

The Hidden Wonders of Horse Power

It's got a big name and a singular aim: ChildVision's Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy Programme is about transforming the lives of multi-disabled blind children by helping them learn to ride and care for some very special horses. And the woman behind that therapy is here because of you...

When Audrey Darby talks about her work, her eyes sparkle with life. "ChildVision, to me, is the best ever place to work," she says simply. And knowing she's been an occupational therapist here for the past thirteen years, you can see it's true.

What is O.T., really?

If you or someone you love was ever injured and needed help regaining skills for living, you might know about occupational therapy (O.T.). But at ChildVision, with children who will live with blindness and other disabilities forever, O.T. is essential for achieving the greatest independence and growth

possible. And you'd be amazed at what 'possible' means... especially when it comes to the horses.

The helmet he never needed

"Horses have a multidimensional movement in their pelvis that's really beneficial to the children when they ride," Audrey explains, "because it helps them to build coordination, core strength, muscle tone, and sit upright. As well we see huge improvements in the children overall – they're happier and more confident in themselves, and they communicate far better." She goes on to tell the story of a student with cerebral palsy who is blind, who "was

continued on page 4



Inside:

We Dedicate This School Year to YOU:
Special Thank You Album, pages 2-3!

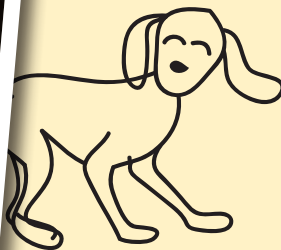
Photo: Thanks to your help, equine therapy is all in a day's work for Audrey Darby.

For victories in the making... for tomorrow

As we turn our faces to a new school year, filled with triumphs and discoveries for multi-disabled blind children and their families who – before you – didn't dare to dream, we dedicate this school year to you, the heart and soul of ChildVision....

"When people ask me what's ChildVision like I say it's like Charles Xavier School for the Gifted from X-Men. The one thing I would love to do is to walk on my own, but I'm patient when it comes to my impairment. ChildVision can make me what I want to be – independent."

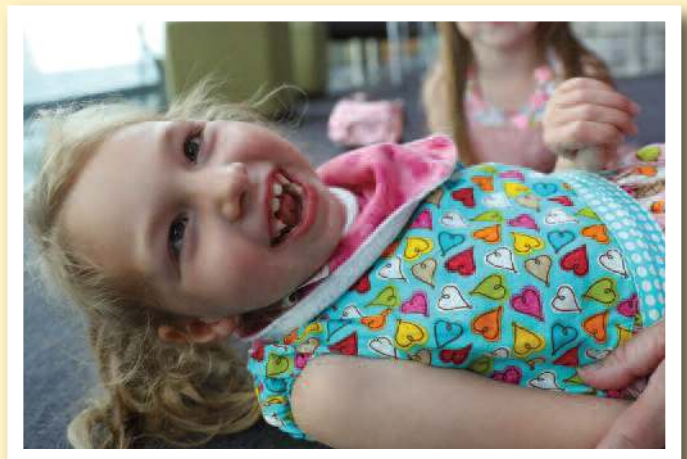
— Jordan, residential student



THANK

"You don't know what a difference you are making when you give. You're giving children who might be left behind and lost, hope and a life. Please never give up on ChildVision."

— Maria, mum of Ava

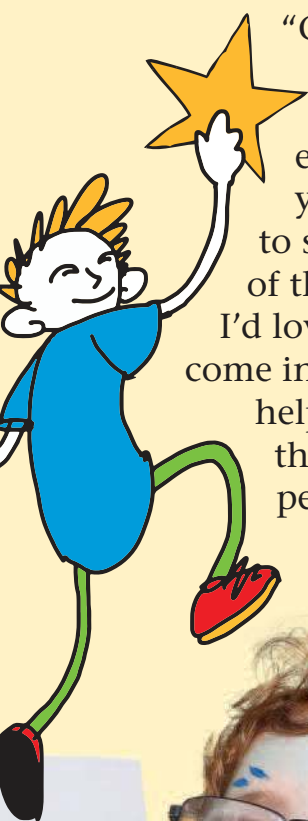


"I just want to thank the staff and supporters of ChildVision because they've made an enormous difference to Mila's life. They welcomed us with open arms. I can't tell you. It's incredible."

— Marcus, dad of Mila

trust. And so, today, we dedicate this school year to you —

tomorrows to come... we thank you:



"ChildVision comes into your life at what is likely the biggest crisis your family is ever going to have. They lift you up out of it, just enough to see there's a light at the end of the tunnel. That's priceless.

I'd love for the people who give to come in and see how their money is helping. Through ChildVision they are completely changing people's lives."

— Neasa, mum of Edith



"Sometimes I have to do things differently than others, but the best thing I've learnt at ChildVision is how

to be independent – whether it's travelling home on the train or learning to cook. The work experience has been great to learn new skills, for me and the people there. They learn about my ability rather than my disability."

— Amy, graduating vocational student



"I'm in Junior Cert year now and I use my braille note for almost everything. I've been able to follow my education, and everything I want to do, staff try their best to help me achieve it. Without ChildVision I wouldn't be anything close to what I am today."

— Paul, residential student



Horse Power

continued from cover

being fitted for a helmet when he first came to us because he kept falling over. Through our work with the horse, he improved so much that he never needed the helmet. Today he walks independently with a cane."

For Ireland (and the world)

It's clear that what drives Audrey are the lives being touched with

the help of your support of ChildVision's horse therapy programme – the only programme of its kind in all of Ireland. So she's multiplying your generosity by measuring the results achieved here then sharing that work to help blind children around the world. "This summer I was fortunate enough to represent our work on an international level, at a scientific conference in Barcelona. Our expansion of the horse therapy programme is funding



dependent, but I'm hoping this will happen over the coming months. I'm very grateful to be able to part of this pioneering project." From Audrey, from all of us here, and for the lives you change, **thank you for unlocking the hidden wonders of horse power!** ♥

Santa's Coming... and You're Invited!

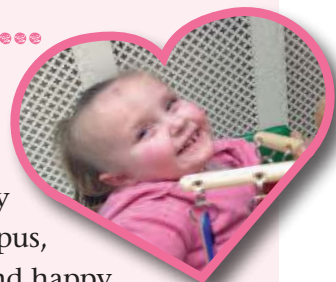


On **Saturday 17th December**, we're hosting a very special donor event. We invite you to bring the small people in your life along to take part in the magic of our Christmas Experience. The **3 pm and 3.30 pm shows have been reserved exclusively for supporters...** come and see Santa and Mrs Claus and the animals as we all get ready for Christmas at ChildVision. Then join us for a cup of tea and some mince pies afterwards in our newly renovated coffee shop. For free admission, just bring your copy of this newsletter with you. Hope to see you there! ♥

Where Your Heart Can Be Glad...

... For today

During the school year you are very welcome to come by for a guided tour of the campus, and see the vibrant places and happy faces that are here because of your generosity. From the therapy horse stables to the preschool, here, your heart can be glad for the good you do.



... And forever

If you'd like to leave a small percentage of your estate to help blind children in Ireland for many years to come, it's easy to get started – and your heart can be forever glad in the knowledge that at ChildVision, we will always remember you for your kindness.

To schedule your campus tour or to request free details on setting aside a gift in your will to ChildVision, **ring Ruth on 01 837 3635**. She'll be happy to help.

♥ Thank you! ♥



ChildVision

National Education Centre for Blind Children
Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

☎ Telephone: 01 837 3635

✉ Email: info@childvision.ie

🌐 Website: www.childvision.ie

📘 Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChildVisionIreland

🐦 Twitter: [@childvisionvi](https://twitter.com/childvisionvi)