

JUNIOR HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

Abby, age 5

Abby began experiencing pain and stiffness in her knees when she was just two years old. After months of appointments with her Pediatrician, Rheumatologist, and Orthopedic Surgeon, Abby was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. It took a year to come up with a treatment plan to stabilize the disease. Meanwhile, she was also found to have inflammation of the eyes, and now needs to be checked every 3 months by an Optometrist. Abby is currently in remission and loves spending time outdoors...especially playing soccer and swimming!



Aliana, age 8

Diagnosed at the age of 3, Aliana longs for the day when she will never have to endure another shot or visit any more doctors. Aliana helps raise awareness for her disease by participating in the Phoenix Arthritis Walk where she helps organize our largest team, Team UPS, with over 400 people! She does not allow the pain or difficulties to define her or slow her down! She is a “girly-girl” with a beautiful voice and natural artistic talent.

Donte, age 11

Donte’s symptoms came on strong when he was 8 years old. He was having difficulty walking, standing, swallowing, bending, and complained of serious pain. After being referred to a Pediatric Rheumatologist, he was diagnosed with Dermatomyositis, an inflammatory muscle disease. Though his medications have caused Donte to gain weight and give him stomach and head aches, he remains a positive young man. He loves playing tackle football and maintains a straight “A” average in school!

