

Cooking Up An Independent Future

Every day at ChildVision, you help to fund a remarkable vocational programme for multi-disabled young people in Ireland aged 16 to 23. And because you make the programme possible, The Cadbury Foundation was recently able to add to the good you do with the gift of an amazing assistive kitchen. It's helping students in the most wonderful way...

When you can't see the same as other people and have additional disabilities as well, chopping and cooking and even jar-opening present a whole different set of challenges. How do you grip a faucet knob when you've severe arthritis? How do you stir a pot from your wheelchair? How do you know your pasta water is boiling, if you can't watch for bubbles?

Learning to cook simple meals is a priority for most of our older students on the ChildVision campus – and it's easy to understand why.

A real-life learning lab

So it was with great joy to receive the news that The Cadbury Foundation had chosen

ChildVision to receive the gift of a new assistive kitchen for the vocational students you help support here. Including wheelchair-height counters and cooktops, and all the tools students need to put their new skills into practise, the kitchen is a learning laboratory to behold.

ChildVision CEO Brian Allen touched with gratitude on the lifelong impact the assistive

continued on page 4

Vocational student Jack Tanner tests the right-height equipment for a delighted member of The Cadbury Foundation team.



A Very Special Back to School, Inside:

Behind the Scenes with Sineád and Eibhilis, pages 2 and 3

What We Did This Summer, page 2

Could You Complete a Blind Child's School Kit?, page 4

Behind the scenes with Sinéad:

Speech & Language Therapy, Full Steam Ahead!

- *The first-in-Ireland syllabus you're helping put into motion*
- *A glimpse at the day of a Senior Speech & Language Therapist*
- *An incredible programme for blind children who may not be autistic*



This is my ChildVision family," Senior Speech and Language Therapist Sinéad Fitzpatrick says with a smile. And her role is nothing like you might expect. "In the morning I could be under a table in the preschool, working with a child on farm animal concepts that develop language through play. In an hour's time I could be in the primary school with an MDVI (multiply disabled and visually

Music's (RIAM) speech and drama syllabus makes ChildVision the only organization in Ireland to utilise this programme. It builds what we call pragmatic language development – language and social skills – but students use their creativity and imagination at the same time."

Every day at ChildVision, your kind support lets students work with dedicated staff like Senior Speech & Language Therapist Sinéad Fitzpatrick. Thank you!

"This is my ChildVision family" — Sinéad Fitzpatrick

impaired) child looking at food consistencies and safe textures for them to eat." She pauses to explain how some children have disabilities that keep them from swallowing certain foods, and how textures are critically important. "By the afternoon, I could be with vocational students working on role plays and improvisations. I get to wear so many different hats, and I love that." It's down to your support, she says, then adds how you also support staff's ability to innovate.

Wonders of RIAM and ADOS

"We have great opportunities to trial new programmes," Sinéad describes, as entrée to two exciting developments to help her MDVI students. "Our adaptation of the Royal Irish Academy of

With a Masters from the University of Essex, Sinéad is also helping change how students are diagnosed. To a visually impaired child, the world can be a scary place. So they sometimes behave in ways that mimic autism. Yet autism's gold standard diagnostic test, called ADOS, relies on visual materials and eye contact. "With special permission from ADOS publishers," Sinéad explains "we are making adaptations for our children with little or no functional vision. This is a long term research project, and one I'm very passionate about."

Full steam ahead!

Despite the early days of the school year, your generosity is already there for Sinéad to hit the ground running. "At week two, we're setting up our group and individual therapies and assessments. And then it's full steam ahead!" **Thank you for being part of Sinéad's work. ❤**

"WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER"... gave thanks for YOU!

Thank You for A Glorious Garden Party

To every supporter, family, and all-star student, thank you for making this year's Garden Party glorious. And if you couldn't attend this year, know we gave thanks for you in spirit... ChildVision couldn't be here without each of you:



Cuddly pets and family time

Behind the scenes with Eibhilis:

Rolling Out the Welcome Mat at Gentili House

Five days a week, ChildVision's residential houses are home away from home for many students who attend school here. And thanks to your support of residential staff like Eibhilis, it's a welcoming home indeed...

Eibhilis Cahalan has been part of the ChildVision social care team for the past four years and team leader for one. Ever since she spent time here back in 2007, she always knew she'd return. Her eyes reflect great gratitude as she tries to put the feeling to words. "There is something magical about ChildVision. There is huge kindness. Everybody helps each other. And the fun," she smiles. "There is always

"There is something magical about ChildVision" — Eibhilis Cahalan

fun and the happiness and needs of our students are always central. It's not because we need to tick boxes or because a rule says so. We care deeply for colleagues, the students, and the organisation."

When blindness isn't the biggest hurdle

It's one reason why, starting age ten, many students choose to stay on campus during the school week. "Sometimes vision loss is the least of the hurdles students face. Here, everyone accepts each other." Currently, she adds, there are three students at Gentili House with visual impairments and multiple other disabilities who have really complex medical needs – in addition to the other students who stay on. Either way, it's their home, so help is here round the clock. "Myself and my team are really grateful for 24-hour

nursing support during the week," she nods.

A running start

Like her colleague Sinéad (see story page 2), Eibhilis is already off to a running start. "At this time of year, it's busy! We get prescriptions and care plans up to date, intimate care, linking in with vocational and lifelong learning, with parents, and getting care teams and assessments together for each student.

This year there's extra excitement because we're moving to new accommodation, and looking forward to our new home!"

A wish for a new year

But no matter where the residential students hang their hats and canes, one thing is always true. "We have an open house policy in ChildVision. That's why family and friends of our students are always welcome. My hope for the new school year is to have the resources to meet the needs of all our students, keeping them healthy and happy and one step closer to each child's best shot at independence." And with that beautiful parting wish, Eibhilis is off to look after her students. **Thank you for helping to make Eibhilis's work possible.** ♥



Because of you, Social Care Team Leader Eibhilis Cahalan can help every residential student to have a home away from home at ChildVision.



and laughter in the air...



Cheers across all years for a day so sweet and sunny...



And picture-perfect moments to remember. Thank you!

Cooking Up Independence...



Helping vocational students to develop their cooking skills, despite visual impairments and multiple other disabilities, boosts their confidence and independence at home and for life. Thank you!

continued from cover

kitchen will have. "Access to a safe, functional, and practical kitchen space where our multi-disabled students can learn about food and nutrition makes a difference not only to their self-esteem, but to their quality of life and long term health."

Micro-entrepreneurs!

At the foundation of it all is your support of the vocational programme itself, because the students couldn't be here without you. And as part of their work on independent living skills, they are cooking up a micro-enterprise with their newfound independence: Taaffe's Treats, baked fresh every week and on sale by the bakers themselves at Jojo's Café on Friday mornings.

Thanks to your love and support for Ireland's blind children, and thanks to the big hearts of the folks at The Cadbury Foundation for the assistive kitchen, there's a new recipe for independence at ChildVision. If you'd like to stop by for a visit, ring Ruth on **01 837 3635**. ♥

Could You Help to Complete a Blind Child's Back-to-School Kit?

When you're going back to school as a multi-disabled blind child, it takes a very special kit indeed to make your day sparkle with growth and promise...

Transport to school on the ChildVision bus:

Help fund a ride on the specially modified ChildVision school bus, so kids with sight loss and other disabilities can ride in comfort, safety, and independence.



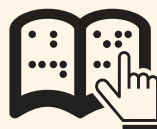
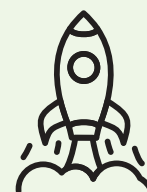
Hot and healthy breakfast: With different dietary restrictions and ways of eating, breakfast at ChildVision is whatever each child needs it to be. Help fund a morning meal to start their day right!

Pet therapy: Daunting diagnoses and visual impairments are a big load for little bodies. Could you help bring the healing power of pet therapy to a blind child's school day?



Swimming pool session: Help put pool therapy in a child's back-to-school kit and witness the wonders of water: bodies that once struggled to move on dry land get stronger day by day.

Sensory story time in the library: Just because you can't see story time, doesn't mean there can't be story time! With lots to hear and touch and feel and smell, your gift to help fund a sensory sack will make story times soar.



New braille books in the latest titles: Did you know that a new braille book can cost as much as €800? Yet without donations like yours to fund braille book purchases, many of our children could never achieve full literacy.



Can you help complete a blind child's back-to-school kit with a gift of any size? Simply use the enclosed reply and envelope. And thank you for caring about Ireland's blind children!



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