



Mya Baylor
2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk Youth Honoree
Fort Wayne, IN

Mya Baylor is 11 years old and has a smile that can light up a room. This talented soccer player holds the position of goal keeper for the Fort Wayne United Soccer Club. A goal keeper has to be mentally tough, strong in the air and not afraid to get hurt. A major challenge for any player, and especially courageous for Mya who was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA) in 2007.

When asked how she felt when she received her diagnosis, Mya described it as "scary." Today, she is doing really well and remains active with little to no complications. It's only when she plays a lot of soccer that she notices pain in her knees, ankles and wrists.

Mya is a good student and enjoys reading, drawing and watching television. She is also involved in her church and enjoys bible stories. Mya is one of five children, with two brothers and two sisters. All though she doesn't have a pet, she hopes to one day own a dog. When asked about her future plans, Mya is all smiles as she reveals that she "plans to go to college, play in the World Soccer Cup, be a doctor and an artist." We know you can do it Mya!

The Arthritis Foundation is proud to recognize Mya for the determination and bravery she has displayed while living with JRA. We are honored to have her as the Fort Wayne, 2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk 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.