

Good morning. My name is Aaron Jones and I am 10 years old. I was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes when I was 4 years old and I have been living with this disease for 6 years. My older sister Shaynah has just been diagnosed, too.

My mom doesn't know why or how we both got juvenile diabetes, because we are the only people in our family who have it. Even though I am younger than Shaynah sometimes I feel like her big brother because every time she needs help understanding her diabetes I tell her what I know. Shaynah gets nervous because she knows that I sometimes have seizures because of my diabetes and she doesn't want to get them, too. We also both worry about our older brother Justin and our younger sister Kara. We worry that they may get diabetes.

Living with diabetes is the pits. I live with it because I have to. The part I really don't like is taking insulin shots and always checking my blood sugar. It can be painful and sometimes I just don't feel like doing it. I also feel awful and tired when my blood sugars get too high or very low. I just want to feel like a normal kid without pricking my finger two thousand times each year or injecting myself with insulin eleven hundred times a year.

Finding a cure is what keeps me smiling every day. Please help us find a cure in time to help me and my sister and all the kids who never get a day off from diabetes.

I am Shaynah Jones, Aaron's older sister. I am 13 years old and have had juvenile diabetes for two years. Having two kids with diabetes in one family really takes it toll on everyone.

For Aaron and me, managing our diabetes takes a lot of time away from our family. If we are with our family at a function, we have to stop what we are doing and check blood sugars or go to the bathroom to inject insulin. If there is a high or low blood sugar with one of us, then sometimes we have to cancel what we are doing so our parents can take care of us. Especially Aaron – if he gets too low he has seizures and that can be a real emergency.

The emotional stress of this disease is horrible on our entire family. If one of our blood sugars is out of control it seems like the whole family holds their breath until we get it back in line. If we misplace one of our meters, my mom gets upset because our numbers won't be right for the doctor. It can become difficult because we are stressed out all of the time worrying about whether we have everything relating to our diabetes in order, not to mention what we worry about just being kids.

Diabetes is so rough on my whole family. It is heartache and heartbreak every day! Still, we all wake up every morning grateful for a new day and with a positive outlook on life. We are not giving up!