



## Honoree Jake

My name is Jake and I am a 16 year old from [Baltimore, Maryland](#). I am a junior in high school at the George Washington Carver Center for the Arts and Technology in Towson, Maryland. At the age of 11 and the beginning of 6th grade, certain symptoms began to manifest themselves. I began experiencing excruciating pain in my joints; the pain so severe, not allowing me the simple task of eating a bagel or even the ability to walk. After several months and numerous attempts to be seen by appropriate doctors, and a great extent of testing, I was finally diagnosed with not only Crohn's Disease and Colitis, but Enteropathic Arthritis- Arthritis caused from IBD.

Since that time, I've had my ups and downs with these diseases, however, this past March, I experienced my worst flare. The pain so severe, that I wasn't even able to get myself out of bed. My weight severely diminished as well as my lack of energy. I was suffering from persistent stomach aches and nothing would alleviate the pain. After months of testing, more frequent Remicade treatments and high doses of prednisone, I am beginning to feel better (slowly gaining the weight back) thanks to the incredible and constant support from my family, my diligent team of doctors and the constant education about Crohn's and Colitis.

I am thrilled to be an honoree and looking forward to being part of Team Challenge's Virginia Wine Country Half Marathon.

"Research is expensive, but a CURE is PRICELESS!"