

# Kids benefit from annual police ride



Cops For Kids president Gail Harrison and RCMP Insp. Cam Forgues hand off a cheque for \$440 to 11-year-old Maria Schmidt and her mother Janice. The assistance will allow Maria, a Type 1 diabetes sufferer, to switch to an insulin pump and cease daily injections.

*Sean Connor/Capital News*

By [Mike Simmons - Kelowna Capital News](#)

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An annual journey by police officers on bicycles is continuing to raise money to help children.

This year marks the tenth year of existence for the Cops for Kids charitable foundation. President Gail Harrison said the foundation has raised over \$1.2 million to help children with medical expenses or recover from physical or traumatic crisis situations.

The funds raised have assisted children in the purchase of wheelchairs, diabetic pumps and autism treatments, along with covering travel and medical costs associated with cancer treatments.

"Each fall our signature event, the Cops for Kids Ride, gives us the opportunity not only to highlight and acknowledge our generous sponsors and supporters but raise awareness and the much needed funds to continue our pledge to assist children in crisis," said Harrison.

The main pledge event of Cops for Kids involves a ten-day bicycle ride each fall. Last year, riders passed through 18 communities in the Okanagan and Kootenay regions.

"This grueling ten-day ride occurs each September over some very challenging terrain. Each and every rider is constantly reminded of whom he or she rides for, and we recognize that although we may have had a rough day it is nothing compared to the days that some children face with their own challenges with health, safety and happiness."