



A permanent reminder – Jason’s story

Jason was just 18 months old when his dad threw him against the wall. Now 10, he has permanent brain damage. He doesn’t talk much and when he does he struggles to find the words.

The dent in Jason’s forehead is a permanent reminder of his past.

Without the right help at the right time, abused and neglected children are more likely to do badly at school, display aggressive behaviour, struggle to form loving relationships or commit crime. They may even become abusive parents themselves, unable to break free from this terrible cycle of damaging behaviour.

This bleak future is all that Jason had to look forward to until The Benevolent Society stepped in. Life with a drug addict mother and a violent father was chaotic. The family moved around a lot, and Jason and his four siblings sometimes had to scrape around for food, and often missed school.

Jason’s mother didn’t mean to neglect her kids, but her addiction meant she just couldn’t cope. Instead, Jason’s older sister Tracey made sure Jason and the other kids were fed and clothed. Whenever their dad was angry, she tried to make sure the others were out of harm’s way and she bore the brunt of his violence.

Since The Benevolent Society started working with the family, a few things have changed. Dad is no longer around but mum still can’t cope with caring for her family. The children have been moved to a safer environment, they are now living with their grandfather.

No-one sets out to be a bad parent, but financial stress, domestic violence, substance abuse and family breakdown can drive people to breaking point. The Benevolent Society is there to stop families from going over the edge and to keep children safe.

Jason is doing well, but his brain injury presents many challenges. Jason’s attending a special school for children with high needs and he’s starting to catch up on the crucial years of learning he missed. A Benevolent Society worker accompanies him to school three days a week to give him extra support.

We’re also helping Jason’s sister Tracey to adjust to her new life where she no longer has to act as a surrogate mum, and where she can be a child once again, and providing practical support for their grandfather.

Your donation will go directly towards our child protection and early intervention services to ensure that more children are safe and nurtured, free from abuse and neglect.