



Mirabel Newsletter

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This year has been challenging and heartening in equal measure. The pandemic was especially hard on vulnerable families already at risk of social isolation, and carers, usually grandparents, were deemed the most vulnerable to this virus.

Despite the myriad challenges, the whole Mirabel community adapted quickly in finding new ways to stay in close contact. As social restrictions became increasingly difficult, the resilience of children and carers shone bright. And throughout, the generosity from our supporters, volunteers and donors has been overwhelming. It really has felt like 'we were all in

this together' and it has been incredibly reassuring to realise that even when people were going through their own problems they still thought about Mirabel. Thank you so much!

As this trying year draws to a close, it's wonderful to know that connection, hope and belonging can be communicated in even more ways than before and that the compassion in our community is a mighty force.

Jane Rowe – Founder/CEO

Courtney's Story

"Family is supposed to be our safe haven. Very often, it's the place we feel the deepest heartache. When I see my grandparents, I look at them with so much admiration and love. They took my siblings and me into their home when we were just little babies... It used to hit me hard when I'd hear people talking about their parents – I could never relate and truth is, I've never known what it feels to be part of a non-broken family. But when I think about my life now, I know how lucky I was to be taken out of that situation and shown so much love and affection.

When I watch my grandpa sit and talk to my brother, who has a very high needs disability, all I see is love in his eyes. It makes everything we've all gone through seem like nothing, and all the anger and the pain just goes away. To think that these people didn't have to take us in but chose to love us and give us everything they could possibly give, fills my heart. To think where I've come from and where I am now, I'm so damn proud of myself... we were one of the lucky bunch that was given a second chance at life.

There's a hole in my heart but it's slowly starting to heal. When all is said and done there's nothing more powerful in this world than love... do not let this world make you hard, do not let pain make you hate and do not let the bitterness steal your sweetness."

Courtney, 21-year-old Mirabel Alumni



