



Gracie Hann
Arthritis Walk Honoree
Warsaw, IN

Gracie is 11 years old, bright, energetic, and always ready to take on a new challenge. She was first diagnosed with JRA at the age of 2. Her left knee became visibly swollen, but with 2 years of Cortisone and Naprosyn, her arthritis went into remission. It wasn't until the summer before she was to begin her 5th grade year that problems with her knuckles began to surface. After two weeks her knees started to bother her, and it was this trigger that helped her doctor determine that she was having a JRA flare.

Gracie has been traveling a long and painful road. She has endured Cortisone injections in her knees, wrists, knuckles and elbows. They momentarily relieve the swelling and discomfort, although the relief is fleeting. She is currently taking Naproxen, Folic Acid, Methotrexate, and Enbrel injections. Her family is hopeful that this combination will allow her to live life with less pain.

Gracie has persevered and continues her active lifestyle playing basketball and volleyball despite her pain. Gracie is the starting point guard for her team, and has also played with the YMCA League and the AAU team, often playing on all three teams simultaneously.

Her mom is amazed at her strength and says, "Gracie never gets depressed about her JRA, and I cry probably more than she does." Always displaying the heart of a champion Gracie wants to become a physical therapist to help others cope with their pain.

Gracie participated in the 2011 Arthritis Walk and raised nearly \$2000; she hopes to raise even more this year. Her huge heart and beautiful spirit has left many to wonder why she has been plagued with this disease. Gracie's mom has concluded that God has a plan for Gracie, and this will help HIS plan for her.

The Arthritis Foundation is extremely proud of Gracie, and we are in awe of her courage. It is for this reason that Gracie has been named the 2012 Arthritis Walk 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.