

Cops for Kids take to the streets to fight MD

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Police cars cruised the area near Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus Saturday.

But there was no crime. Some 100 police officers and civilians took part in the annual benefit 10-kilometer race — called the Cops for Kids run. Proceeds were donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The run began and concluded at the campus, winding through several subdivisions.

"It's almost an international event," said police chief William Dwyer. "It's become the only (police) run around."

Police officers like Bob Jacques, of the Metro Toronto police department and Bob Gardner of the Ontario Provincial police department also attended.

New this year was the 5-kilometer run/walk and a one-mile fun run.

"It's a fun run, with a purpose," said Lt. Marty Bledsoe, race organizer. "OCC has been great about taking care of us."

Contributions from local businesses for pop and food, assure that more money can be donated to MDA.

Brett Marquardt, 6, the regional MDA representative for Metro-Detroit, and his family, were also present.

"We got here just when the gun went off," said Brett's mother, Terri Marquardt. "We like to help out. We feel thankful that Brett



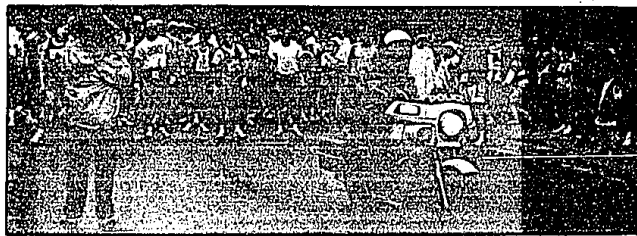
ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Awards presentation: Brett Marquardt, a representative for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, sits with his father, Paul, during the awards ceremony for the "Cops for Kids" 10K run Saturday. The run was a fund-raiser for MDA.

can walk. He's one of the few."

His father, Paul, brother Michael, 8, and Amanda, 3, also enjoyed the event.

The family has no pets, so Brett loves his stuffed animals. "I have cats, dogs and a fox," Brett said.



JIM WORTHINGTON

Starting gun: Runners line up for the start of the "Cops for Kids" run Saturday.

The Fraternal Order of Police donated a stuffed bear dressed in a police uniform. Brett immediately named him "Police Officer Bear."

The bear had both paws in the winning cups representing first place male and female 10K runners, which were placed on the prize table.

Brett is a kindergartner at Winchester Elementary in Northville. "He had a good first year," Terri said. "The kids were compassionate and helpful."

Brett tires easily, according to his mother.

His favorite television show is "Rescue 911." "That's a big event," Terri said.

What does Brett want to be when he grows up? You guessed it, a policeman.

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