

Coram Film Transcript

275 years of better chances for children

Back in 1739, abandoned babies were a common sight on the streets of London, their mothers trapped in poverty without the means to support them.

Only one man refused to walk past and ignore these children: our founder, Thomas Coram. He set up Britain's first home for abandoned children

Without him, thousands of babies would have perished on London's streets.

But, 275 years later, not enough has changed.

Too many children are waiting for the security of a permanent family. Too many children's rights are ignored and too many young people have nowhere safe to call home.

Today, Coram still fights for vulnerable children and young people. This year we will help 1 million children, by developing their skills, building emotional strength, upholding their rights and finding adoptive parents for those in the greatest need.

Tiffany, Music Therapist: Using creative therapies like music and art, Coram helps vulnerable children to express their feelings. It is a means of non-verbal communication and emotional self-expression, for children who have suffered trauma or who find it difficult to relate to others.

Kyle had a difficult start in life and was taken into care when he was less than three years old. Coram found him kind, loving adoptive parents and prepared them for the challenges of caring for Kyle and helping him to overcome the effects of his unsettled past.

Dorothy, Adoptive Mother: We were really struggling in the sense that we were on our knees emotionally. And he was pushing boundaries and seemed really unhappy.

As Kyle released the anger pent up inside him, he began to smile, talk to and even show affection for his adoptive parents.

Dorothy: He's now a very sociable little boy. He's learnt appropriate ways of responding to other children. He's become popular. So he's just confident to say this is who I am, this is what I'm good at, this is what I'm struggling with. He's thoroughly honest and we just love him.

Our music, art and drama therapy sessions change children's lives. But we rely on the generosity of our supporters to continue this vital work.

Today, thanks to the generosity of people like you, Coram's work continues, 275 years after Thomas Coram vowed to give all children the chance of a better start in life.

But, our most vulnerable children still need Coram's help. With your support we can transform the lives of so many more children, just like Kyle.

Kyle: 'bye-bye!'

Music: Minuet in G minor by George Frideric Handel, a patron of Coram.

www.coram.org.uk