

## A Hero's Work, A Rock Festival, And You


*His story embraces everything you hope to see in humankind, and echoes your deep compassion for children in Ireland with sight loss, too. For it is a direct result of your support that David Bagnall has been making a home from home for our students for nearly 15 years – then he gave them a rock festival to help do more...*

**T**o see David Bagnall in action as a social care team leader in our residential houses at ChildVision, he looks born for the role: beloved by young people here, you mightn't

ever guess that he began his professional life as a trained chef. But after a stroke at age 35 ended his culinary dreams, he was drawn to ChildVision. It was serendipity.

“I loved everything about ChildVision from the moment I started. For those with low vision who see me,” he smiles widely, “they were taken with my earrings and tattoos.” Then with such love in his voice, he says “I have a son with a visual impairment and it gave me an opportunity to connect with them.” Thanks to your abiding kindness, David has helped the children here for nearly 15 years – including cooking up some of the best dinners on campus with them! And for eleven of those years, David’s wife Sandra by his side, the two have also stepped

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**Every time you give to ChildVision, you stand with hardworking staff like David. Thank you!**

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## Mum Runs Blindfolded to Say:

*"Thank You for Me, Thank You for Layla, and Thank You for All the Families That Have Little Ones with Albinism..."*

**"I was born into a family where albinism stretches back 100 years.** My nan has it, her four sisters have it. It skipped a generation to me. But it didn't skip a generation for my baby Layla. When I was small, I knew there was something different about me. I remember crying to my dad when the other children wouldn't stop calling me 'snow white' because of my hair. He said, 'But you are Cinderella darling. Snow White has black hair.' Although I eventually dyed my hair to hide my albinism, ChildVision... St. Joseph's then... was a lifeline.

**The moment the midwife laid Layla on my chest, my world came crashing down.** I was so scared. I rang ChildVision the moment I got out of hospital. And when Layla was just four weeks old we went to our first mother and baby afternoon. I knew straight away I had the support I wanted. I knew Layla had a future.

**Layla is now 20 months and her confidence is shining.** She needs a lot of supervision because her vision is low, but her curiosity is amazing. She's started on occupational therapy and speech and language therapy.

I decided to run blindfolded this past May to raise funds for ChildVision, with my dad as my sighted guide. To say thank you for me, thank you for Layla, now and in the future. And thank you for all the families that have little ones with albinism."

— Jennifer, staunch albinism advocate, and mum to ChildVision student Layla



Her dad by her side as she ran and walked blindfolded to support ChildVision, mum Jennifer is forever grateful for you: "At ChildVision, I got the strength to be me."



**TWO generations of your love and kindness in action. One brave mum giving back to help others. For Jennifer, for Layla, for you. Thank you, today and always.**

### Introducing Rían:

## Thank You for Seeing the Success in EVERY Child!



**L**ike any boy his age, little Rían loves cars, football, laughter, and chats. As his dad Éanna says, Rían also happens to have CVI – cerebral visual impairment – and

cerebral palsy. But with the help of your contributions and your commitment to ChildVision, those disabilities are simply one part of Rían: they don't, and won't, define him.

When Rían was born he had no visual messages from his eyes to his brain. The technologies you fund like Eyegaze and Insight, which help make the most of every bit of vision, no matter how small – and the therapy he's been able to receive here – have transformed how Rían sees.

Recently he was fitted for mobility equipment and was asked to choose the picture he wanted to appear on his walker. Pictures that just five months ago had been too small for him to see. This time, Rían chose right away: 'Wow wow' for the dog!



**For seeing the success inside every child, for helping lift the stigma of disability, for every step forward you help our children to take, thank you. You're one in a million, here.**



## A Hero's Work, A Rock Festival, And You ♡♡

continued from cover

up to volunteer their free time and do a hero's work for Ireland's children with sight loss.

### The road to Rockin Road

It started in 2010, when a club for the vintage cars that David loves had its venue cancelled. Ever the man to spread the word about what children with sight loss face, he asked: *Could the club do their photo session at ChildVision? And could they get some rockabilly bands together, and turn it into a fundraising day for the children?* The answer, of course, was *Yes!* – and the Rockin Road Festival was born.

By the time David and Sandra reached the ten-year anniversary of Rockin Road, they'd accomplished the miraculous. A lifetime total of €161,000, donated with love and goodwill by generous hearts just like yours, to fund the work here!

### A pandemic's plot twist

Sadly, it's been since summer 2019 that the music, chrome wheels, and generous spirits of Rockin Road have graced ChildVision. Covid cancelled 2020 and now, 2021. While David misses that solidarity and hopes for Rockin Road 2022, his first thought is still for the children. "I love the time I spend with the students, it's such a fun place to be and we make sure to always do different and new things. I



Too often, society turns away from children with severe sight loss. But not you. And not David: with your support beside him, he's been helping students for nearly 15 years! To keep Rockin Road alive through Covid, see details below. All proceeds benefit the children. Thank you David, thank you Rockin Road family – and thank you, to YOU!

love the way everybody looks after each other – it's a home from home. The students come to us on Sunday nights not because they are made to but because they want to. There is a lot of care in ChildVision and I'm proud to work beside the staff here."

Thank you David, thank you Sandra, thank you ten years of Rockin Road generosity, and thank you to you, for giving the best of yourself with every donation you send. Even through the pandemic, you've walked beside our children in Ireland with sight loss towards a brighter, braver tomorrow.

**Thank you for doing a hero's work. ♡**

**Update:** David estimates Rockin Road is down €30,000 from years lost to Covid. To watch his inspiring video (from 2020) around what Rockin Road and the children mean to him, visit [bit.ly/2RBJKON](https://bit.ly/2RBJKON) – and to support David's GoFundMe for Rockin Road 2021, visit [gofundme.com/f/nonrockin-road-festival-2021](https://gofundme.com/f/nonrockin-road-festival-2021)

## May Blossoms of Gratitude Find You, Until We Meet Again...

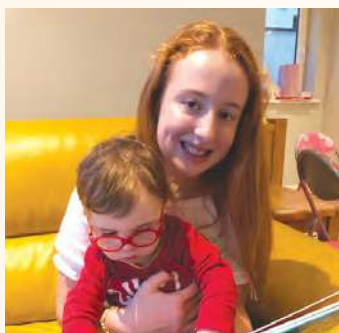


**L**ike Rockin Road (see cover story), ChildVision's annual Garden Party had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 once again this year. The Garden Party brought in much-needed funds to support the equipment, technology, and all the work here that helps children with sight loss in Ireland. Like so much of what Covid has taken, it's a loss we feel deeply. But today we hold this space for you. Remember the Garden Party will come again. Remember the banter and laughter. Remember how generously you've reached out to help Ireland's blind children this year, when you couldn't cross the miles. Remember how grateful we are for you. Steadfast supporter. Defender against stigma and shame. Faithful friend to children with sight loss. **May blossoms of gratitude find you, until we meet again. Here's to Garden Party 2022! ♡**



## Children With A Vision

*Few things touch us more than when children find ways to make a big difference in the world. Today we'd like to you to meet some very big hearts who share your vision for a tomorrow when every child with sight loss can live to their best and brightest potential...*



**Niamh, thank you for running 10k for your cousin Daithí who goes to ChildVision, and raising €655!**

**Senan, thank you for your art auction to honour your nanny and her guide dog Casi, and raising €315 for our children here!** 🍷



**Oisín, Joseph, Liam, James, Oisín, and Luke, thank you for running 100km and raising €345 to help our students!**



*"Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart," said Pooh.*

**And we know these words to be true, thanks to the beautiful vision of some truly amazing children. Thank you, one and all!**

## Where Your Heart Can Live Forever: A Gift (Of Any Size!) to ChildVision in Your Will



**A**fter 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 Grace Park 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.**

Letting us know that you've remembered Ireland's blind children in your will is always up to you; if you do choose to tell us, we'll plant a rose in your name in our gardens to show that your heart lives forever, here. For guidance and a confidential chat, ring Ruth anytime on **01 837 3635**. You can also tick the special box on the enclosed reply to request your free details. **Thank you for being a cherished and everlasting part of our ChildVision family.** ❤️



# ChildVision

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