

Can:Do 4Kids

SPRING 2022

Smile

Empowering children to achieve their full potential

Meet Jeremy

The power of speech

Owen and Darcy Continue to Flourish

Catch up on the latest from our tax-time
appeal heroes

Pictured: Antony holding
his medals from school
sports, age 12

"My favourite thing about
Can:Do 4Kids is getting
to meet new friends."
Jeremy, aged 8

Welcome!

Welcome to the spring edition of our supporter update.



Since our last update in winter, we have welcomed Carolyn Mitchell as the new Chair of Can:Do Group. Carolyn, who has been a Board Member since 2019, brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership, and is incredibly well-suited to help the Group continue to grow and thrive in the future.

As of 1st August 2022, we successfully transitioned all remaining services and assets from The Royal South Australian Deaf Society – that were not transferred to Deaf Connect – over to Townsend House. This transition allows Can:Do Group to consolidate all our resources and focus on a renewed direction. I would like to acknowledge our staff for their hard work and flexibility over this period.

Finally, after a long and passionate association with Can:Do Group that began in 2005, I made the difficult decision to tender my resignation as Chief Executive. It has been a privilege to lead the organisation and, with the Group well positioned for the future, I feel that now is the right time to move onto the next chapter in my life.

I would like to offer my most heartfelt thank you for your dedicated support of our Can:Do families, particularly over recent years during what has been an incredibly uncertain and difficult time. I am immensely proud of what we have all achieved together and I look forward to remaining a keen supporter of the Group and its vital role in the community, as I hope that you do too. Michael Piffli will assume the role of Acting CE from late August, while a national recruitment campaign continues for the next Group Chief Executive.

This may be the last update that I provide you with, but it will certainly not be the last that you receive. With our clients continuing to achieve such amazing outcomes, thanks to people like you, I know you will have plenty of news and stories to be updated on in the future.

So, for the final time from me, please enjoy reading the latest edition of our supporter update.

Warmest wishes,

Heidi

Heidi Limareff
Can:Do Group Chief Executive

Meet Jeremy – Th

Eight-year-old Jeremy has been part of the Can:Do 4Kids family since soon after he was born. Having been diagnosed with hearing loss at a young age, Jeremy has always worked hard to improve his speech and listening skills, and has never let anything stop him from doing what he loves. Jeremy recently took time out of his busy schedule to meet with us and share more about him.

Jeremy enjoys riding his bike and playing with his older sister. He has also begun playing soccer at school this year and likes playing all the positions but loves to kick goals as a striker. When Jeremy grows up he wants to become a mechanic because he loves cars, boats and bikes, and learning how they work. When asked about what he thinks his strengths are, he said;

"I'm smart because I'm good at maths. I also like to be friendly and nice to people."

Jeremy currently accesses Listening and Spoken Language Therapy and has been engaged in many Can:Do 4Kids group programs such as Tiny Tots, Music Matters and Talking Buddies. At the end of 2019, he also graduated from our Bright Start program, fully equipped and prepared to start school with his peers. Jeremy, who continues

Owen and Darcy C

Owen and Darcy, whose stories we shared in May as part of our tax-time appeal, have achieved some incredible milestones in recent times. Perhaps the biggest news of all, is that the identical twins turned four in July.

Owen and Darcy's language development has continued to thrive, with great improvements in both self-advocacy and connecting with others, as mum, Holly describes:

"They are starting to advocate for themselves which has been such an amazing achievement. They are using words like 'I', 'me' and 'you' now instead of their names. They will say sentences like 'I want' or 'Can I have'. As a mum, witnessing that growth has made me overwhelmed with pride and joy."

The Power of Speech



to attend group programs, shares what he likes most about them:

“My favourite thing that I like about the groups is getting to meet new friends. My friends at school don’t have the same issues that I have but my friends here are the same as me so it makes me feel good.”

Thanks to the support he has received, Jeremy feels confident to advocate not only for himself but other children just like him, who are living with hearing loss. He has passionately taken on board a role as an official Can:Do 4Kids Loud Shirt Day Ambassador this year and confidently describes what Loud Shirt Day means to him:

“I really like Loud Shirt Day because everything is so bright and fun and because we raise money for kids like me.

He also offers some advice to help spread awareness and learn more about kids with hearing challenges;

“If you meet someone like me with hearing aids or cochlear implants, don’t be afraid to ask questions because we’re happy to answer them and help people learn.”

Jeremy is excited to show off his hard work, so, as this year’s “Power of Speech” nominee, he will attend the public speaking event at Parliament House in Canberra. “Power of Speech” brings together nominees from Listening and Spoken Language centres in Australia and New Zealand to celebrate the progress and achievements of our primary school-aged clients. Jeremy will be presenting a speech about his cochlear implants to the Governor-General, Prime Minister, Federal Ministers and other special guests this September.



Jeremy graduating from Bright Start, 2019.

Amazing outcomes such as this are not possible without your kind support. Please help children like Jeremy reach their goals by completing the enclosed supporter form today.

Continue to Flourish

They continue to love their therapy with Listening and Spoken Language Specialist, Molly and even refer to their sessions as ‘Molly School’ because they cannot wait to go to school like their older brothers.

Every week, the boys find new interests to challenge themselves with their latest hobby one that will certainly help them in their lead up to school.

“They have started to get into writing, albeit just scribbles at this stage, but they were never interested before so I’m excited to see where it goes.”

We are incredibly proud of how far Owen and Darcy have come and are so excited to be part of their journey.



Proud mum with Owen and Darcy (left). Owen and Darcy celebrating their fourth birthday with a train-themed party (right).

A special thank you to all those who gave a tax-time gift to support South Australian kids like Owen and Darcy. Your generosity helped raise over \$55,000, ensuring all children, youth and their families who come through our doors can access the life-changing supports they need.

Dates to Remember

**Loud Shirt Day
Friday 21 October**

Can:Do 4Kids **Smile**

Empowering children to achieve their full potential
Support children in our community who are deaf, blind or have sensory needs.

DONATE TODAY (08) 8100 8200

fundraising@candogroup.com.au



Spotlight **Jasmine Garcia**

What is your role at Can:Do 4Kids? How long have you been working for Can:Do 4Kids?

I began working at Can:Do 4Kids in 2017 as a speech pathology student on placement. I commenced working as a certified speech pathologist in early 2018 after I had graduated.

Tell us about your journey towards becoming a speech pathologist? Why did you choose Can:Do 4Kids?

After school I decided to study a Bachelor of Speech Pathology as it included voice therapy, which is a special interest of mine. I soon found out that this was just one small part of a very broad degree. I had my final year placement at Can:Do 4Kids and by that time I knew that I wanted to work in an organisation that specialised in supporting people with sensory needs. In my first two years at Can:Do 4Kids I studied a Certificate 2 and 3 in Auslan and immersed myself in the Deaf community. I now spend every Friday at Brighton Primary working with the Deaf and hard of hearing students.

What do you love about working for Can:Do 4Kids?

Can:Do 4Kids focuses on embedding therapy into a child's daily routine. This is when I can upskill a parent to include speech and language stimulation into the "getting dressed" routine, for example. I love working closely with caregivers as I can support them to take on the therapist's role on the days I don't visit. Parent coaching is a valuable part of my job that empowers caregivers to confidently support their children to reach their goals.

What are some of the benefits you've seen come out of you working with the children and their families?

Over the years I have seen children achieve many of their goals and develop functional communication skills. Communication is the core of who we are

as people. Whether we communicate with words, facial expressions, body language, pictures or devices, this is our way of showing our personality and connecting with others.

What are some of your hobbies/interests outside of work?

I have many hobbies outside of work and love keeping busy. I like to sing for events, go to pilates, play the piano, guitar and ukulele and also attend weekly tap, ballet, contemporary and jazz dance classes. It is very important to have a steady work-life balance!



Can:Do 4Kids Loud Shirt Day



Wear it loud for kids with hearing loss

FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER

Sign up today
loudshirtday.com.au



Connect with us...

Can:Do 4Kids
cando4kids.com.au



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