

JUNIOR AMBASSADOR ~ Ella Jewell, age 10, Connecticut

"Ella Jewell was diagnosed with Severe Congenital Neutropenia at 3 1/2 months old. After being told by many doctors in the New York City Area that they were unsure as to why Ella had zero neutrophils, her family sought out the expert opinion of the late Dr. Larry Boxer. After being in isolation with Ella for months, they drove to Michigan from New York. Dr. Boxer helped to diagnose Ella and get her on the one medication available to treat Neutropenia -GCSF/ Neupogen. The medication worked well for Ella and her family found out the medication was working on Christmas Eve. They were able to share Ella with their family for the first time on Christmas morning. Dr. Boxer referred to Ella as the Christmas Miracle Baby! Ella's family felt fortunate for how well Ella had done and wanted to do all that they could to move research in the right direction for Ella and everyone diagnosed with Neutropenia. They asked the doctors how they could best support the research. Unfortunately, at the time there was not another organization directly assisting with funds for research. With the support of Dr. Larry Boxer and Neutropenia expert, Dr. David Dale, the Ella Jewell Foundation was established to support Neutropenia Research. The Ella Jewell Foundation works closely with the National Neutropenia Network and the Neutropenia community to help patient support programs and research. Every penny raised is donated. Ella has her challenges with her diagnosis, but her family stays positive and with the Neutropenia community and researchers, they work towards the ultimate goal ~ a cure."

In recognition of all that Ella does to help make a difference in the lives and futures of those living with Neutropenia, it is our honor to name Ella as one of the 2019-2020 Junior Ambassadors for the National Neutropenia Network....

"My name is Ella Jewell and my parents started the Ella Jewell Foundation ten years ago. The Ella Jewell Foundation helps raise money for Neutropenia. I have been very involved with helping to raise funds for research and awareness.

This past year my friends and I had the most amazing bake sale in our town. The Princess Ball is a big charity event held in my town every year. Girls come to the Ball with their dads. I made a big speech at the Ball in front of over 300 guests that attended. I talked about Neutropenia and told them about it, I also taught them about the National Neutropenia Network and The Ella Jewell Foundation. I told them about my friends that I have made over the years from the conference.

Every year for my Birthday, I ask for my family and friends to donate to the National Neutropenia Kids Camp instead of giving me presents. I do this because I love the camp so much, it is one of my most favorite things to go to, I always look forward to it. I get to see my friends and I get to be proud of helping the kids camp to be awesome. My sisters love me and they too love the camp, so they do not ask for presents for their Birthdays, they ask for money to be donated towards the camp. The camp makes us all really happy.

Every year my family and lots of people that support the Ella Jewell Foundation help to put together an amazing event. Last year we did the Spooktacular, we are doing it again this year and I am very excited. I will be making a speech this year. My friend Liam makes speeches and he inspires me. I am going to tell my friends about Neutropenia.

This year, my science teacher is going to help me explain to my friends how my body works. We are going to do a demonstration.

I think that I would be a good ambassador because I am proud of who I am. I think every kid with neutropenia should be proud of who they are. I would love being a junior ambassador."

