

Amazing Grace

She came to ChildVision a decade ago as a 12-year-old girl from County Clare with severe sight loss, who relied on her imagination to help her deal with what was going on in her world. Through all the years you stayed by Grace's side – including supporting a shoot-for-the-stars social enterprise programme for students here – and her creative abilities blossomed. Today Grace is weaving her way to a whole new future, thanks to you...

One of the earliest things Grace remembers was learning how to live with other people with sight loss. She was always aware of her

visual impairment and was good at compensating for it – and her decision to be a residential student at ChildVision came very early on attending the

weekend events and summer camps that your kind support also helps make possible here.

An artisan finds her passion

Then three years ago thanks to incredible donations like yours, we were able to begin the Weave Made It programme, using peg looms made on-site by our dedicated ChildVision carpenter, John. Each day Grace requested to do the weaving programme and it quickly became 'her thing.'

Before long her love for weaving was clear to everyone

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Your generosity means severe sight loss won't stop weaving star and budding County Clare artisan Grace. Thank you!



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Amazing Grace...

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who saw her – and her creative abilities helped Grace to weave a kind of magic with every project she took on. Recently she was thrilled to sell some seat cushions and her first rug to the cashmere designer Laura Chambers!

Amazing, Grace!

Here, Grace writes about the amazing experience and foundation you gave to her – and the equally amazing future she's weaving all her own:

"As part of my programme in Lifelong Learning I was offered the opportunity to learn how to weave and I really enjoy it. When I am weaving I feel relaxed, and I get into the zone of what I'm doing. We use



Grace's microphthalmia left her eyes underdeveloped, so she can't see at all from a distance. But a corneal graft in 2016 helps her to see – and weave! – very up close.

offcuts from weaving mills around Ireland that would have otherwise gone to waste, so we are a sustainable enterprise! Before Christmas we sold our products at a Christmas market. I got the chance to speak to customers and tell them about all the products I had made. It felt amazing that someone appreciated my craft and was willing to spend

money on something I had created. I delivered the rug to Laura myself and I got to meet her, I felt so proud of myself. My Employment Skills trainer and my weaving teacher are working with myself and my family to help me start a weaving business in County Clare. I think it would be amazing to do something I really enjoy and to be my own boss."

Thank you for being there for Grace, and for all our children and young people with severe sight loss, every step of the way. Today a budding local artisan is weaving her own magic in a sighted world – and it could never have happened without you. Learn more about ChildVision social enterprises at childvision.ie/research-and-training/social-enterprises ♥

Inside Cork's Early Years Service —

When Everywhere Else Says No, You Help Say Yes

As manager of ChildVision's Early Years Service in Cork, Anita's love for her work is clear the moment you meet her. Each day your kind donations help her and her team work with visually impaired and multi-disabled children from the entire southern half of Ireland. It's a vital service that without your generosity, describes Anita, would leave a huge hole in dozens of little lives:

👂 In Cork Early Years we have a 50:50 approach of children with no additional needs, and children with very complex needs including no sight and no mobility, 26 children all coming together to learn. They play together and care for each other unconditionally, without question. Where other places say 'no, we can't take your child,' thanks to our supporters, we can say 'yes' – and provide each child with a full balanced curriculum. Our girls here give so much kindness, patience, and

love to the children. I'm a parent of a child with additional needs myself, and I understand they can't always say how their day was – so we communicate with our families daily. The money we get goes straight to the children on equipment, whether its sensory play, vision assessment tools, or early braille – and we help children learn to use mobility canes from as young as two years of age. What we have here in Cork is remarkable, I can't even explain it. **We are forever grateful to our donors for all the support!** 🙏



When Shay's complex medical needs left him unable to join his local preschool, you helped Anita (see story at left) – say yes to Shay's family. A smiling delight of a boy with cerebral palsy and no vision in his left eye, Shay is nonverbal and has a special feeding tube to help him with weight gain and reduce illness. Thanks to your steadfast support, Shay is now a champion at his Snap + Core communication software on his special iPad. Sky's the limit, Shay! ♥

SEVEN SUPERHERO HORSES, POWERED BY YOUR LOVE

Each time you support Equine Assisted Therapy at ChildVision, you transform tomorrow for students with some of the most severe sight loss and daunting disabilities in Ireland. In a profound bond that needs no words, time on the horses builds trust, core strength, muscle tone, confidence, and more. Today we'd like to introduce you to seven superhero therapy horses that are powered by your love...



Breed: Irish Cob
Secret power: Mind magic—A wizard of wonders when it comes to working with the students here, Brad makes every child sure that with him at their side, anything is possible!



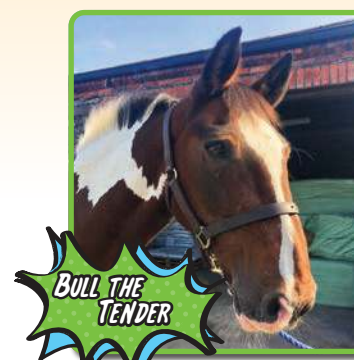
Breed: Shetland
Secret power: Empathy and success magic — Small but mighty in every way, Cody is brilliant at making friends with even our most shy and nervous children. She will always have your back!



Breed: Irish Cob
Secret power: Ultimate protection — Fred makes everyone feel safe... even when they're lying backwards on his back! He also has mystical weather-control: he doesn't like getting wet and tries to enter the arena only when it's dry!



Breed: Irish Cob
Secret power: Escape artistry and invisibility — This equine superhero avoids being clean at all costs, perfecting his powers of invisibility to do so. The ideal friend, Buddy can get you out of any situation – while never being caught!



Breed: Irish draught horse
Secret power: The magic of flight — Bull is our gentle giant. He's very attached to all the team here, and we're certain he rides the air currents in the arena. Bull makes every child feel like they can fly, while riding on his back!



Breed: Irish Sport Horse (ISH)
Secret power: Super speed and enhanced intelligence — With her golden forelock and coat of snowy white, Echo is our resident princess. She's fast, super smart, and a little bit precious – but Echo's heart for the children is pure hope and love.



Breed: Hunter
Secret power: Size manipulation — The biggest of all our therapy horses, Jack's secret power of size manipulation makes even the smallest person feel ten feet tall! And as strapping as he is, Jack still gives the gentlest cuddles.



Thank you for making our Equine Assisted Therapy Horses part of your ChildVision family. May their superhero powers be yours whenever you need to summon them, in return for your love and generosity. To learn about special Team-Building Days with the horses, see page 4.

Announcing a whole new kind of EDI training for you and your team –

3 Trailblazing New Trainings on Disability Awareness

Your business, school, or group may have an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) policy, updated every year. But what does your policy truly mean for someone with disabilities? Introducing three new remote workshops paired with special on-site Team-Building Days that help you and your team move from a one-size-fits-all EDI policy to a mutually beneficial, rewarding experience for all...

1. EDI: Looking from the Inside Out: Don't miss your team's chance to build an EDI policy that's meaningful from everyone's perspective – hear from ChildVision students Jordan and Grace on what it's like to find work placement as a person with disabilities, what it's meant for them, and how they hope the world of work might help support them when they leave us. It's the workshop sure to get everyone thinking!

2. "I Wouldn't Change a Thing..." In this workshop, three longtime staff reflect openly on their time at ChildVision and what

the students have taught them – from Amanda, who works with the social enterprise students, to Sinéad, our speech and language therapy (SLT) lead who explains how students have shaped their lives for the better, to Ruth, who talks about overcoming a fear of her own failings around people with disabilities, and how the students changed everything.

3. Horses, the Superpower: Do Humans Have the Compassion to Match? Hear from foremost experts Teri Brosnan, our equine therapy manager, and therapist Audrey Darby as they share some of the learnings

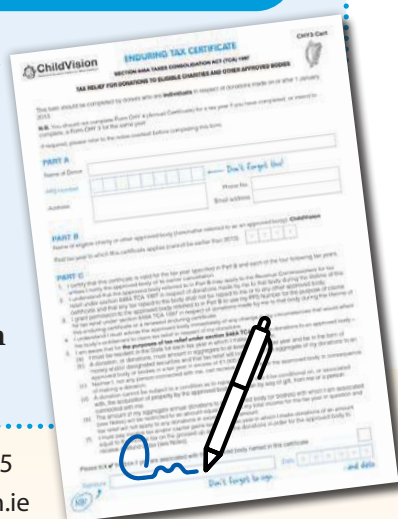
they've presented at world conferences on the parallels between horses and humans, and how horses can help us unlock the true potential that waits in everyone, fully abled and disabled alike.



Details: Perfect for both remote and local teams, you can choose a different mix of staff to attend each 40 to 45-minute session, as it suits you. Workshops will be followed by a trailblazing **Team-Building Day** (as Covid restrictions allow) that includes sighted guide training and a chance to work with the ChildVision therapy horses in a very special blind-folded session. Cost for all three workshops and team-building day is a donation of €1500 for up to 30 people. Contact Ruth for details and to reserve your team's place, today: **01 837 3635**, or **RuthAllen@childvision.ie**. Memorable, impactful, scheduled at your convenience – and destined to change your team's view on disability forever! ♥

The World of Good Your Signature Holds

Did you know you can unlock 44.9% more good for Ireland's blind children with just your signature and a few moments of your time, any year you donate a total of €250 or more to ChildVision? It's true! We'll even keep track of your giving for you – and post an enduring tax rebate form to you to fill in, sign, and return. Gifts totaling €252 in a year (or around €21 monthly) can allow us to claim an extra €113.42 in charity tax relief – truly a world of good waiting in your signature! **Watch your post for the 5-year CHY form coming from ChildVision soon, or call us on 01 837 3635 to confirm if you qualify. Thank you!** ♥



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