



Mary Anne Rogers
2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis
Adult Honoree
Fort Wayne, IN

Mary Anne Rogers was first diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in August, 2008. The first six months following her diagnosis were the worst. She was prescribed Remicade, but was unable to tolerate it and she became very ill. The side effects of the medication left her hospitalized, losing her hair, and kept her out of work for nearly four months. Mary Anne endured a series of failed medical treatments, but is now having some success with her current medication, and is hopeful that she will not have to change meds again.

Since being diagnosed with RA, Mary Anne finds the simple things in life to be the most difficult; kneeling, getting up and down off the floor, opening jars and cans, and even holding a pen to write can be painful. Despite these challenges Mary Anne has persevered, and has not let her RA stop her from living. Speaking from a gracious heart, and always thinking of others Mary Anne said, "I know that God has a plan for me, maybe he gave me this disease so I could help others."

Mary Anne's pain does not stop her from spending time with her family and friends, attending sporting events and laughing, a lot! She is a member of a local workout facility, and participates in two-three 5K's a year; none of which she did before her diagnosis. Mary Anne also stays active with church activities and several community organizations.

When asked about her hopes for the future she said, "I want to stay mobile and keep working full time until I don't want to anymore." Mary Anne believes that the Arthritis Foundation gave her a purpose and focus, and her participation is designed to make a difference for others. She said, "I know this may sound strange, but I wanted others who are struggling to see that this disease can have some positive effects."

Mary Anne's strength, courage and determination to live life to the fullest makes us proud to recognize her as the 2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis Honoree for Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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.