

Lucy Saddles Up!

In addition to helping children in Ireland with sight loss, your support also helps sighted children with disabilities to access ChildVision's equine therapy that transforms their tomorrows. See how, even after 14 long weeks in a cast and with a medical diagnosis so rare there are only 23 documented cases, Lucy is forever changed by your love and generosity...

Her medical diagnosis is so rare — what's known as a micro-deletion on Chromosome 6 — that experts still aren't 100% certain what her overall outlook will be. And before Lucy was even three, Lucy would spend 14 weeks in a cast after surgery for severe hip dysplasia. In her mother Diane's words, little Lucy arrived at ChildVision for equine therapy

just after the cast had come off, not yet standing or walking, and justifiably "very wary of new situations and experiences."

Tentative and teary

Lucy was teary in her assessment. But ChildVision's Equine Assisted Occupational Therapist, Audrey, instantly went to work to earn Lucy's trust, as mum Diane explains

in the log she's kept since that first session. "All I can say is that Audrey is gifted. She looked Lucy in the eye and gently explained how she would put a yellow strap on her and then get on the horse. Lucy's core and head control were still weak, but Audrey sang a little song to her as they were trotting and this really calmed Lucy. By that first night she already seemed to be happier in herself."

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Lucy turns 4 this month, and your love is helping make it a bright year indeed!

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Their Soap Is Selling Like Hotcakes!

One thousand... two thousand... three thousand bars of soap: when last year we reported to you on the social enterprise projects that your donations have helped students in our Lifelong Learning programme to launch, never did we imagine how soaring their success would be. From Honey & Oat to Irish Sea Moss, the handmade soap, lip balms, and handcreams have flown off the shelves – and none of it could have happened without you. Below, Lifelong Learner Jordan Mahony shares how it feels to be a budding entrepreneur, in his own words...



My name is Jordan Mahony I attend the Lifelong Learning programme in ChildVision, I am a part of the Soap Enterprise. Our goal has been to make soap related products and to build it as an essential service. I will say that I enjoy being a part of the work effort and in my mind making a difference. I like the work because for something that is so simple, it can be fun.

I love wearing the jackets or lab coats that we wear for our safety. For me personally I have to smile when I walk around in them, because people have said to me I look like a doctor. I like them because when buttoning them up, it reminds me when I learned how to do buttons

as a kid. Honestly, when I am in them it feels so right.

Since we are in the land of Covid 19, life is very uncertain at the moment. I wish I could do more to help Jay who is our main man because he is in charge of the soap. For me it is a learning process because I have never done something like this before which sometimes can be frustrating. But I know that I will change the Soap Enterprise for the better to the point where I could be running it on my own.

I do know that the work we do is done as a team and we help each other. The work we do is valuable and if you buy soap from us – it is at a high quality. I hope when I get back to ChildVision I can make more of those lovely bath bombs!



WANT TO PURCHASE THESE HANDMADE SOAP PRODUCTS? We're back taking orders this month so please email enterprises@childvision.ie or call **01 837 3635** for details, or watch for our updates on Facebook and Instagram (@[childvisionvi](https://www.instagram.com/childvisionvi)). Or buy the soaps at Bang Bang Café in Phibsborough, and Quack and Dirk in Fairview. And follow the pursuits of our soapmakers, too, on [enterprises_childvisionvi](https://www.instagram.com/enterprises_childvisionvi) on Instagram!



Thank you for believing in our Lifelong Learners, and thank you for supporting their entrepreneurial goals! Your generosity is at the heart of every big dream.

Where Your Heart Can Live Forever: A Gift (Of

After you've looked after your loved ones, did you know that including a gift in your will to ChildVision is one of the most beautiful and everlasting actions to help Ireland's blind children that you can take in your lifetime? The ready-made language couldn't be simpler, and you are very welcome to share it with your solicitor:

I give to ChildVision of Gracepark Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Reg. Charity No. 20001278, all [or a fraction] of the residue of my estate whatsoever and wheresoever, and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other officer for the time being of the said Organisation shall be a full and sufficient discharge of the same.

How Gráinne Is Returning Your Investment In Kindness

Each time you give to ChildVision your kindness and generosity multiply like magic, from newfound abilities and soaring confidence in our children and young people with sight loss, to the way they share the gift you've given them, to help others. And 18-year-old Gráinne Norton is living proof...

Name: Gráinne Norton

Age: 18

Year: 5th, Leaving Cert Applied;
ChildVision residential student

Medical Background: Surgery aged 11 to remove a tumor that took most of her eyesight with it and left her with a brain injury.

On confidence: "ChildVision has given me the confidence to use assistive technology in school. I use something called CCTV [closed circuit television, or video magnifier] which magnifies my books and the board. Since online schooling we are using technology a lot more, my eyes are constantly sore. I'm waiting to get a special piece of technology called a Mercury 12, which is like mobile CCTV."

On horses, dreams, and equine therapy: "Horses mean everything to me. I started it for my physical activity, since I can't drive. The

horse therapy helps me – I feel so independent on the horse – but then I can also volunteer and make it easier for the kids. My dream is to work with horses, exercising them."

On giving back: "This little girl, she used rollers [a therapeutic device over the saddle to help with core strength]. She got better because I kept telling her to trot. One day we were able to take away the rollers, then it was just her on her own, with me. It made me feel really happy for her. I don't do it for myself, I do it for the smaller kids."

On sight loss: "I used to have full vision up till I was eleven, it was such freedom, and before I came to ChildVision I wouldn't even use my cane. I didn't want people saying, 'Oh, she's visually impaired. You have to treat her differently.' At ChildVision I have the space to be me and my brain



injury and sight loss doesn't make me scared anymore. What I would say to any young person who loses their sight is, don't let your fears get in the way."

Afterword: Since lockdown Gráinne has been living back at home. But thanks to your caring and steady support, the ChildVision therapy team are still working with her – including providing Gráinne with British Horse Society Stage 1 Stable Management videos, with the hope of allowing her to work towards these exams in the near future! Go, Gráinne! ❤

🌐 To learn all about Equine Therapy at ChildVision, visit childvision.ie/site/programmes/therapies-nursing. Thank you!

(Any Size) to ChildVision in Your Will

Notifying us that you've remembered Ireland's blind children in your will is always up to you; if you do let us know, we'll plant a rose in your name in our beautiful gardens to show that your heart lives forever, here. If you need any guidance, ring Ruth anytime for a confidential chat 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.*



Lucy Saddles Up!

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No turning back

As each session flew past, Lucy's therapy journal shows seismic changes. Diane wrote how, in the days following Lucy's first official session, her physiotherapist already noticed a change, saying that *"she seemed more willing to try everything."* This budding self-confidence is one of the happy hallmarks of equine therapy, and one you directly help to kindle: the programme is 100% funded by your donations.

By the third therapy session, Lucy was using new words like "water," and "go," and to mum Diane's astonishment, *"Lucy actually sat backwards and was lying down on the horse. Audrey explained how this technique worked her core and the sensory experience; it was amazing to watch."* And thanks to your support, for children with disabilities like



Your caring, full circle: at her fifth therapy session, Lucy rode Fred "the Wonder Horse" from your Summer 2019 Member Newsletter (read it on childvision.ie/site/about-us/publications). With your kind help, Fred has worked miracles for children with disabilities since 2012!

Lucy's, the science behind the therapy is transformational: the motion of a horse mimics natural human movements such as walking. Soon Lucy sat taller and stronger in the saddle!

Lucy's grit... and your love

With twenty-plus therapy sessions now under her belt, it's hard to believe Lucy will celebrate her

fourth birthday this month. But one of mum Diane's most recent entries shows what your love, and one brave little girl, can accomplish. *"Something magical happened today, a real breakthrough. Lucy without any prompting said to her equine therapist, 'I was in school today.' Then she saw a horse box while riding, pointed to it and said, 'Horse go on holidays?'"*

Later, Diane wrote the best thanks of all. *"With the aid of a walker, Lucy just took her first sure-footed independent steps. It was such a huge achievement through her grit and determination. There are not enough words to thank the whole ChildVision team. They are dedicated experts – and thanks to supporters, what they have helped Lucy to achieve speaks for itself."* ♥

Thank you for being there for Lucy and all our children and young people. And Lucy... Happy, happy birthday! 🎂

Thank you, Scope!

The #6MinuteLockdown That Helped Blind Children

Last November, six out of every ten Scope Eyecare employees donned blindfolds and tried to complete an everyday task to raise awareness and funds for ChildVision and the Royal Society for Blind Children (UK). As Scope's CSR Lead, Amie Hynes

Fitzpatrick said, "The #6MinuteLockdown concept was simple. We wanted people to take just six minutes out of their day to gain a small insight into some of the daily challenges those of us with vision loss face. ChildVision's



Watch on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSPR8X_Qorw

work is very close to our hearts in Scope." From this heartfelt concept, €10,000 were raised for ChildVision, one caring employee at a time — and we are deeply grateful, today and always. ♥



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