

A Trio of Thanks and Triumph

As graduating vocational students complete their final year with ChildVision, goodbyes are bittersweet. But your support has forever changed their road ahead, and Amy, Orlaith, and Michael tell you about it here —

AMY

Amy Stewart from Kildare has been at ChildVision since she was twelve. She joined as a residential student from the start, and although she was still young, Amy wants you to know she “wasn’t scared at all. I liked the idea of learning how to be independent. Sometimes I have to do things differently to others because of my visual impairment, but ChildVision has given me the confidence try new things –

travelling home on the train, comhaltas singing, learning how to cook.” As you can imagine, for children who are blind or visually impaired, these new skills are life-changing.

With the help of your donations, all that she’d learnt meant by the time she’d reached 16, Amy was ready for ChildVision’s vocational education programme. Again supporter-funded, the programme’s aim is simple: to prepare students for independent

living, further training, or supported employment.

Hearing Amy describe just one of her work placements, it’s clear that many lives are touched. “In Drumcondra Credit, I answered phones, and typed out meeting minutes using a JAWS (Job Access With Speech) software package. **The people in each work experience learn how to guide me, and about my specific needs. It’s good because they get to learn about my ability rather than my disability.**”

ORLAITH

Orlaith Jackson from Cavan is also at the end of her fourth year, and echoes Amy’s

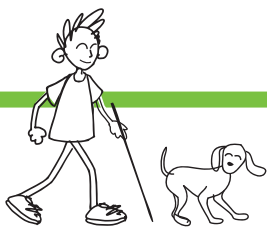
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Photo: (left to right) Graduating vocational students
Amy Stewart, Michael Hayes and Orlaith Jackson



Blossoms of Gratitude

When is a garden party so much more? When it's a day to open hearts and minds in the company of their families to laugh and dream... when it's a day to celebrate ***you***, the remarkable support



A day of proud moments, for families, students, and friends...



A day of discoveries for sighted and blind, small and tall...



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sentiments. "At ChildVision I've learnt so much – mobility skills, horticulture, word processing, even how to do my own laundry." But for Orlaith, it's the gardening that stands out most.

"I love learning about new plants and bulbs and seeds. I love

the feel of the soil, and the smell of the different types of flowers. **I did three years' work experience in the Botanic Gardens. After graduation I'd love to have a job in a garden centre."**

Orlaith is still awaiting word on placement into sheltered housing. If accepted, she'll be able to live independently and, if her passion is any indication, achieve her dream of working in a garden centre – bringing beauty into the lives of others.

MICHAEL

We introduced you to Michael Hayes in the spring of 2015, when he'd helped to create a video advocating for people with communication disorders. (See original story and video on childvision.ie/site/stories/michael.)

Yet in his time here, the triumphs of this 22-year-old young man from Moneygall – who was born with Apert syndrome and is totally blind – border on miraculous.

held annually to honour your generosity:

e, Bountiful and Sweet

community to the inspiring work of ChildVision... when it's a day for our blind children and
ers who fund half of all the learning that happens here. Thank you!



A day where storytellers sparkled and
imagination soared...



A day where the great good you do
was felt by one and all.



Did you miss the garden
party? No worries. Ring
us on 01 837 3635 to visit
anytime! And thank you
again for all you do.



His confidence shines. And he's developed his literacy, mobility, IT, and braille skills to the point where he recently finished a work placement with Mason Hayes & Curran, brailleing documents, learning about employment laws, and bringing an understanding of mobility and sight loss to the entire law firm. **"I've worked with a number of staff from the Knowledge Team, the Library, the Archives, and Data Protection,"** Michael

explains, with a pride in his voice that is unmistakable.

When he takes the stage at ChildVision's Vocational Awards Night this June, two things are clear. Michael, along with Amy, Orlaith, and all our other graduating students, will be feeling ten feet tall – and they will have you, your generosity, and your compassion, to thank for it.

We are so grateful to have you with us!

Keep up with vocational students when you watch our "Vlog" (video log) reported by ChildVision's own Sean Oakes, on childvision.ie/site/programmes/education. Heartwarming videos, interviews, and more! ♥



Set sail. Around Ireland. In a dinghy? Yes, in —

One Wild Ride

As this newsletter went to print, Gary “Ted” Sargent was somewhere off the coast of Drogheda, alone in a sailing dinghy the size of two bathtubs. With a thirst for adventure and a heart full of love for Ireland’s multi-disabled blind children, since late May skipper Ted has braved all (including the flu!) to raise money on his round Ireland sail for the work of ChildVision. Will you be part of his fearless support crew and speed Ted’s quest for the children? Donate through 31st July and relive this epic journey on www.onewild.ie. Go Ted! ♥



With a heart full of love for blind children, skipper Ted Sargent makes a splash before starting his round Ireland solo sail to benefit ChildVision.

You can feel the knowledge in the air —

New Library for Blind Learners Now Open

One glimpse at ChildVision’s recently overhauled library will tell you... this made new space is purpose built to kindle the imaginations of multi-disabled blind learners, from porthole windows in the wheelchair ramp to a patch of artificial grass

where children can sit and explore the safe, tactile materials.

There’s much more than meets the eye, as well: digital braille displays, books, and notetakers, storytelling zones for auditory learners, and quiet spaces for children with noise sensitivity. Simply put, this jewel

of a library couldn’t have happened without the Community Fund of the Bon Secours Hospital Glasnevin, the CSR Committee of Mason Hayes & Curran, and wonderful supporters like you. Thank you! ♥

If you’d like a tour this autumn when school reopens, ring us on 01 837 3635. We’d be delighted to show you the amazing learning centre that your kindness helped to build.



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)