



The cause we fight  
for is very **ordinary**



*December 2015*



## **Greetings of the season to all our supporters!**

It has been an exciting year at the Champion Centre and one of the most stable, both literally and metaphorically, for several years. We have a strong team of therapists, specialists and support staff who have all contributed to the many great outcomes for the children and families who attended our services this year. Moreover, the generous people who care that our therapy services can continue to serve the children of Canterbury have responded to our call for funds and have helped us to a position from which genuine sustainability is something we can aspire to. We cannot take our eye off the ball for a second, but the combined efforts of the in-house development team and the Champion Foundation Trust are beginning to gain traction in building the security we desperately need.

At our recent AGM, we were able to thank the many generous donors who continue to make it possible for us to provide our programmes to more than 165 children with developmental delays at any one time. We also heard from the wonderful Katie Donaldson who started at the Champion Centre 22 years ago and is now a beautiful young woman fully engaged in life and working full-time in paid work in our community. In her speech, Katie showed some photos that represent her life to this point and a selection of these can be seen on the next page. They show Katie as a very fragile infant, overcoming her fears on the Spirit of Adventure, receiving her Queen's Guide Award and showing her happy smile after a full day's work at New World Northwood. Katie ended her speech by

saying: "Thank you for supporting the Champion Centre and us the champions because like the All Blacks We Are the Champions ☺"



Thank you so much, Katie, for sharing your life with us all. And thank you too to your dad, Barry, who followed your speech with an impromptu expression of appreciation to the Champion Centre for making it possible for Katie to defy the impoverished future that was predicted for her at her birth. Instead of being only a consumer of services and resources, Katie is contributing to society and paying her way. Barry was very clear that this would not have been possible without the Champion Centre.

Another great story can be found in our Annual Report for 2015. Janelle started at the Champion Centre almost as long ago as Katie. 20 years later she came to us for a short period of work placement and did a fine job working in the playroom and in the office. Janelle leaves school at the end of this year and so far only has a part-time position in a café. Perhaps you know of somewhere that would like to employ her? She is careful, reliable, learns quickly and gets along well with colleagues.



## Will you help us tell more stories like these?

A donation of \$5,000 will make up the difference between government grants and the true costs of therapy for a child for a year.

### THE CHAMPION CENTRE ONLINE.....

Our Facebook page is a hive of activity. Never a week goes by without us having a story worth telling. Whether it is a current or past client in the news, a child proudly going off to school dressed in their school uniform, or an enterprising supporter presenting us with a cheque, we love them all and know from the almost 1,500 likes that many of you love them too.

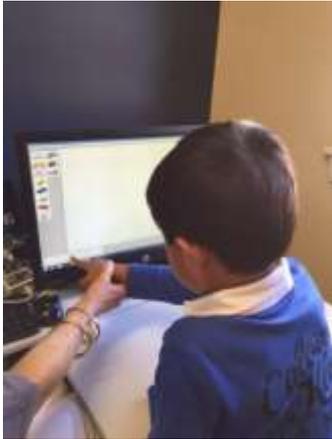
Here are some of the photos that have appeared in Facebook this year. And as you will see below, some of our children have made some pretty high flying connections!



## Samuel's Story

Samuel has been attending our wrap-around therapy service each week with his parents and receiving support for all areas of his development. Below are reports from two areas of his programme: **Computer Assisted Learning** and **Learning Through Music**.

### Computer Assisted Learning



When Samuel started in the Transition to School programme, he already had some experience on an iPhone and tablet as a means of passive entertainment, and was ready to use this experience actively to expand his learning. He quickly showed us that he could track over all areas of the screen, so we used words such as 'up', 'down', 'around', 'go' and 'stop' that helped him understand what he was doing in language. He then learned how to make things happen on the screen and became adept at activities involving 'feeding a crocodile', 'building a block tower and knocking it over', and 'sending children on a roller coaster ride'. We then used switches to introduce the idea of 'same' and helped him

understand the ideas of 'same picture', 'same colour' and, eventually, 'same word' using real words on the screen. He is now able to find the picture of a car and a book to go with the words 'car' and 'book'. He is learning to read! Samuel does not use many words, but, thanks to the computer, he is able to show that his understanding is well ahead of what he is able to say. It will be so important that when he goes to school that people understand just how much he knows.



### Learning Through Music

When Sammy first came to his individual music sessions he was highly anxious and found it really hard to stay

focussed on an activity, or to engage with the adults in the room. However, Julie



used improvised musical activities by watching, listening and following Sammy and encouraging him to play with the patterns of sound and movement. This has built up a repertoire of activities personal to Sammy with strong repetition and predictability that keep his anxiety to a minimum. He is now able to engage in musical play calmly with his mother and enjoys playing up and down the notes of a musical scale on the chime bars in group music with his dad (see photo).

Please call us: (03) 383 6867, visit our website: [www.championcentre.org.nz](http://www.championcentre.org.nz) or make a direct donation to 12-3240-0034924-01

Thank you for helping!