

## His Life of Leaps, Bounds & Love

*Tom is just four years of age. But already he has lived a lifetime. See how your love led to leaps and bounds for a bright-eyed boy born with a scary, rare disorder...*

**I**t is an almost impossible beginning. A little boy is born with an inconceivably rare chromosomal disorder called Trisomy 7p. As a result he faces open heart surgery at only five months old.

He doesn't walk or learn or process new things like other children. He has a daunting

visual impairment and a chronic condition that doesn't let him sleep deeply. For the first two years of his life Tom knows only infections and illness.

Then came the year his family found ChildVision, Ireland's only National Education Centre for Blind Children. Here and helping, thanks to you.

### Tom triumphant

One of the things your support of ChildVision makes possible is a bus that picks up children like Tom within a 60 mile radius of our campus, who mightn't attend school without this special transportation.

"He was all smiles," Tom's mum Catherine remembers. "When the bus dropped him home he was exhausted – he slept for three hours!" With

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# This Girl Is Independent Now

*Ciara graduated out of ChildVision's Vocational Education programme last year. How did support like yours prepare her for independent living? Have a look...*

**C**iara, aged 22, has been nearly blind since birth. So for four years she came to ChildVision – to grow, learn, and gain the skills she'd need to one day, hopefully, enter an independent living programme especially for our past students.

Last year that hope was realised. We chatted to her by phone not long ago, and you'll be delighted to hear that Ciara is flourishing. She's thrilled to have already learnt important skills

such as mobility, I.T. and typing – and told us she finds great joy in her new piano lessons and the pride of having grown fresh mint just outside her door all spring and summer.

But most of all, Ciara loves

making her own choices. From what to wear, to what to buy for dinner, it's all part of the newfound independence that members like you make possible for our Vocational Education children at ChildVision. 🍋

*Ciara takes great pride in the skills she's learning ... and the fresh mint she grew outside her door all spring and summer!*



**Their giggles and smiles say it all:**

## Thank You for Our New Pre-School

*What do you get when you mix a waiting list of 54 visually impaired children, and your generous heart? The new ChildVision Pre-School...*



**U**ntil you came along, many children on our pre-school waiting list had waited for their chance to attend for three years or more. There just wasn't enough room or resources to accommodate them all.

But your generosity turned a world of waiting to a world of wonder. The new, larger ChildVision pre-school is officially open. And the boys and girls who now build, play, crawl, giggle and spread their arms wide for a hug from our special teachers and medical staff say, "Thank you for our new pre-school!"

**Visit the pre-school your generosity built: ring us on 01 837 3635 for a tour. We'd love to meet you!**

## 2014 Summer Camp Report

**T**he tickle of bubbles in a jacuzzi bath... the laughter of friends around you... the soft fur of a gentle pony... all under the watchful eye of our staff and nurses. For children who mightn't have had any of those experiences without you, ChildVision's Summer Camp at The Haven in Co. Roscommon was one to cherish. Thanks for the memories! 🍋



**You are their sunshine. Thank you!**



[www.childvision.ie](http://www.childvision.ie)



# Never Underestimate the Power of Horse Sense

*"For a child with a disability the psychological benefit of interacting with the horse cannot be underestimated," explains Brian Allen, CEO of ChildVision...*



With enough funds ChildVision hopes to be able to provide equine therapy for all our children who are able. Can you help us?

**C**hildVision's equine assisted therapy programme has been such a success that our children are signing up in record numbers. And with enough funds, we'll be able to make each child's dream come true. But we need your help to get there.

**“**For a child with a disability the psychological benefit of interacting with the horse cannot be underestimated,” explained Brian Allen, CEO of ChildVision. “The children benefit emotionally through their connection with these sensitive animals. A profound bond is experienced between the child and the horse, especially those children with a disability where communication is impacted. **”**

Thanks to public donations and assistance from the Garda Mounted Unit, ChildVision now has 14 horses and ponies, either resting in their stables, grazing in the paddocks, or being used for lessons and guided trips down the sensory trails for children. **To help open this programme to other autistic Irish children in need, use the reply form included with your newsletter. Thank you!**

For easing their fears...  
for your faith and  
your cheer... for support  
through the years...  
we thank you.



## His Life of... Love

*continued from cover*

Tom's physical challenges, mum Catherine also takes great comfort that there are three full-time donor-funded nurses who are on staff to care for Tom when he needs it.

### Hero's notebook

As Tom begins another year with ChildVision, his mum is looking forward to reading the notebook of daily achievements that are recorded by ChildVision staff for each student. “It lists all his motor skills, vision work, table top activities, computer work and time in his walker. It might say, ‘Tom enjoyed his walk today and we met lots of people along the way.’ He even has play dates with his pal Sam from pre-school. That's the highlight of my day, reading his notebook.”

### Leaps, bounds & love

The future isn't certain for Tom. But already “there's a massive difference in his little personality,” says mum Catherine. “His immune system is stronger and he's just so much more alert and happy. ChildVision is like a protective haven, giving Tom the best chance of education and with the best supports in place. I can't wait to see what he is going to achieve in speech and language, occupational therapy, horse riding and physiotherapy.”

One thing, though, is certain. At ChildVision, Tom is sure to come on in leaps and bounds – with your love and support by his side. We couldn't do it without you.

ChildVision is Charity Partner of the Year. You're invited —

# World Press Photography Exhibition Dublin Premiere

© Brent Stirton, Reportage by Getty Images



Famous photojournalist Brent Stirton comes to ChildVision. See his winning photo at our World Press donor evening 6 November.



## Exclusive Evening for ChildVision Donors:

Thursday, 6 November  
from 7:00pm

### Location:

The Vaults at the CHQ building,  
Custom House Quay, IFSC, Dublin1

For the first time ever, the World Press Photo Exhibition comes to Ireland. See 150 breathtaking photos that highlight positive social change around the globe. Features the work of acclaimed photojournalist Brent Stirton – who will have just wrapped up a week's stay on the ChildVision campus to photograph our children – and his powerful first-place image of five blind albino boys. **Bring this newsletter to ChildVision's special donor evening and entrance is free!**

For the joy you bring, it's —

## Christmas Carols by Candlelight

*Legendary singer Liam Lawton is back by popular demand for ChildVision's beloved Carols by Candlelight. Mince pie, merriment, and Christmas magic guaranteed!*

**When:** 7th December 2014, at 8:00pm

**Where:** The Chapel at All Hallow's College, Grace Park Road

**RSVP:** Ring 01 837 3635 or email to [anthea@childvision.ie](mailto:anthea@childvision.ie). Donations voluntary, and welcomed with gratitude and good cheer! 🍷

## Tea for 2... or 22... and YOU!

To host an afternoon tea or morning coffee for you and your friends at the beautiful ChildVision gardens and campus in Drumcondra, all you need to do is **ring us on 01 837 3635** for details.

Includes a warm welcome from our amazing children and a guided tour, of course! Located minutes from Dublin Centre off the M50. Will we see you soon? 🍵



# ChildVision

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