

All for the Love of Sophie

How you helped fund the only course of its kind in Ireland for families of visually impaired children, and the amazing gift it's already given to one mum and her daughter...

Louise Sutton Gough watched her visually impaired daughter with love and gratitude. She was so proud of the young person Sophie was becoming. But as Sophie's teenage years loomed, Louise worried. What would happen when her daughter realised she'd never drive a car? How would she put on makeup? Would her friends desert her?

A 'VI school' for parents

Louise knew she had to find a way to help Sophie through those intense years. So she turned to the one place that thanks to your support has been a constant in her daughter's life from the time Sophie was just six months of age: ChildVision.

Sophie was born missing pieces of tissue that form the structure of her left eye, and with

repetitive eye movements that impair her vision. Again your generosity would be there for the family, helping to fund eight, in-depth learning modules for parents and professionals that live and work with vision impaired – or VI – children.

Learning beyond books

It's called "Working with People with a Visual Impairment." The *continued on page 3*



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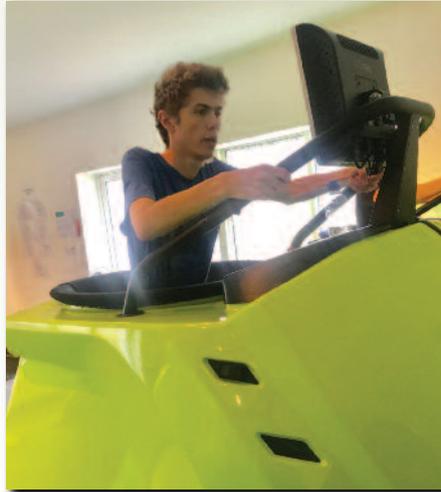
Exercising in Anti-Gravity

Discover how an amazing, donated "fitness pod" is bringing the joy of exercise and the gift of good health to students at ChildVision...

When your body won't let you run, jog, or even go for a brisk walk without embarrassment, fear, and risk of serious injury, how do you stay fit? For multiply disabled blind children and young people this question can become a lifetime, life-threatening barrier: lack of exercise gives way to weight struggles, mental wellness issues, and chronic health problems.

A space-age solution

Until now. Meet the Transformation POD, a futuristic treadmill that is already changing the lives of people with accident-related disabilities, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, the aftereffects of



Chris was one of the students who trained for a year on a standard fitness pod (above), so that a special pod could be worked up for ChildVision students especially!

stroke, and other conditions that hinder mobility. And now, a generous donation from longtime supporter Essential Supplies has

brought a fitness pod to ChildVision.

Prior to this spring, four of our vocational students consulted with Maria Kealy, co-creator of the pod. They travelled to Co. Meath on a fortnightly basis to access the treadmill, which uses vacuum technology to hold their bodies in an upright position so they can run or walk independently, stretching muscles that are often shortened, and elongating their gaits.

Running for the first time at 19

Results have been nothing short of miraculous. One of our students who has a brain injury, cerebral palsy, and visual impairment could not do ten minutes of walking on his first session. By his fourth session, he walked 33 minutes! The anti-gravity treadmill also gave another student his first chance to run without assistance. He is nineteen years of age. ♥

Each and every day at ChildVision your support sends a message to our students: I believe in you... in all you can do... all you will do... and I will help you.



Thank you, Essential Supplies. And thank you for caring about Ireland's blind children.

What Can a Blind Child Really Do?

The Sky's the Limit, Thanks to You! 😊



It is this simple: ChildVision's residential programme for students aged 10-23 would not exist without your kind support. In addition to their studies, often with additional disabilities, our blind and visually impaired students reach for the stars thanks to you...



Adam plays blind football for Cork. Himself and his team were recently awarded medals for winning the All Ireland final!

Thank you for every

The Love of Sophie

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Certificate course in Higher Education was developed by ChildVision and the University of Worcester, and covers such themes as Assistive Technology, Orientation and Mobility, and Nature and Causes of Visual Impairment. It is the only course of its kind in Ireland.

Louise explains that the learning goes beyond books. “So that we could properly learn how blind and visually impaired people get around, we were blindfolded. It is only when that happens that you really start to understand the obstacles they face.”



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— Sophie’s mum, Louise

Skills for her future

Secondary school will be Sophie’s next big steppingstone, and Louise – who recently received her certificate – is confident she’ll be ready to help. “Every tutor delivered fantastic modules. As a parent, the ChildVision training has given me the skills and tools

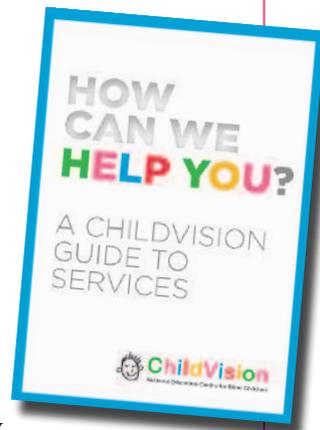
that will benefit Sophie into the future.” ♥

This year’s certificate course commences in September 2018 and has a limited enrollment. For more information, ring us on **01 837 3635**. Thank you for standing beside our children and families!

New, free, and online now —

ChildVision’s Guide to Services: Who is it for?

- ✓ If you are a friend to the work, *the Guide to Services* is for you...
- ✓ If you are an educator, *the Guide is for you...*
- ✓ If you are part of a primary healthcare team, *the Guide is for you...*
- ✓ If you are a parent, family member, or guardian, *the Guide is for you...*
- ✓ For anyone who helps, cares for, lives with, looks after, or loves a blind or visually impaired child or young person, *the ChildVision Guide to Services is for you.*



Help spread the word. See the just-released “ChildVision Guide to Services” FREE and online now: childvision.ie/site/about-us/publications.



Patrick

Patrick completed his Junior Cert in braille Gaeilge and has been chosen for work placement in RTÉ studios. He also plays classical piano.



Wiktoria

Wiktoria can’t get enough of judo. She trains 5-6 days every week and recently won gold at a competition.



Gabriel

Gabriel does blind kickboxing twice each week, and put in extra training so he could fight his first fight this year. Go Gabriel!

chance you provide for a brighter, more confident future.

How one woman's love of animals led to a lasting legacy for children in need...

Introducing The Florrie Fund



“Sometimes little things happen in a day that make all the other noise and hassle melt away. I got a call from a donor who said she wanted to meet, not to take up any of my time but to just have a quick cup of coffee and talk to me about her aunt who had passed away and left her a sum of money in her will.

We met a few days later. It was just before Christmas and the madness had already set in. We spoke a little about the days around us and the busy world and then we spoke about Florrie. It was immediately apparent to me how kind and larger than life Florrie had been. Her niece, who sat in front of me, spoke of Florrie's love of animals and how she really wanted to see that love of animals living on through our work. We talked for a while about what way it could work and eventually settled on what had been the lady's gut (or heart) instinct from the start – the money should go to provide therapeutic riding lessons for children who are disadvantaged and can't afford to pay for them but who really need them. Lessons for children, with and without sight, who have suffered trauma, children who are in care, children who are disadvantaged for one reason or another – all who really, really need this. For all it will be life changing.

The madness of Christmas was paused for a while by the meeting with Florrie's niece and the promise of healing lives through the memory of another.”

— Ruth Hickey, *ChildVision*



Applications to The Florrie Fund can be made by emailing terri@childvision.ie or by phoning 087 602 8880. ♥



Concerts Help Blind Children Make Music

ChildVision student Amy Campbell joins a host of stars to remember a Tradfest friend and raise money for our music workshops for blind children...

ChildVision are

delighted to be charity partners for the fifth year in 2018 for Temple Bar's wonderful music festival, Tradfest. We were also honoured to be donated the proceeds from a 2017 concert in memory of former Tradfest director Oliver Hughes, for our music workshops for blind children.

Our own Amy Campbell took the stage, especially poignant as Amy is blind and first held the uilleann pipes thanks to support like yours for ChildVision's music programme. Heartfelt thanks to you, to Tradfest, to the Hughes Family, and to the memory of Oliver Hughes.

ChildVision's music workshops receive no government funding. If you've a love of music and want to give, your support is always welcome. ♥



Thank you!



ChildVision

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