



***A guide to
leaving a gift
in your Will***



**PASS
IT ON**



**St Joseph's
Hospice**



***1 in 3 patients in our
care is supported thanks
to the generosity of
people who leave a
gift in their Will to the
Hospice.***

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IT ON**

Your gift will change lives

As one of the oldest and largest hospices in Britain, St Joseph's Hospice has been caring for the residents of Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham and the City of London for over 115 years.

Each year we care for over 6500 people through:

- In patient palliative and end-of-life care
- Day Hospice for out-patients
- Community palliative service for people wishing to receive care at home
- Complementary services such as counselling, bereavement and massage therapy.

Remembering the Hospice

We understand that providing for family and friends is the first consideration when making a Will. After doing so, many people choose to leave a gift to St Joseph's Hospice; in fact, 1 in 3 patients in our care is supported thanks to the generosity of people who leave a gift in their Will to the Hospice.

Remembering us in your Will means you are part of our future.* Any gift, whether large or small will make a difference.

Your gift will ensure that we are here for future generations affected by a life-limiting illness

We pride ourselves on treating every person as unique, with a deep respect for personal beliefs and culture. Your gift will ensure that future generations in the areas we serve are cared for as they wish to be.

Your gift will bring comfort and dignity

Meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in our care will always be our first priority. Your gift could pay for specialist staff who are dedicated to helping patients manage their symptoms.

Your gift will help more people to live life to the full, to the end

Whether it's providing a favourite meal, washing and setting hair in a way that helps someone feel brighter, or making space for extra family members to visit, your gift will help us to provide the little extra comforts that make a tremendous difference during a stay at the Hospice.

* if you are thinking of leaving a legacy to the Hospice, please find the details you require to add to your Will on page 6 of this booklet (Frequently asked questions section)



***We don't just
care for patients,
we also provide
support for friends
and family too.***



Meet Paula and Ian

Diagnosis and Bromley by Bow

Paula was diagnosed with a rare degenerative neurological condition known as Brown-Vialleto-Van Laere (BWL), at the age of 13. There are only 58 reported cases in the world. Paula learnt to live with the diagnosis and has carried on with life.

She caught Ian's eye at the Widow's Son Pub in Bromley by Bow, where he worked as a Barman.

St Joseph's Hospice

BWL causes chronic pain and for Paula it means that she is unable to for example walk or stand up. To help manage her symptoms, Paula and Ian initially visited many pain clinics at different hospitals. It was during this time that they met Simon Robey, our Therapies Manager.

Since then, Paula has been one of our in-patients when pain becomes unmanageable.

Ian comes along too – it is very rare to see one without the other.

Paula also attends the "Neuro Group", a safe supportive space where she gets to share her experiences with others in a similar situation. Members of the group also receive specialist advice from the Hospice.

Paula said, "Only St Joseph's Hospice has been able to offer me the level of care and support that has actually made a practical difference in managing my condition. The specialist staff have put together a personal plan for me. This includes symptom management and complementary therapies such as acupuncture, which help to manage pain. I also get massage therapy for my physical and mental well-being."

"St Joseph's is my lifeline, my safe place, it's everything. It has given me my life back."

Paula and Ian chose the Hospice as their wedding venue. They also invited staff and volunteers to be part of their special day.

Gifts in Wills

Legacies play a vital role in enabling us to keep our doors open. 33% of patients in our care each year are supported thanks to people who leave us gifts in their Will. Your legacy will in years to come help us to care and support more local people, like Paula and Ian.

Frequently asked questions

What information do I need if I am including a gift to St Joseph's Hospice?

To remember the Hospice in your Will, the information you will need is:

Our full name – St Joseph's Hospice

Registered address – Mare Street, Hackney, London, E8 4SA

Registered Charity number – 1113125

By supporting us in this way, you will be enabling us, in years to come, to keep our doors open and be here for local people when they need us most.

What is the difference between a single and mirror Will?

A single Will is for an individual whereas mirror Wills are two separate ones made by, for example spouses or partners and each of their Wills contain exactly the same wishes as the other.

Who can witness my Will?

Anyone who is over 18 years old can witness your Will. They must however not be beneficiaries of the Will, spouses of beneficiaries or members of your family. If a witness is a beneficiary, they will not be able to inherit under your Will.

How do I make sure my Will is valid?

- You must make it voluntarily and without pressure from others
- You must have mental capacity. This means that you must be fully aware of the nature of the document you are writing and signing including the effect that it will have
- You must also be aware of the estate mentioned and you can easily identify the beneficiaries of your Will
- You must sign your Will in the presence of two witnesses. You all have to see each other sign the Will, so none of you can leave the room until your Will is both signed and witnessed

How we can help

- **Will Planner** – to make it easier for you, we have put together a Will Planner that you can use to prepare, ahead of your meeting with a solicitor
- **Record Book** – you can use a copy of the booklet to list some of your personal information for your loved ones or executors. If you decide to use it, please keep it safe and let your executors know where it is stored once you have completed it
- **Free Will writing service** – we have partnered with solicitor firms who have very kindly donated their time and expertise to help people to understand everything relating to putting your affairs in order and enabling you to write or update a basic Will for free

Contact us

Please email legacies@stjh.org.uk or call **020 8525 3200**, if you would like a copy of the Will Planner, Record Book or both. You can also use the details to request information about our free Will writing service.



Things to consider when planning your Will

- **Assets** – everything that you own such as money, property, car and any other personal possessions
- **Debts** – everything you owe such as mortgage, rent, loans or bills
- **Beneficiaries** – whom you would like your remaining assets to be passed on to. Your beneficiaries may include your immediate family, friends, relatives, charities or organisation that have been close to your heart in your lifetime
- **Executors** – people who will be responsible for handling your affairs after your death. Being an executor involves a considerable amount of official and financial work so it is important to choose your executor(s) with care
- **Guardians** – people who will be responsible for your children, if both parents die before the children reach the age of 18. The role of a Guardian can be a considerable expense, and you should consider this in your Will
- **Special Circumstances** – for example, a child who has reached the age of 18 but has special needs. Alternatively, if you are specifically excluding an immediate family member from your Will, state it clearly and include a short statement of the reason, so that your executor and the probate court understand that you did not leave that person out by error or mistake
- **Signing and witnessing your Will** – your Will is not valid until it is properly signed and witnessed. You will need two people (who are not beneficiaries to your estate) to witness it
- **Reviewing your Will** – it is advisable to review your Will at least every three years or when circumstances change (for example marriage, divorce or death of a beneficiary or executor), to ensure that it reflects your current wishes

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