



23-year-old  
ChildVision student  
Joshua, with his  
mum Jacinta



Support like yours helped Josh learn  
braille back in 2001!

## First Time for Everything

*Joshua was just six months old when his mum learned about ChildVision. He was too sick for his parents to even consider calling. Less than a year later contact was made, and at age three, Josh became the first full-time student at ChildVision's special preschool. Supporters like you have been bringing him first after first ever since. **Thank you...***

**H**is early firsts are something no parent imagines. One in a hundred thousand children born without eyes. First eye surgery at less than twelve weeks old, and continuing right up to the age of 21. Meningitis, aged three. Autism. Hearing loss. Epilepsy, age thirteen. His mum and dad became experts on topics like prosthetic eyes, hormones, and artificial feeding techniques. Joshua himself became expert at the names and dosages of his medications, and talking others through the use of his feeding device called a Mik-Key button that delivered proper nutrition after his seizures. And this might have been the only way the world ever knew 23-year-old Joshua Kelly. Instead, your generosity paved the way for a whole other list of firsts in his life.

### Pioneering preschooler

Josh was three years old when donors like yourself helped him to become the very first full-time preschool student at ChildVision. Despite being blind and facing countless other physical challenges, he would live up to the trailblazing title in every way. "I don't know how he gets up to go to ChildVision," marvels his mum Jacinta. "He never once says, 'I want to stay at home.'"

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# Lifelong learners launch new social enterprise projects with help from you...

When a small group of our staff travelled to a training centre for the blind in Munich, little did they know how the stars would align for the multi-disabled students you support at ChildVision. Searching for a social enterprise activity that no one else with our Lifelong Learners' unique abilities, skills, and gifts could do, they found a whole suite! Learn about two of the budding social enterprise endeavours for young people here, being helped along by your generosity....

## 'Weave' Made It, Wtih Thanks to You!

On their Munich trip, staff were inspired to set up a weaving enterprise here on campus. First came an investment in a custom-made loom that young people who are blind and have other physical disabilities can use. Then, with the first loom as a guide, ChildVision's amazing master craftsman, John Jiggins, was able to make three more looms for students!

### A gracious gift of offcuts

With four looms at the ready, Cushendale and Avoca weavers graciously offered to donate their woolen offcuts. It's a double bonus because the donated offcuts would have gone into the bin. Now these spectacular scraps are helping our older students in the Lifelong Learners programme to get their enterprise off the ground... and helping the planet.

### With pride and love woven in

This year your support for ChildVision helped the enterprise move into its own room – called 'Weave Made It' – that is solely for weaving. Our young people signed on to the project are now creating beautiful seat cushions that are durable,

washable, and sustainable. They report feeling relaxed and engaged while weaving, and a great sense of accomplishment once a cushion is finished. It's been such a success that there are plans to expand the enterprise to include woven purses, table mats, and scarves. As we build up our stock we hope to have enough to sell online and from our charity shop on campus, and you'll be among the first to know! ♥



*"I love the feel of the wool in my fingers and being able to do something creative"*



## This Shredding Service Is Out of Sight



Lifelong Learners like Edvard are running a new shredding service thanks to you and the Cadbury Foundation.

Since last year students aged 18 to 23 in our Lifelong Learners programme have been busy infiltrating the world of confidential shredding. As part of the learning trip to a training centre for the blind in Munich, staff met students there helping to run a confidential shredding service. It started small. But the enterprise has since scaled up to provide a meaningful work

objective for multi-disabled blind people – and a valuable service to the greater community. Here at the ChildVision campus, 'Out of Sight Shredding' – along with our other social enterprises – aims to do the same.

### A machine called 'Betty'

With help from the Cadbury Foundation, we purchased an industrial shredder and adapted it to ensure it was safe for our students with a visual impairment and other disabilities. Every student participating was fully trained and given appropriate protective equipment. Guided by staff, they began with a shredding contract from our own reading services department. They took to the job with instant enthusiasm, naming the new shredder 'Betty' and themselves 'The Destroyers of Paper.' The purchase of new confidential bins, a special baler, and – with help from your steadfast support – a larger



Luke and Chris (in background) busy destroying paper as Out of Sight Shredding starts to soar!

space, helped make room for the growing business.

### Serious business (with a big heart)

The goal this year is to take on external clients. With a locked secure space for storage of bins, a strict shredding protocol that delivers an official certificate of destruction, and a partnership with Leech Papers for removal of the bales, the enterprise is serious business indeed. Machinery for a full scale-up will take time and a significant investment. But as Out of Sight Shredding grows, even if by baby steps, the students are learning valuable, lifelong work skills. They've already asked for more responsibility in the running of the business as their confidence grows alongside it! ♥

*Thank you so much for believing in our blind children and young people here... Lifelong Learners all!*

## We'll Plant A Rose For You

*How a gift in your will can bloom forever in the life of a blind child —*

When you leave a gift in your will to ChildVision, we'll plant a rose with your name in our gardens – a living symbol of gratitude and remembrance for the help your legacy will bring to Ireland's blind children and young people, long after your lifetime.

For a confidential chat around a gift in your will or if you need the proper language to bring to your solicitor, ring Ruth anytime on **01 837 3735**. You can also tick the box on the enclosed reply to request free details. Thank you, today and always, for being a cherished part of the ChildVision family. ♥





## First Time for Everything

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At the primary school on campus he was a natural at braille, and went on to become the first student to do a combined year between the primary and secondary schools. Caroline, who is the team leader in Josh's residential house here remembers "he was so committed, he wore both uniforms." Yet one of Josh's most devastating blows – and his family's – was still to come.

### Life after epilepsy

"He just fell to the ground," mum Jacinta recalls Josh's first seizure in agonising detail. "After MRI imaging and seven attempted lumbar punctures, the diagnosis was a brain virus which left him with refractory [drug-resistant]



Josh holds the GAA's Sam Maguire Cup with Paul, one of the Lifelong Learning tutors you help support here. Thank you!

epilepsy." What she shares next makes you realise the difference your donations make. "I don't know how Josh would exist without ChildVision. If he has a seizure and can't go to school, he's so upset. 'They'll be looking for me,' he worries. 'What will they say?'"

### Personal best

He's had four surgeries in the last 18 months, one of which was to have a (VNS) Vagus Nerve Stimulator implant that sends

electrical impulses continuously to his brain. But he always looks forward to returning to his courses at ChildVision's Lifelong Learning programme and seeing all his friends and tutors. And thanks to your support, staff here are continuing to support Joshua and his family, and collaborating with his dietician and his neurology team at Beaumont Hospital in order to make Joshua's experiences in ChildVision the best they can be, and to help him reach his full potential. Recently this included a trip to the GAA Museum so Josh could learn more about the history of his beloved Gaelic games! ♥

**For changing the firsts that Josh and so many other blind children here at ChildVision get to experience, we thank you.**

*Thank You!*

## Come For A Bamboo Cuppa?



**A** smiling Luke, one of the students you help here, was a proud ambassador for our new Let's Cup On initiative to become more sustainable at ChildVision. As of 27th January the campus no longer stocks single use cups. If you visit you can buy a reusable ChildVision cup, made from bamboo, for just €5 from the Café... or use a ceramic one for free! This saves more than 50,000 disposable cups and lids from ending up in a landfill this year, a vote for the future that all of us here – including our students – hope others will make. Come to the Café for your first bamboo cuppa, and thank you for being part of ChildVision! ♥

A smiling Luke helps launch Let's Cup On



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