

JDRF Children's Congress Delegates From West Michigan



Delegate: Alexis
State: Michigan

Profile:

Alexis ("Lexi") has a partner in her diabetes care -- her father. The 6-year-old was 15 months old when she was diagnosed, and her father found out he had type 1 diabetes when he was 15 years old. Now, as Lexi learns to manage her daily care, she does it with her father. "We test our fingers together, eat our snacks together, and sometimes we change our pump sites together," she says. Lexi and her family have participated in the Walk to Cure Diabetes for the last four years. Starting 1st grade this fall, Lexi takes tap, ballet, and swimming classes, and recently started karate and soccer. She loves playing with her friends and says that she can't wait until she's old enough to work as a babysitter.



Delegate: Gabriel
State: Michigan

Profile:

Gabe, 9, has struggled with diabetes since he was 17 months old. He remembers the disease making him feel clumsy just as he was learning to walk, and he suffered three broken bones before he was 3. Now he is on an insulin pump and enjoys the newfound freedom it offers, especially in his active life. He loves riding his bike, playing basketball, and going to the park with friends, his dog, and a Frisbee. He is a proud Cub Scout and loves camping, hiking, swimming and making crafts. On Capitol Hill, he hopes to raise awareness for funding and enlighten Members of Congress about the daily toll diabetes takes. "By sharing my story, I will know that I am not alone in the fight to find a cure."



Delegate: Sophie
State: Michigan

Profile:

Sophie's mother, Sarah, grew up with two parents with diabetes and witnessed the awful toll the disease takes on the body. When the doctor diagnosed Sophie just before she turned 2, it was the worst day of her mom's life. Now 6, Sophie is lively and active, and doing well so far on the pump. She likes dolls, drawing, reading, playing games, soccer, and dancing. She would like someday to be a dancer, soccer star, mountain biker, or president. Sophie starred in a documentary on stem cell research, and the family participates in the JDRF Walk through their family team, Steppin' for Sophie. "We need to find a cure before the side effects of diabetes that have affected my grandparents affect me," she says.