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RSBC

Royal Society for Blind Children

Your supporter newsletter

**Discover the difference you're
making to blind children**

**Life
Without
Limits**
For Blind
Children

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Welcome Julie, our new CEO

I'm delighted to be writing to you today in my role as the Royal Society for Blind Children's CEO.

It's a privilege to lead such an historic and well-loved charity committed to delivering outstanding support and guidance to blind and partially-sighted children and their families. As the mother of a child who's been blind since birth, I bring my lived experience, knowledge and understanding to my role.

I'm excited to be by the side of supporters like you, as well as our dedicated colleagues, volunteers and, of course, the



most amazing young people! Blind and partially sighted children can be amongst the most vulnerable in society. Just like you, I'm absolutely committed to helping them access the support they need to thrive and excel in this challenging world.

Your support for RSBC means so much to us. Thank you.

Julie

Without loyal supporters like you, we wouldn't be able to run regular activities sessions like the cook-a-long. We can't thank you enough.

Thank you for cooking-up confidence

One way in which your support changes lives, is through our popular cook-a-long sessions, which are held in our Life Without Limits Centre.

They encourage blind and partially sighted children and young people to learn new skills and cook a dish from scratch. Some children and young people even join us online too!

The sessions build **life skills, independence and confidence**, and it's a great place to meet new friends. Recipes are adapted to make sure everyone can improve their cooking skills.

www.rsbc.org/newsletter



"I can learn new skills and make friends in a friendly environment, which boosts my confidence."



See your support in action!

Your dedication to blind children means we can give blind young people a life without limits, through experiences such as this life-changing residential to Stubbers Adventure Park. Community Services Manager, Vivek, tells us all about it.

“The incredible activities the young people took part in included canoeing, horse riding, rock climbing, rifle shooting, archery, woodland walking and bush crafting.



Many enjoyed spending the afternoon in canoes as it was perfect weather and very relaxing. They also went out in pedalo boats at night, which was really fun. The smiles on their faces said it all!

Evenings were also spent playing cards, listening to music and, best of all, making new friends.”

The trip was all about giving these young people experiences they wouldn't usually have and showing them they can achieve anything. As they got so much out of it, with your continued support, we hope to take two different age groups next year.

You rock!

Over the summer RSBC was able to take a group of blind and partially sighted children on a confidence-building rock climbing session. Senior Accessibility Adviser, Alex, shares how the children stepped up.

“This trip was a real highlight. Our young people had varying degrees of experience, with some being completely new to climbing.

As you'd expect, they were a little apprehensive. **Some of the more confident members of the group stepped up and took on a supportive role to the less confident, which was fantastic to see!**

Being able to witness our young people develop their social skills is always special and we saw so much of it at this session.”

This is only possible because of you.



“I loved the residential trip. I liked the rock climbing the most, I've never done anything like that before.”



Celebrating our brilliant blind children

Here at RSBC, we know, that with the right specialist support, every blind child has the potential to achieve. To thank you for helping blind young people thrive, we'd like to share news of a very special event with you – The annual Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) awards.

AQA awards aren't standard awards like GCSE's or A Levels. They are shaped to suit everyone's interests and strengths, enabling blind and partially sighted children and young people to showcase their full potential in the things that interest them.

This year, RSBC celebrated a remarkable total of 654 AQA awards, earned by 103 young

people across a vast array of learning areas, ranging from horse riding to percussion, and from rock climbing to setting up a small business.

One of the highlights was the presentation of the Pamela Wright Award for special achievement. The well-deserving recipient was a very special young person called Arun Karunakaran.

Arun was nominated for his sheer resilience on his journey towards employment.

We're delighted to learn he's now secured a permanent job. Congratulations on an amazing achievement Arun!

"Today's AQA awards ceremony reminds us blind and partially sighted children and young people can achieve their personal goals, and exceed them. I'm delighted for Arun who embodies the characteristics we aim for here at RSBC and want to instill in our young people."

Carla Rose-Hardman,
Services Director

How you helped Talisha gain confidence

Talisha is 11 and unable to see more than a metre ahead of her. Sight loss has affected her since she was five, taking away her self-esteem and confidence. We recently featured Talisha in one of our appeals, and we're so pleased to share that, thanks to supporters like you, she's getting her confidence back. We caught up with Talisha and her mum Gillian to find out more.

Q What are the biggest practical challenges Talisha has faced at school?

A Because of her sight loss, Talisha was struggling in all subjects, which made a big impact on her life. Now she's learning braille, she's making really good progress.

Q How has RSBC helped?

A RSBC has helped so much with Talisha's self-esteem and confidence. I can see she feels a lot better about the life she has ahead of her.

Q How different do you think Talisha's life would be

without the help you've received from RSBC?

A Talisha would have had support from home and school, but she would be nowhere near where she is now, that's all due to the specialist help from RSBC.

Q Talisha, what is your favourite subject at school?

A My favourite subject is art, but my mum loves me learning braille!

And one last word from them:

"Thanks to all the RSBC supporters. Making a donation to RSBC is a great choice. It's a fantastic charity that has helped us so much."





Make your legacy their future

If you believe in giving life-changing opportunities to blind and partially sighted children, young people and their families, a gift in your Will is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact.

Every day, four more children are diagnosed with sight loss. Some may never have meaningful relationships, learn vital life skills or gain employment, unless they receive urgent support.

By remembering RSBC in your Will, you could help give that life-changing support to more blind children for years to come.



You simply need our charity name: **The Royal Society for Blind Children**, our Registered Charity Number: **307892**, and then the chosen amount/percentage you wish to leave.

To learn more about how you can leave a gift in your Will to RSBC, visit rsbc.org.uk/gift-in-wills. There you'll find information on the different types of gifts you can leave, Will writing tips and more. We also provide ways for you to write your Will for free. Or you can email us at giftsinwills@rsbc.org.uk.

Thank you.

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