



PRESS RELEASE
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Announcing...Our 2015 Honoree, Macy Moss!

Macy Moss was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) the summer before her 3rd birthday. Since she was only 2 when her symptoms started, it was hard for her to articulate exactly what was hurting, beyond just saying that her legs hurt. The six months leading up to her diagnosis included many tests; including blood work, x-rays, CAT scans and MRI's. Finally in the summer of 2011, she was diagnosed with Polyarticular (involving 5 or more joints) JRA.

The past four years have been filled with doctor appointments, tests, treatments, physical therapies and many medications; but through it all Macy has displayed a positive and adventurous attitude and always has a smile on her face!

Macy is now 6 years old and has responded well to her latest treatment for Juvenile Arthritis. She has resumed many of her favorite activities including swimming, playing on the monkey bars, and riding her scooter.

When Macy was first diagnosed, we knew nothing about the disease and didn't know children could even get arthritis. We contacted the local Arthritis Foundation here in Orlando to get information on JRA. They were such a valuable part of our journey by connecting us with other JRA families. We also learned about local and statewide programs, like Family Connect Days and the Annual Juvenile Arthritis Conference. It was great for Macy to meet other children who were going through similar struggles, and it gave her a chance to just have fun!

Macy enjoys advocating for awareness about Juvenile Arthritis and is honored and excited to be a part of the Fruitcakes in the Alley Fundraiser. She and her family are grateful for The Parrot Heads of Central Florida. It is thanks to efforts from groups like these that help advance medical treatments for kids like Macy and make the journey enjoyable.

