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Dolci Towle
Arthritis Walk Honoree
Topeka, KS

Dolci is a bright and inquisitive 7th grader, who loves school, playing the cello, and having fun. Her career path has two roads; one that leads to a doctor, the other – a crime scene investigator. Her bubbly disposition gives no hint of the battle raging underneath her skin. In August, 2008 Dolci was diagnosed with Juvenile Dermatomyosistis (JDM), a rare autoimmune disease. Like arthritis, JDM is a rheumatic condition, it causes the immune system to malfunction and attack the skin and muscles as though they were foreign to the body.

Prior to her diagnosis Dolci would often feel very weak and experienced a sunburn, poison-ivy type rash on her face and hands. To combat the disorder she takes Cell Cept, Plaquenil and weekly Methotrexate injections. Dolci said, "The worst part of having JDM is not being able to be outside in the sun. The ultraviolet light is a disease trigger for me. I must always wear sunscreen, hats and stay in the shade. My mom said I'll have the prettiest old lady skin ever!" Dolci can no longer do any strenuous activities, or participate in physical education classes at school; as these could lead to disease triggers.

Dolci has attended Camp Joint Adventures in the summer, and enjoyed a cruise last year to the Bahamas courtesy of the Dream Factory! She loves the opportunity to meet with other kids who suffer with similar challenges through her association with the Topeka Arthritis Foundation.

Dolci is a beacon of light to those who cross her path. Her courage and determination makes the Arthritis Foundation proud to have her as the 2012 Arthritis Walk 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.