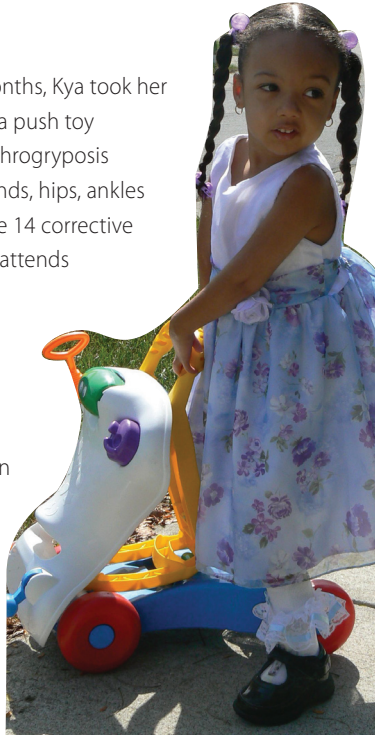


## First Steps

At the age of 3 years & 7 months, Kya took her first unassisted steps, using a push toy to maintain her balance. Arthrogryposis affects Kya's arms, wrists, hands, hips, ankles and feet. She has undergone 14 corrective surgeries, wears splints and attends physical and occupational therapy weekly. Her journey is challenging and she will have additional surgeries and therapy to improve her range of motion and ability to perform routine tasks independently. Kya is bright and enjoys learning and exploring new things.



Kya's Krusade is a nonprofit comprehensive resource center that offers support, education & assistance to children and families affected by physical disabilities. Although we serve those affected by all types of physical disabilities, we specialize in Arthrogryposis and other less-publicized physical disabilities, for which fewer resources are available.

## What is Arthrogryposis?

Arthrogryposis (Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita) is a non-progressive physical disability characterized by multiple fixed joints present throughout the body at birth.

Limited movement of the fetus in the womb results in the formation of extra connective tissue, which becomes fixed around the joints. The tendons, which enable motion, either do not form or stretch out completely.

Individuals with Arthrogryposis face numerous physical challenges, including: bilaterally clubbed hands and/or feet; dislocated and rigid joints; muscle absence, malformation or atrophy and limited range of motion around the joints.

A continuous regimen of corrective surgery, casting, splinting and physical and occupational therapy is used to increase the child's range of motion and functionality.

[www.kyaskrusade.org](http://www.kyaskrusade.org)

Kya's Krusade, a volunteer-based, 501 (c)(3) organization, provides all programs and services free of charge.

## Programs & Services:

- Art Therapy Program: Inclusive art therapy classes with siblings
- Information Packet Program & Provision of Resource Information: Assistance with obtaining client-tailored resource information
- Financial Assistance Program: Adaptive equipment, hippotherapy, physical & occupational therapy grants

## Why Support Kya's Krusade?

- We are committed to increasing awareness and the range of available resources dedicated to children with less-publicized physical disabilities.
- We identify and create innovative programs, services and tools to enable the children we support to reach their maximum potentials at every stage and support their families through their special journeys.
- We operate under the philosophy that a diverse community network strategy will facilitate the most beneficial results and provide a more comprehensive set of resource options for the children and families we serve.

## Contact Us

We look forward to working with you and for you as we embark on our Krusade and hope that you will become a part of our community!

[info@kyaskrusade.org](mailto:info@kyaskrusade.org)

614-750-2198

The combined efforts of doctors, therapists, loved ones and their own persistence enable Kya and Clay to take subsequent steps toward their aspirations, while working through their challenges.

From taking first steps to gaining independence and all of the milestones in between, you can help children like Kya and Clay maximize their potentials and pursue their dreams:

- Join our Resource Network or Share a Resource
- Volunteer (local & distance opportunities available)
- Become a Kya's Krusade General, Program or Event Sponsor
- Make a Monetary and/or In-kind Donation to Kya's Krusade

## “In My Dreams I Can”

When Clay was 3 or 4 years old, he took a family trip to a lake. He was lying on a chair watching the clouds go by, with a distant look in his eyes. Gloria, a friend of his grandmother, asked Clay “What are you daydreaming about?” He calmly said, “I’m thinking about running.” Gloria replied, “Can you run?” Clay said to her, “In my dreams I can.”

Arthrogryposis affects every joint, muscle and tendon in Clay’s body. He started walking at age 4. After suffering two femur fractures, he was unable to walk. Undeterred, he continued to engage in intense physical therapy. When Clay got his driver’s license, he longed for the opportunity to go places without assistance with his wheelchair.

After receiving a wheelchair lift through the Kya’s Krusade Financial Assistance Program in 2008, Clay translated his dream of running. Whole-heartedly embracing his new level of freedom and independence, Clay got a job he loves and drives himself wherever he needs to go, unassisted. Bright, independent and outgoing he continues to work hard in school, at work and with his physical therapy and looks forward to going to college.

Arthrogryposis affects  
1 in every 3,000 babies born.



**Kya’s Krusade, Inc.**  
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*“If you hear a voice within you say  
‘you cannot paint,’ then by all means paint  
and that voice will be silenced.”* -Vincent Van Gogh

Kya's Krusade  
Care . Support . Growth