



Grant Jambois
2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk Youth Honoree
St. Louis, Missouri

It all began on Thanksgiving morning when my son, Grant Jambois, was 8 years old. Grant was riding his cousin's dirt bike when he missed a turn and crashed into a parked car. He was life flighted to Children's Hospital where he stayed for a couple of days to recover. We thought, this kid is really lucky... he could have been hurt much worse. Little did we know that this event would be what seemingly triggered his fight with arthritis.

Shortly after the accident, he started complaining of joint pain. He hadn't injured himself, so I thought he was having growing pains. It wasn't until 2 years later that I noticed his foot was all swollen and red. When I asked him what he did he said "nothing, I told you my foot hurts!" It was time to see the doctor. He was in football at the time and the doctors said it looked like he sprained his toe and put him in a boot. The boot wasn't working and soon his other foot became inflamed. That's when we were referred to the rheumatologist. Two years later Grant was finally diagnosed with Spondyloarthropathies, a type of auto immune arthritis.

Today, Grant is 15 years old and, unfortunately, has never been in remission. He has arthritis in 25 joints in his body and possibly more. There were days when Grant wasn't able to walk out of his room, so he crawled because he was in so much pain. To prevent bad days like these, he gets weekly injections and takes several oral medications. In order to get his joints working in the morning, he soaks in hot water or dips his hands in hot paraffin wax.

Grant is still active in baseball and football. It is never easy for him, but he pushes through the pain. He loves sports so much, how can I tell him "no, you can't play?" Children with arthritis need to stay active. They want to be able to live the same active lives their friends are living!

The Arthritis Foundation has played a major role in helping Grant and my family through the battle with this disease. We have participated in the Jingle Bell Walk/Run for 4 years. We have met wonderful people who are fighting the same disease as Grant, and we have learned so much from all that the Foundation has to offer.

I am personally asking you to help us fight arthritis. Join us for the Jingle Bell Walk/Run to support kids like Grant and so many adults who suffer with this disease. Help us raise money to find a cure for arthritis... help these people live an amazing life without pain!

The Arthritis Foundation is proud to honor Grant Jambois as the 2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk Youth Honoree; and we are grateful to view Grant's story of bravery and courage through the eyes of his mom, Jill Jambois.

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.