

BRITISH WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND FUND

KEEPING BLIND PEOPLE IN
TOUCH WITH THE WORLD

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Meet Riley

"It might seem a small thing, but it has brought laughter and light into our world."



At just six years old, Riley has already faced enormous challenges. Around his fifth birthday, his parents, Jeanette and Adam, learned he had a detached retina. Multiple eye surgeries followed, each one trying to reattach the retina, but were unsuccessful.

"It felt like everything had changed overnight," recalls Jeanette. "We were drowning. But you either fight to survive, or you give up. And we weren't going to give up."

In January, Jeanette contacted BWBF. She wasn't sure if we could help children, but she reached out anyway. We sent Riley an Echo Dot. A simple, voice-activated device. "It was a relief and a joy to receive support for Riley without having to fight for it."



Everyday independence

The Echo Dot has quickly become part of Riley's daily life. He uses it to control the lights in his room, listen to music and stories, ask questions, and play games.

One of Riley's favourite things is classical music. He listens to a piece on the Dot, then runs to his keyboard to figure it out by ear. **"It's all him," Jeanette says proudly. "He just hears it and plays it. It's amazing."**



The device also gives his parents peace of mind.

"I can cook in the kitchen while Riley is happily and safely playing in his room. That means everything."



A brighter future

In new places, Riley needs help to avoid obstacles. But at home, he's learning to navigate. And with the help of tech like the Echo Dot, he's becoming more independent every day.

Jeanette sees technology as part of Riley's future - tools to help him live, learn and grow on his own terms.

"It might seem like a small thing," she says, "but it has brought laughter and light into our world. And most of all, it has helped keep Riley being Riley."

"And Riley is absolutely awesome."

Thomas' story

A voice that still echoes

When Yvonne came across British Wireless for the Blind Fund, she was searching for something simple but vital: a radio her father could use independently. Thomas was 101 and had lost most of his sight due to macular degeneration.



Dad always tried to maintain as much independence as he could,” Yvonne told us. “Mentally, he was still very alert. But with his vision and hearing declining, and some unsteadiness, everyday life became harder.”

What made a real difference was the arrival of a specially designed, easy to use radio from BWBF — provided completely free of charge, thanks to a legacy gift.

The arrival of a Relish, a radio suitable for people living with sight loss, from BWBF made a real difference.

Independence at the press of a button

“I did try an ordinary radio,” Yvonne recalled, “and I taped things down so he couldn’t accidentally knock the wrong buttons. But then we found the Relish radio — and it was brilliant.”

Its simple design made all the difference: big buttons, a clear on/off switch, and easy-to-use pre-set stations.

“The biggest thing about this radio was that he could control it himself,” she said. “It gave him some autonomy back — and that mattered hugely.”



A lifeline to the world — and to others

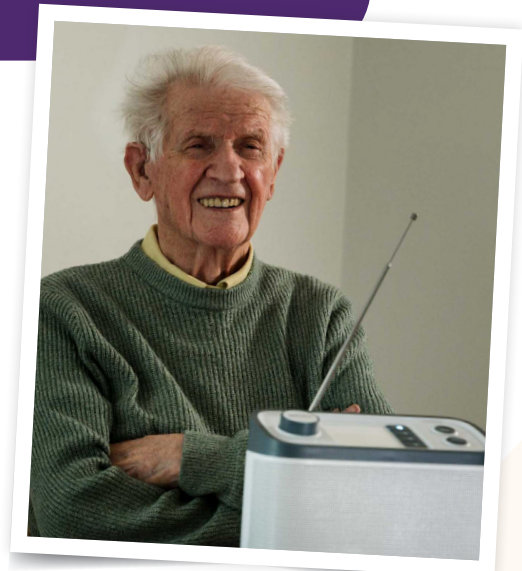
Like many older people with sight loss, Thomas had felt increasingly disconnected from the world. The radio helped restore a sense of belonging.

The radio became a daily presence. “Sitting listening to the radio was sort of Dad’s natural pose,” Yvonne smiled. “He had it on all the time.”

“He hadn’t felt able to keep up with current affairs,” Yvonne said. “But once he could listen to the news again, he was back in the conversation — he felt included again.”

A quiet, lasting impact

Last year, Thomas passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. His story, and the simple device that made a difference in his final months, continue to resonate. Yvonne wanted that story to be shared.



A gift that still echoes

Legacy gifts help people like Thomas every day.

That small device — which brought news, laughter, and confidence back into one man’s life — is part of something much bigger: a story of dignity, care, and connection.

Thanks to our generous supporters, Thomas felt more like himself again. Right to the end.

Impact

Last year we received
£396,247 in legacy
income.

That accounts for 45%
of our annual income.

Last year 4,237 devices
were given out thanks
to the generosity of our
supporters.

Only 6.5% of those with
a Will leave a charitable
bequest.



Why we chose to leave a gift



This donation is because your wireless helped my uncle, who passed away just before Christmas. At the end of his life, he could no longer see and took great pleasure in listening to the radio. Thanks for being there for him, and many others."



This donation is from my mum who passed away aged 99. She lived with sight loss for years after a detached retina and macular degeneration and you helped her with a radio/ CD player which helped her to listen to audio books and her CDs. It was her wish that donations from her funeral would be given to yourselves to continue your good work."

Ready to leave a legacy?

☐ Yes, I would like to leave a legacy
(Please send me a legacy information pack)

☐ POST ☐ EMAIL

Email

☐ I have already left you a gift in my Will
(Please update my record)

☐ I am not ready to leave a gift in my Will
at this time

☐ I am unable to leave a gift in my Will
but would like to donate to BWBF.
(Please see overleaf)

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www.blind.org.uk/privacy-policy

Please return this form in the freepost envelope provided.

**You can donate online: www.blind.org.uk/yourlegacy25
or call the team: 01622 754757**

If you are unable to leave a gift in your Will, your donation today could still help us.

Your Gift

I would like to make a gift of

£

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to –
British Wireless for the Blind Fund

Please debit my: (Please tick)

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa CAF Charity Card

Card number:

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Signed:

Gift Aid Statement

**If you are a UK taxpayer we can
reclaim 25p for every £1 you donate.**

☐ YES, I am a UK taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in future or have made in the past four years. I understand if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

