



Dear Moose members,

Our son Jonathon Schneider is sixteen years old and in the tenth grade at Huntingdon Area High School in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. He was diagnosed with Enthesitis a form of Juvenile Arthritis in August 2014. Prior to being diagnosed, he was suffering from extreme fatigue, swelling of his knees, and had high fevers. The symptoms occurred off and on, becoming more regular over a year and a half. Doctors thought that the episodes were viral and from a knee injury. In July 2014, his knees were swollen to the size of a softball. He was referred to an orthopedic doctor who drained his knees and sent it out for analysis for various conditions. When the results came back all the tests were normal, including a serum lymes, which is supposed to show if Lymes has been present in the past. After two more weeks, his knees swelled up again and the pediatrician said that there was definitely something. He did a whole panel of blood work testing. The testing showed that he had a very elevated Lymes. He was treated with Amoxicillin for six weeks. He then was treated with Doxycycline for six weeks. After those two medications he was still having knee pain and swelling. On November 19, 2014, he had a PICC line inserted for a four-week treatment of Rocephin. All of the treatments stopped the Lymes disease, however it attacked his immune system and triggered arthritis. The arthritis is currently in his knees, hips, fingers, shoulders, neck and back.

Our family got involved with the Arthritis Foundation to help raise awareness and help find a cure for himself and every other child suffering with this debilitating disease. The Arthritis Foundation provides many services to children with arthritis and their families. They provide scholarships to send children to Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis camps for free or minimal cost. They send children power packs that have information, resources, and therapy bears. They provide unconditional support and are there to help with advocating and provide networking to the children and their families. They are a support system and network for helping with

understanding of arthritis, as well as a team that provides support for those children living with arthritis.

Jonathon has good and bad days. He is never without pain, which affects his daily activity. He may be in constant pain but has a loving heart that wants to help. He tries so hard to be like a normal child even if it causes pain to do so. He loves to participate in soccer, wrestling and ride his bike. He also enjoys camping, fishing and hunting as well as being a junior firefighter and Legos. His favorite thing to do is playing Xbox with his friends and spends time outdoors with his dog Buster. Every summer he attends JA Camp at Camp Victory in Millville, PA.

Both Jim and myself are members of the Huntingdon Moose Lodge 223 and Chapter 220 and actively involved. Jim is also an officer at our local lodge and past District 3 President and current PMA arthritis chairman. This year the PMA is joining Jonathon's walk team to raise funds for the Walk to Cure Arthritis on May 18, 2024 in Pittsburgh to help raise money to help with research and find a cure for arthritis for himself and 300,000 other children suffering from arthritis. The Arthritis team name is Jonathon and the Moose Herd. Lets get our sneakers on and start raising funds for this event! Last year our biggest supporters were the moose lodges and chapters to help us raise \$1813.00. Hopefully this year we can fundraise more money towards the research for a cure. If you would like to donate you can **make checks payable to The Arthritis Foundation and put Walk in the memo and mail it to Cindy Schilling PMA Secretary 408 W. Horner Street Apt. 17 Ebensburg, PA 15931.** The lodges, chapters, and districts will get credit with PMA.

Thank You,

Jim, Melissa, and Jonathon Schneider

