



Laura Danielle Millar
2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis
Youth Honoree
Omaha, NE

Laura was just six years old when she was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) in 2009. Her family knew something was wrong when Laura complained, "My knees won't wake up." Following inconclusive blood tests and a visit to a pediatric rheumatologist her family received the surprising diagnosis. The news was rough to hear, and has been emotional for Laura and her family.

There have been endless doctor visits, medications and injections. At times, Laura becomes frustrated and asks, "Why me?" Despite the pain that is associated with her JIA, Laura is doing pretty well. She remains as active as possible and enjoys playing soccer, basketball and dancing. She would really love to add volleyball to her list of activities, but due to the range of motion involved in playing volleyball, and because Laura has arthritis in both her wrists, her mom is reluctant to let her try the sport. An avid writer, Laura is also actively involved in her church and JAWS (Juvenile Arthritis Warriors) a local organization for children with arthritis.

Laura has three older siblings; two sisters, and a brother who have become caregivers. They have carried Laura up and down stairs and out to the school bus on her worst mornings. She has the love of two dogs and a cat that also fill her life with joy. Laura has outstanding, supportive teachers at school, and wonderful friends. When asked what she enjoys most about being involved with the Arthritis Foundation she replied, "It has helped me to get my mind off arthritis and introduced me to other kids with arthritis." She went on to say, "I wanted to share my story with others and I hope that a cure will be found to stop the pain of arthritis."

We honor Laura's courage and determination and we are thrilled to recognize her as the 2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis 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.