



Maci Brooker
2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk
Des Moines, Iowa

Maci Brooker is a three year old from Runnells, Iowa, and the little sister of five year old Kenna. A couple of months before Maci turned two, her family noticed that she was no longer bending one of her knees. After several doctors' appointments Maci and her family were directed to a specialist in Iowa City who quickly diagnosed Maci with oligoarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA).

Maci had signs of arthritis in both knees, so the idea was to treat each joint individually. Shortly after her Iowa City visit, her family noticed swelling in her ankles and one wrist. Maci is being treated with weekly Methotrexate injections and has blood work every three months.

Despite these painful challenges, Maci has never complained. Her mom shared, "Maci is an energetic, animated three year old who is always on the move and loves anything to do with princesses." She went on to say that "even though Maci is so little, she is also very tough."

We are honored to have this courageous and brave little princess as the 2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk 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.