Joie Francis-Ramirez
2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis
Youth Honoree
Topeka, KS

Joie is a freshman at Topeka High School. She began showing symptoms of juvenile arthritis (JA) at age nine. She was then diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic polyarticular arthritis, which is a form of rheumatoid arthritis affecting five or more joints with unknown origin.

Joie and her family have attended The National Juvenile Arthritis Conventions for the last two years. While Joie attends sessions with other youngsters her age, her family participates in educational classes about juvenile arthritis, its treatment and other related topics. "Dream, Believe, Achieve" was the theme of last year's convention.

Joie hasn't allowed arthritis to sideline her. She continues to "move" by competing in high school varsity golf, soccer, basketball, and works as a soccer referee. She also participates in "The First Tee" of Shawnee County, takes part in "Art for Arthritis" and the annual "Walk to Cure Arthritis" which raises money for the Arthritis Foundation. Twice she has cut and donated her hair to "Locks of Love".

Joie's dream is to go to college and have a career as a pediatric rheumatologist. She believes arthritis can't stop you, if you have a dream and believe.

Joie, we love your determination and courage. We are thrilled to recognize you 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.