on the sidelines by saying, "Oh! My Grandma has arthritis in her knee. I'm so sorry!" or "My Dad takes Aleve every day for the arthritis in his shoulder, you should try it!" Despite their kind intentions, Emily grew frustrated with her new life of depending on others and the constant misconceptions with the disease that was now forever a part of her life. She is thankful for the support of the Arthritis Foundation, and the opportunity to share her story at events like the Walk to Cure Arthritis. Emily hopes to connect with other young people with RA, so they might feel supported and understood.

Today, Emily lives a full and blessed life working with high school students in Milwaukee. She enjoys running, swimming, and biking around the city. Want to make a donation to support others like Emily? Follow this link: [____TBD____](#)