



Abby Rea
2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk
Youth Honoree
Wichita, KS

Active, cheerful, fun and determined are words that make up Abby! She is an 8 year-old little girl from Andover that just wants to have fun without a lifetime of pain. "She has asked me why she has to have arthritis, and I tell her even though it is unfair, God knows how strong she is," Abby's mom stated.

Abby was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis (JA) when she was just 3 years old. Her mother, Adrienne, was having a difficult time getting Abby to stand up or walk, and noticed her knees were swollen. After a period of doctors, testing, x-rays, and a lot of waiting it was confirmed Abby had arthritis. It was in the majority of her joints throughout her body, yet from the very beginning Abby's parents and doctors were amazed at how strong she was and still remains.

Abby Rea has been running the Jingle Bell Run for three years now. Her team "Abby's Little Helpers" is her support system on and off the track. One of Abby's favorite activities is soccer. She plays on the team Crush, and this year many of her teammates are going to tie bells on their shoes to join her.

We are excited to have Abby as our 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.