



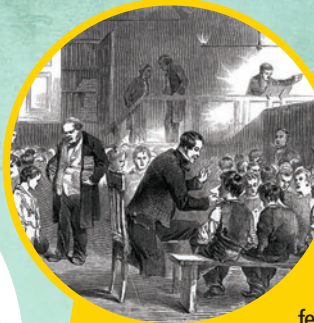
# 150 years of caring for children

Take a look at how one of Britain's oldest charities has changed the lives of children all over the country.

This year, the UK's oldest and longest-running national children's charity celebrates its 150th birthday. Barnardo's works tirelessly to transform the lives of vulnerable children and young people all over the UK. Thomas Barnardo founded the charity in 1866 after he saw hundreds of homeless children living in London. Today, 150 years later, Barnardo's works directly with around 240,000 children and their families every year to make sure children have the best possible start in life. The charity's services include getting children off the street, talking to them, giving them training and finding them a new home. Recently, the charity released pictures of the first foster children helped by Barnardo's, giving a fascinating insight into the lives of the country's poorest children in Victorian times. Follow our timeline from the birth of Thomas Barnardo to the many volunteers and staff that help transform children's lives today.

## 1845 Thomas Barnardo is born

Thomas John Barnardo was born on 4 July 1845 in Dublin in Ireland. As a boy, Barnardo was selfish and grumpy. He wanted what other children had and would sometimes steal other children's toys. When he grew up, all this changed. Barnardo decided he wanted to spend his life helping people and set off to London to become a doctor.



## 1867 The ragged school

There was no national system of education at the start of the 19th century and very few children went to school. Thomas Barnardo set up a ragged school in 1867, which offered poor children the chance to get a basic education. One day, after classes were over, a young boy called Jim Jarvis asked to stay at the school because he had no home to go to. That night Jim took Barnardo around London and showed him hundreds of children sleeping in the cold on roofs and in gutters. The experience affected Barnardo so much he decided to do something about it.

## 1879

### A special home for girls

Barnardo married his wife Syrie Louise Elmslie in 1873. As a wedding gift, they were given Mossford Lodge in Ilford along with 60 acres of land. The land allowed Barnardo to build a village for poor girls. It opened in 1879 and by 1900 there were 65 cottages, a school, a hospital and a church. The village trained girls in nursing and childcare.



## 1979

### Adoption shops

The charity opened special adoption shops where a child's photograph and details were displayed in high-street shop windows. This helped find suitable families for them.

## 1905

By the time Barnardo died in 1905, the charity had opened 96 homes and cared for more than 8,500 children.

## UMA'S STORY



### UMA

Uma is an 11-year-old carer. She looks after her mum and aunt, who both have multiple sclerosis – a condition that affects the nerves. Barnardo's helps her express her feelings and meet other young people like her. This year she was chosen to toss the coin at the Ladies' Final at Wimbledon, and met tennis superstar Serena Williams.

## ISAAC'S STORY



### ISAAC

Isaac Harvey is 21 and is in a wheelchair. He doesn't let his disability get in the way of living his life. He was even a torchbearer at the London 2012 Olympics. He says, "Barnardo's has helped me gain more independence... people may see me and think that I wouldn't be able to do certain things, but I've been able to prove them wrong."

## ARNOLD'S STORY



### ARNOLD BORSAY

Arnold Borsay was just three years old when his mother handed him over to Barnardo's because she couldn't afford to look after him. He was sent into foster care when he was four years old, for seven years. Arnold was so grateful for the help Barnardo's gave him that he left the charity around £134,000 in his will.

## ELIZABETH'S STORY



### ELIZABETH MOUNCEY

Elizabeth Mouncey was just six years old when Barnardo's found her. She was taken in by a family for six years until she went to Barnardo's village for girls. There, she trained as a cook and went to work in Croydon, London.

**WORD OF THE WEEK**  
Destitute means someone who is extremely poor and unable to provide for themselves.

## 1800s Life in London

London was very different in the 19th century. New technologies had created lots of new manufacturing jobs and, as a result, city populations rose dramatically as people flocked to look for work. This led to overcrowding and unemployment. To make matters worse, in 1866 an outbreak of cholera, an illness caused by dirty food and water, killed more than 3,000 people in London. Lots of families were left with no homes and no food, and thousands of children were forced to sleep on the streets and beg for money.



## 1870

### A turning point

In 1870, Barnardo opened his first home for boys in London's East End, where they could learn skills such as carpentry. One evening, a boy called John Somers (nicknamed Carrots) came asking for help. Barnardo had to turn him away because all the beds were taken. A couple of days later Barnardo found out that the young boy had died. Feeling guilty, Barnardo hung a sign on his door that read, "No Destitute Child Ever Refused Admission".



## 1887

### The first foster home

In 1887, Barnardo wanted to help children by getting them out of London, which was heavily overcrowded and polluted. He set up links with foster parents in rural villages so children could experience fresh air and the countryside. Once children moved to foster care their health improved and they started to do much better at school.



## 1972

Young people now had to stay at school until the age of 16.

## 2008

### A brilliant campaign

Barnardo's asked the Government to help end child poverty in the UK. The charity wanted to reduce the impact of poverty on young people and help families by giving children free school meals. The Government promised to cut child poverty significantly by 2020.



## 2016 Today

Every year, Barnardo's helps thousands of children get the best start in life and fulfil their potential. It runs about 960 services across the UK and helps children who are homeless, in poverty or just need some help getting back on their feet. Every day people help Barnardo's by raising money so it can keep doing its amazing work. Many celebrities and royalty have also helped the charity raise funds. The Duchess of Cornwall is the charity's president and helps spread the word about what it does.



## MORE INFO

For more information about Barnardo's head over to [barnardos.org.uk](http://barnardos.org.uk).