



Lola White
2014 Jingle Bell Run/Walk
Youth Honoree
Omaha, NE

Two weeks after her second birthday little Lola refused to walk. Her parents did not see anything wrong, and she looked as healthy as always. Lola's physician was aware of a family history of autoimmune disorders because her big brother, Calvin has eosinophilic esophagitis, which causes him to have severe food allergies. Lola's doctor suspected she was suffering from arthritis. She was taken to Children's Hospital where an MRI confirmed inflammation in both knees and juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). Steroid injections soon followed, along with oral medications. A year later, Lola's pain intensified and she was started on weekly Enbrel injections and Celebrex daily.

Today, Lola's medications help keep her active, but the pain in her knees and hands prevents her from doing all of the things her friends do. She cannot walk around the block with stopping to rest, or play at the playground without sitting in the rocks. Lola's parents Aaron and Dena said, "Despite these challenges, Lola faces her blood draws, two weekly injections, and the swallowing of pills like a big girl."

Lola is nothing short of amazing and loves anything princess related; whether it is watching princess movies, dressing up like a princess or dancing like a princess. She also enjoys playing with her baby dolls and swimming. Her favorite subjects in school are music class, where she enjoys singing and arts & crafts. Lola is also active in her church youth group.

When asked about her hopes for the future Lola said, "I want to live pain free and run and play and ride a bike for a long time, like other kids." She went on to say that, "When she grows up she would like to be a great ballerina dancer, a mommy and a doctor."

Lola's bravery and courage tells us she can be whatever she wants to be, and we know that she will be a success. We are thrilled to recognize Lola White as the 2014 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.