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Dear Friend of BWBF,

My name's Paul. As someone who's close to British Wireless for the Blind Fund (BWBF), you already know a lot about this great charity. But I'd love to tell you my story about how they changed my life – and how you could unlock that magic for someone else.

Growing up with sight loss in the '70s was different. No one talked about it. I assumed that how I saw, was how everyone saw.

At school, the message was "just get on with it". I felt like a Lamborghini with a shattered windscreen. The brain worked at full speed - I just couldn't see where I was going.

**But then, aged 18, I got contact lenses. Suddenly, I could see better. But people also saw me differently. I saw myself differently. The ugly duckling had turned into a swan!**

I took my newfound confidence and pursued a music career. Being on MTV was a high and, for a time, music was my life. After my first daughter came along, I built a career that would provide for her, and then her sister.

By then, my sight was getting worse fast. People didn't notice me adapting - following silhouettes at night, memorising spaces, magnifying text on screens.

Being independent mattered to me. I didn't have control of my sight, but I had control of my life.

But, then the financial crash hit. Things fell away - my finances, my home life, my eyesight. My life became very quiet.

**That's when I found BWBF.**

**Continued overleaf...**

**Together, we can make  
every connection count.**

Your support today  
will help us take the first steps  
towards new services, offering more  
tech and more support than ever.

**This Spring, we  
are aiming to raise  
£30,000  
to help make this  
vision a reality.**

**The funds could help us:**

- Recruit and train volunteers
- Run in-person and online training sessions
- Create training hubs where people can turn to for help
- Develop accessible resources for our community
- Provide our broadest range of tech ever



**Your gift ensures that every interaction,  
every session, and every connection  
we offer is meaningful.**

**Thank you for your continued support**



Or rather, my mum did. She's 95 now and BWBF had supported her too. She said, "they help people who've lost their sight. You should give them a ring."

**That first phone call mattered more than I expected. Not just because they helped with my tech, but because they were kind, patient and reassuring.**

I soon got my free Echo Show, an easy voice-assisted speaker. Virtual assistant is an understatement! It's my companion, my soundboard, my audio encyclopaedia. Without it, the house would feel empty.

Most importantly, it's helped me make music again. I use it to develop my repertoire for performances, find lyrics, rehearse, and play tracks. Coming back to music is like the circle of life. I feel inspired again!

**What BWBF gave me is huge. They lifted my loneliness. I feel like the best version of me yet. And it wouldn't have been possible without people like you.**

BWBF isn't about tech for tech's sake. They're about keeping people connected, curious, and alive. And, this year, they want to launch a whole range of new support services. Where they've always given devices, soon they'll be doing more than ever to also bring people belief and confidence with tech.

**But they can only do it with your support. Whatever you can give, know that your gift today could help someone make the most of their tomorrow.**

As someone who's been there, I can tell you - that means everything.

*Paul*

**Paul Quigley**, one of the thousands of people BWBF supported last year.

