



Tommy Curran
2014 Jingle Bell Run/Walk
Youth Honoree
Western Suburbs, IL

At just seven years old Tommy is a brave little boy. He was diagnosed with arthralgia in 2012. His family had monitored his joint pain and swelling since before his third birthday. Tommy's symptoms had calmed down for about a year, and then flared up again when he was five years old. He has been a patient of Dr. Wagner-Weiner for the last three years to discover the best method of treatment.

Tommy's arthralgia makes writing at school difficult, and a flare up can mean limiting his extracurricular activities, but he rarely complains about any pain. He has been able to persevere and refuses to let arthralgia hold him back.

Tommy enjoys building Lego sets, playing with Skylanders and reading. He remained active in Tae Kwon Do throughout his entire diagnosis process. Tommy's determination will soon pay off as he becomes a black belt in Tae Kwon Do late this year! He is also active in soccer and swimming, and T-USA Martial Arts and Incarnation Soccer.

He is big brother to Caitlin who is six, and Anneliese who is three. When he grows up he wants to become a Tae Kwon Do Master, but for now he is content with his favorite subjects in school, reading and gym. When asked what his hopes for the future are Tommy said, "Get a puppy!"

Tommy's parents, Patrick and Betsy said, "The Arthritis Foundation has opened our eyes to other families in a similar situation and shown Tommy that he is not the only kid with arthritis." Tommy is looking forward to the Jingle Bell Run/Walk because he wants other people to know that kids have arthritis, and he wants to sound the horn at the beginning of the Jingle Bell Run.

Tommy is courageous beyond his years, and we are thrilled to recognize him as this year's 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.