



Franki Greiner
Arthritis Walk Honoree
Indianapolis, IN

Franki Greiner has arthritis, but that's not why she takes part in the Arthritis Walk every year. This 63-year young Indianapolis woman is just one among many in her family living with chronic arthritis pain. Her mother and father, husband and two sons have all battled arthritis.

Diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 29, Greiner ignored the symptoms and left the disease untreated for nearly a decade.

"I was really depressed," Greiner recalls. "There was no one to talk to about it, and nothing seemed to ease the pain; so I just stopped going to the doctor."

But the disease eventually caught up with her; causing deformities in her hands and feet and causing her so much pain she feared she would end up in a wheelchair. The damage in her feet was so severe she had to have total corrective surgery on them.

She now slows the disease's progress with bi-monthly infusions of Remicade as well as Methotrexate, a cancer drug. She is adamant about eating healthy and working out.

"Nobody's gonna take care of this body but me," Greiner declares. "I have to do what I can each and every day to help myself."

Greiner enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and family – especially her granddaughter. Together they plan to take part in the Arthritis Walk to raise awareness and funds for a disease that has made itself (welcome or not) a part of their family.

"I get up every morning and thank God for my health," Greiner says. "I would like to see a cure in my lifetime; not even for me, but for my friends and family who suffer from this disease."

Greiner has participated in the Arthritis Walk every year since its inception in 2003. Her team, Franki's Flyers, is consistently one of the top fundraising teams raising nearly \$15,000 in the past 10 years.

We applaud Franki's fierce determination and strength, and we are thankful for her commitment and support. We are proud to honor her as the 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.