

Where Love Speaks A Language All Its Own

February – this month – is the month of love. And after all we’ve been through here in Ireland, there seems no better time to show how your kindness and caring are helping two young students with severe sight loss to overcome massive barriers, even during Covid. Because at ChildVision, thanks to you, love speaks a language all its own...

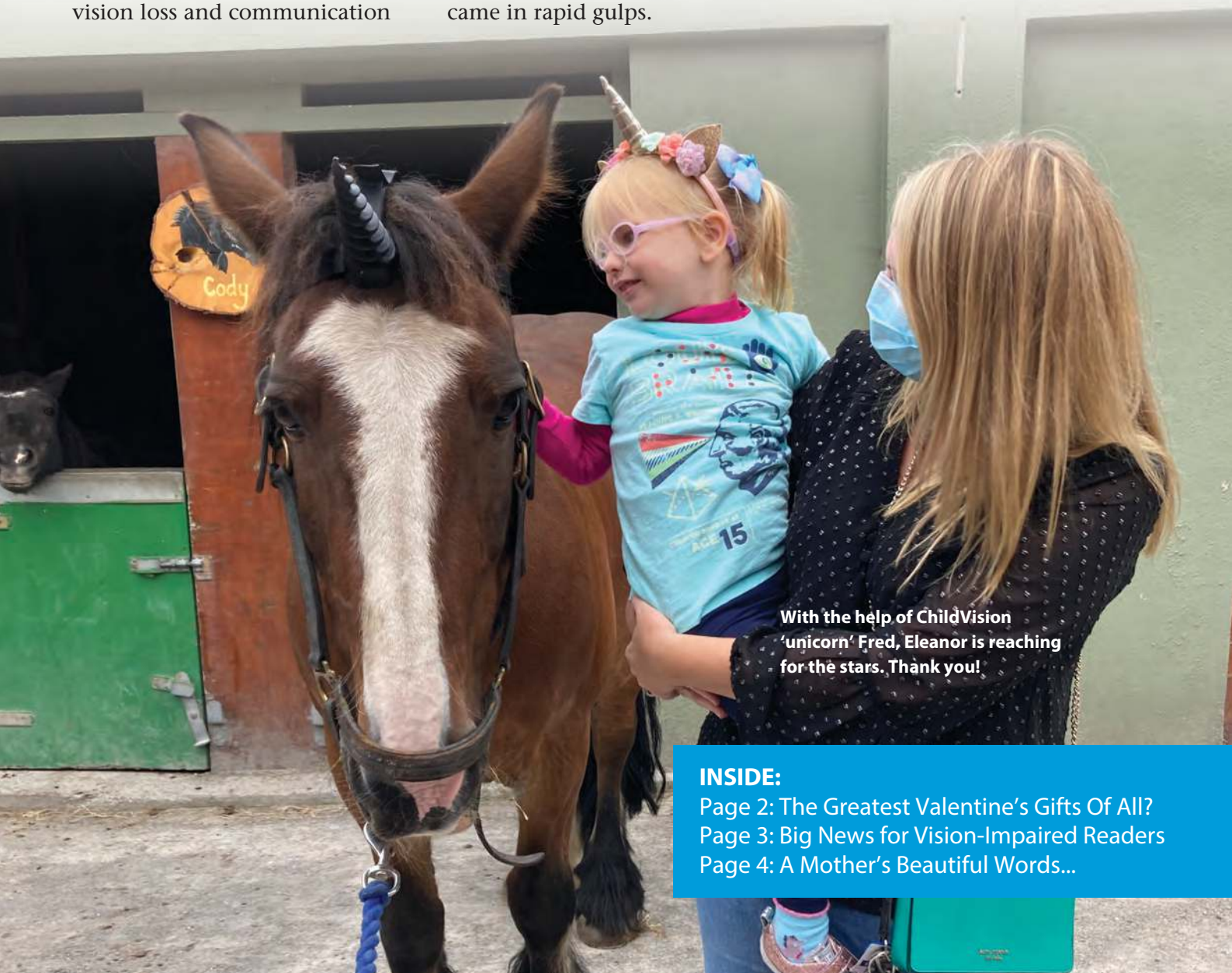
She is not yet four. He is already eighteen. But you’re about to see how both Eleanor and Kamil are overcoming massive personal obstacles – including severe vision loss and communication

barriers – to make their way in a sighted world. Starting with the bubbly little girl who once clung to her mother’s legs, so overwhelmed by a world she couldn’t fully see that her breath came in rapid gulps.

Then Eleanor met a stout Irish Cobb called Fred. Although he towered over Eleanor’s tiny frame, this star of ChildVision’s supporter-funded equine therapy programme had a love language of his own. A language Eleanor instantly understood: Acceptance. Patience. Strength. Kindness. Hope. And through Fred, who became her magic unicorn, Eleanor’s confidence soared.

Kamil’s triple lockdown

Kamil, meanwhile, landed in Longford with his family
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With the help of ChildVision ‘unicorn’ Fred, Eleanor is reaching for the stars. Thank you!

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Introducing Gifts of Joy and Generosity: The Greatest Gifts You Can Give On Valentine's Day... Or Any Day!

When you give ChildVision's Gifts of Joy and Generosity to honour someone special in your life, they'll receive a lovely card with details of your heartfelt kindness – and you get the good feelings of having made a difference in the life of a child with sight loss and complex disabilities right here in Ireland. Here's just a sample of the amazing gifts for you to explore online now...



♥ €40 ♥

Give Equine Therapy €40

Even if a child is completely blind and struggles to communicate, 'horse sense' can change everything. **Your Gift of Equine Therapy** will honour someone you love, and transform a blind child's world.

Give the Miracle of Mobility €40/€400

With or without a support cane, ChildVision's mobility training teaches children with sight loss how to safely make their way in a sighted world. And that makes **your Gift of Mobility**, one training session or ten, a great gift indeed.

♥ €40/€400 ♥



♥ €20/€100 ♥

Give a Braille Book €20/€100

If not for braille, our blind students could never achieve full literacy – and **your Gift of a Braille Book**, or a book chapter, brings a bounty of braille to girls and boys with sight loss here at home.

Give the Magic of Music €40/€240

Honour your favourite music-lover, and touch hearts like no other gift can. For a child with multiple disabilities who mightn't otherwise learn speech and language, **your Gift of Music** therapy – whether one session or six – is life-changing.

♥ €40/€240 ♥



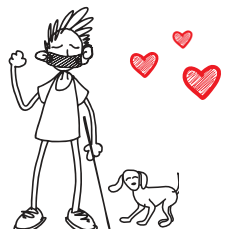
♥ €5 ♥

Buy Student-Made Soaps and Balms Online Too!

From just €5, you can order all-natural student-made balms, soaps, and salves in combinations from Wild Irish Rose to Charcoal & Bergamot. Lovingly made by hand using a cold process method, your skin will thank you!

How to Order:

Visit childvision.ie/shop to see all the amazing gifts you can give this Valentine's Day... or any day... to honour the ones you love. Then order directly online, or ring us on **01 837 3635** if you prefer. Easy. Secure. Extraordinary!



Thank you! ☺

A heart full of gratitude for Transitions Optical, and for you...

The Littlest Learners in Cork

See how Transitions Optical is helping your amazing donations do even more for very young children with blindness – through a new, one-of-a-kind programme for blind children in Cork...

Imagine you are just two... or three... or six years old. Already you have endured more clinical treatments and hospital visits than many people will experience in their lifetimes. The children who you help at ChildVision have been through just that kind of childhood. And with your help, and an incredible partnership with Transitions Optical for our Cork campus, we're determined to open a bright new pathway for these littlest learners.

Called the Gateway to Learning and provided only by ChildVision, it's all about getting the specialist technologies, therapies, and education into the lives of children with sight loss at a time that's most critical. For families who've heard only what their blind child can't do, Gateway to Learning focuses on what they can: achievements instead of diagnoses... first friends... first pre-braille book... first songs... first independent



Cork's littlest learners with sight loss – like Kazara and Cian – are embarking on a whole new journey thanks to Transitions Optical, and you. Thank you!

steps. And that's a journey worth celebrating.

Thank you to Transitions, who have stood with us since 2017. And thank you to you: without your kind and generous support, blind children and their families would not have ChildVision to turn to. **Your love is changing lives.** ♥

Big News for Vision-Impaired Readers: Thank You!

- ♥ 650 new book titles for vision-impaired readers!
- ♥ Library catalogue, filled with favourite authors, now online!
- ♥ Large print, audio, sound, resource, and Braille book formats!
- ♥ Free post service across Ireland, for lockdown and beyond!

If we sound especially excited about the big news that you've made for our young vision-impaired readers across Ireland, well, it's because we are excited. As a direct result of your incredible generosity and caring, ChildVision has been able to grow our library for children and young people with severe sight loss across all popular formats. Thanks to you,

an incredible 650 new titles were added to the library recently, from J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy to *The Ice Monster* by David Walliams, and even L.M. Montgomery's timeless classic, *Anne of Green Gables*.

Producing or purchasing low-vision formats of popular books – especially in braille – is no easy feat, and often costly, especially for a smaller organisation like

ChildVision. Your kindness, one donation at a time, helps make it possible, right down to the user-friendly online catalogue that families across Ireland who live with severe sight loss now have the opportunity to access from their desktop, laptop, or phone. **650 new titles and counting... thank you for being our low-vision lending library superhero!** ♥



Love Language... ♡

continued from cover

without the full use of his vision and knowing only a few phrases in English. Determined to build a better life, you can imagine their devastation when the aunt who was their only contact in Ireland passed suddenly. Then came Covid, and this young man who'd arrived already locked behind vision and language barriers, was on pandemic lockdown along with the rest of Ireland.

The calls for help you answered

This past Christmas we asked for your help with Eleanor and Kamil's journeys, and what your support has made possible is extraordinary. Kamil, who once relied on fairytales for small children to build his own English skills, is now a residential student at ChildVision and grateful to the teachers helping him grow his vocabulary.

A JAWS computer screen reader programme and Braillesense Polaris notetaker – funded with the help of your incredible support – assists Kamil in doing his schoolwork. It was just last month he featured in *The Irish Times*, where he shared:

"I want a lot for my life. I'd like to work in computers with a company like Google. I would also like to teach geography or history to children with eye problems."

Meantime, Eleanor has blossomed from a frightened little girl overwhelmed by the world to a bubbly child coping better and better with her low vision. She's patient and sympathetic to all of her classmates, and with her continued therapy with Fred here at ChildVision, you can't help but wonder if she's bringing a bit of his love language into her local preschool.



Photograph: Dara Mac Donail/The Irish Times

A determined Kamil aims to share the help you've given him, with others: he hopes to teach history or geography to children with eye problems!

The unstoppable language of your love

Vision barriers. Mobility barriers. Language barriers. Social barriers. When you feel locked away by big diagnoses and daunting disabilities, the world can seem a scary place. But thanks to your caring and support, at ChildVision love speaks a language all its own. **Thank you for every student like Eleanor and Kamil that you help.** ♡

A Mother's Beautiful Words... ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡



Once, Aoibhinn was given 'a grave prognosis of quadriplegia.' ChildVision supporters like you rallied to Aoibhinn's side and never left – through blindness, epilepsy, and a recent surgery – even bringing the therapy horses to her and other students during lockdown. At right, mum Caitriona describes on "The Ryan Tubridy Show" the little girl you've helped to grow strong... ➔

"ChildVision was recommended to us because Aoibhinn was born with blindness...our worlds were turned upside down. We stopped looking at all the reports and started looking at what she could do. To fast forward thirteen years later, Aoibhinn loves life, loves music, loves horses, loves being around people. Out of everyone I know, she has the most fun in her life, every day."

— Caitriona, mum to 13-year-old Aoibhinn
Listen to the interview on RTÉ Radio 1 at rte.ie/radio/radio1/clips/22045933/

**Thank you, always and forever, for seeing past sight loss and scary diagnoses.
And thank you, always and forever, for believing in Ireland's blind children.**



ChildVision

National Education Centre for Blind Children
Gracepark Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9



Telephone: 01 837 3635



Email: info@childvision.ie



Website: www.childvision.ie



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