



## Honoree Maya

Maya is 13 years old and is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Clarksville Middle School. She loves musical theater, singing, dancing, and going to NYC to see Broadway shows. When Maya started elementary school, she began having severe stomach pain and was tired often. She was treated for constipation which helped alleviate some of the pain. Two years later, when she was 8 years old, she had a bout of diarrhea and bloody stools. Maya was diagnosed with Crohn's disease after having a colonoscopy. She spent a week in the hospital on IV steroids, to get her symptoms under control. While taking medication to treat the disease, she was mostly symptom free for four years. At that time a routine colonoscopy showed that she no longer had active Crohn's, and was subsequently taken off one of the medications. Within about 6 weeks Maya had a severe flare of the disease and was back in the hospital. Again she was given IV steroids and was put back on the Crohn's medication. Blood work indicated that there was inflammation in Maya's liver, and after some time it was determined that the most likely cause of this was the medication itself; the same one she had been taking for 4 years without any problems. Further testing also indicated that Maya had a rare liver disease called Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC).

It has been just over a year since Maya's last flare, and she is doing really well. She takes medication to treat both Crohn's disease and PSC. There is currently no cure for both of these diseases, but we feel very fortunate that Maya has responded well to treatment and that Crohn's disease has not stopped her from participating in all the activities she loves.