

Community

Patient pays it forward for hospital

Miranda Tymoschuk has endured two major leg surgeries in the 12 years she has been alive, plus numerous emergency surgeries over the years.

Miranda has a rare condition called posteromedial bowing of the tibia and fibula, which has dramatically slowed the growth of her left leg.

When she was in Grade 2, she had surgery that lengthened her leg by 4.5 centimetres, and last September the leg was lengthened another 2.5 centimetres.

That means the Maple Ridge resident has spent a lot of time getting to know the staff at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster. She and her family spend a lot of time there. It eats up a lot of time in the family's life, but it also



Jerald Walliser photos

(Above) Miranda Tymoschuk presents money Wednesday. (Below) The apparatus Miranda wears as her bones heal from surgery and an X-ray that shows the space that still exists between two pieces of her leg. (Right) Miranda and friends.

people cover a variety of expenses.

Miranda has always appreciated the help the family has received. And even though her top priority is healing, that hasn't stopped the Kanaka Creek Elementary student from giving back to those who have supported the family.

On Wednesday, Miranda and her friends presented \$500 to the foundation to help set up a "Pay It Forward Fund."

The funds will be dispersed by the pediatric team to families in need of support while their child is being treated at RCH.

On her own initiative, Miranda has raised this money through the sale of cookies and friendship bracelets to "pay forward" the money her family has accessed through the fund throughout the past few years.

Her hope is that other pediatric patients will be inspired to "pay forward" her support to others in the community.

"She's a very giving child," said her mom Tamara.

"This was entirely her idea. She took it on and has done



a great job. I'm very proud of her."

Since her last surgery, the space between the two bones is still two millimeters apart. "What we are waiting for now is for the bones to grow together and harden enough for the apparatus to come off," said Tamara. "For some reason it's taking longer for it to heal."

The fund was established in 2008 through a donation from Variety — The Children's Charity. The fund assists with medical care, related services, or supplies that are not covered by other resources. It also provides vouchers for items such as accommodations, transportation costs and meals.



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