

Arthritis Walk®



www.arthritiswalk.org



Arthritis Walk Youth Honoree

Victoria "Tori" Baker

Des Moines, IA

Victoria "Tori" Baker is an 8 year old, second grader at Dallas Center – Grimes. By all accounts she seems like a happy, healthy kid. But looks can be deceiving. Tori was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) at just 18 months old.

What started out as a single swollen joint in one of her fingers, has over time spread to her elbows, neck, hips, knees and feet. In a battle against the pain, Tori is on a very potent concoction of medications. She takes pain medication every morning, an injection of a chemotherapy drug once a week, and an IV infusion once a month in an effort to control the inflammation that can cause permanent damage to her joints. Tori also has blood work done every 2 months to make sure that her medications are not becoming toxic to her liver.

Despite the pain she suffers Tori is an amazing big sister to Alyssa, 6 and William 3. She loves to swim, ride horses, read, and hang out with friends and family and listen to music. Her mom Lacey said, "Tori is an amazingly tough and brave girl who rarely complains about having arthritis. She is definitely an inspiration to our family's life!"

We think Tori is pretty special too. Strong and courageous beyond her years. We are proud to have Victoria "Tori" Baker as our 2013 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.