

# WALK to CURE ARTHRITIS<sup>SM</sup>



**Brandyn Yoches**  
**2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis**  
**Youth Honoree**  
**Peoria, IL**

Brandyn Yoches, an eighth grade student at Blessed Sacrament was first diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) in 2012. Complications from his JIA have caused sore joints, missed school activities, feeling tired and run down, and difficulty getting up and going. Despite these challenges Brandyn remains as active as possible with basketball, baseball, scholastic bowl and declamation.

His disease is often misunderstood because he doesn't look sick. It is often hard for others to grasp what he is going through and the pain his JIA can cause. Brandyn's family was able to locate a doctor in Peoria which eliminated the every three months trip to St. Louis. When asked why he decided to get involved with the Arthritis Foundation, Brandyn replied, "I want to help find a cure and raise awareness."

Brandyn, we appreciate your determination and we salute your bravery and courage. We are proud to recognize you as the 2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis Youth Honoree.

## **About the Arthritis Foundation**

The Arthritis Foundation ([www.arthritis.org](http://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.