



The children and young people who come to us for help have endured painful childhood experiences - experiences that no child should have to endure. At Berry Street, we are committed to helping these children find their feet again. As you know, healing takes time, and the recovery process can take years, depending on the severity of the childhood experiences suffered. Often our clinicians will work with a child or young person for a number of years to help them overcome the effects of abuse and/or neglect and rebuild their lives.

These kids have often experienced abuse and neglect from the people they love and trust the most. They often have horrific memories, possess a sense of despair and hold a belief that they are unworthy, unlovable and have no value.

*From his birth David had only known pain, being exposed to violent scenes between his parents when he was just six months old...*

*When David found the violence directed at him, at the young age of five, his life went on a downward spiral...*

*He was taking drugs and getting involved in criminal activity by the age of nine. The only way he knew how to express his pain was through violence.*

Berry Street is the last resort for many children and young people like David.

We work very hard to ensure the children and young people who come into our care know that we are with them for the long haul - our workers are committed to achieving positive outcomes for our kids. We won't give up on them.

*When David was placed in a Berry Street residential unit, we provided him with a team of people to support and care for him. His worker, Ben, made a firm commitment to stick with David regardless of how tough things became.*

*David grew to trust Ben, acknowledging that, "he sticks with me. He sees me as a kid who can do things and has some problems rather than this whole set of problems that can't do anything."*

*Three years on and David is attending school full-time and he also has a part-time job where the employer has praised his work ethic. He also works as a volunteer - with young people with disabilities.*

*David now believes himself to be a person who is worthwhile and has something to contribute.*

Unfortunately, there will continue to be many more children just like David who will need *your* commitment and *our* promise to never give up on them.

Please consider making a regular gift of \$10 per month to help make a difference in the lives of children and young people, just like David.

**Here's how it works:**

1. Each month, a regular amount would be automatically deducted from your credit card or bank account (direct debit).
2. You choose how much you would like to donate, and can increase or decrease the amount at any time.
3. At the end of the financial year you'll receive a receipt for your regular donations.