

KICKING COMPASSION INTO HIGH GEAR



Peter Mckeown photos

Above: Joshua Mckeown shows off his new motocross bike gear customized by Kingsmen Kustoms in Brampton. Right: Joshua and his dad Derrick.

LOCAL COMPANY PAYS TO CUSTOMIZE MOTOCROSS BIKE FOR MURDER VICTIM'S SON

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It's undeniable that life has dealt some harsh blows to little Joshua Mckeown.

Since his father's murder almost two years ago, the seven-year-old has been raised by his grandfather, Peter Mckeown, a Georgetown pensioner who's legally blind.

So when Robb Anderson saw a way to help make the boy's days just a bit brighter, he jumped at the chance.

Anderson, who operates Kingsmen Kustoms in Brampton, recently customized Josh's electric motocross bike, completing the majority of the work at no cost.

"We thought, this little kid has been put through the wringer. Let's take his mind off things," he said.

After receiving a call from Peter looking for a quote to get the work done, and later learning about Josh's story, Anderson's team and his other contacts in the industry took it away from there to make



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the youngster's bike the best it can be.

He started by connecting with Benfoot Customs to get the bike repaired with plastic welding, with the company also doing some work on Josh's helmet to make it look brand new.

Anderson then reached out to a member of the Unruly Riders motorcycle club, who went above and beyond with his reupholstery work by replacing the torn black seat with white ostrich skin leather.

From there, the Kingsmen team customized the bike in blue with a hydrographic print of vines mixed with smiling skulls.

"Josh told us one of his favourite colours was blue, so we put a beautiful blue pearl base coat to make it sparkle," explained Anderson.

"We then used a carbon fibre print for the front fork covers, gas tank and the front number plate. At Peter's request, we put Josh's father's name and '#1 Dad' on the number plate, and last name on his helmet."

When everything was done, Anderson's team personally delivered the freshly-minted parts to the Mckeowns — a special moment for everyone involved.

"It felt so good to do something nice like that, and let Josh know that there are complete strangers who care about him," said Anderson.

So what does the little guy think of his new wheels?

"He was as happy as all get out and so excited to ride it," said Peter. "This kid truly deserves everything he gets. I do everything I can for him, but it's tough sometimes."

Peter recently launched a GoFundMe to raise money for an RESP to fund Josh's post-secondary education. The page can be found at [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) under "Joshua RESP For Future Education."

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