



Evansville, IN
Jingle Bell Run Honoree
Justin

A rash and walking on his toes at the age of two were the first hints that something was wrong. After ruling out a reaction to detergent, fabric softener and the thought that maybe he enjoyed walking on his toes, Justin's doctors referred him to Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. On his first visit he was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA).

Justin is now ten years old and endures a cycle of daily medications and weekly painful injections. To say he is a tough little cookie is an understatement. His medications lower his immune system and the battle to keep germs at bay is constant. A bacterial infection led to time in the intensive care unit when he was just three years old.

Despite his challenges Justin is a straight A student and is the king of video games. He loves swimming and playing basketball. Considerably shorter than his identical twin brother and often heavier in weight due to the side effects of his medication, he remains upbeat and outgoing.

We honor his bravery and strength, and we are proud to have Justin as our 2012 Jingle Bell Run Youth Honoree.

About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation (www.arthritis.org) is committed to raising awareness and reducing the unacceptable impact of arthritis, which strikes one in every five adults and 300,000 children, and is the nation's leading cause of disability. To conquer this painful, debilitating disease, we support education, research, advocacy and other vital programs and services.