



Leave a *gift*  
in your Will  
to charity

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Make a lasting difference  
to our world

Your legacy, *our promise*



# Your step-by-step guide *includes:*

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# A wonderful way to help make the world a *better place*

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Every day across the UK, charities are working hard, making lives and communities better. For many charities, delivering all this much-needed support depends heavily on gifts in Wills. These gifts – large or small – really do have the power to make a lasting difference.

The Salvation Army works right across the UK, reaching out to people who need us most. Gifts in Wills are crucial to funding this work. We are immensely grateful to everyone who includes a gift to us in their Will – after they

have taken care of family and friends, of course. We are committed to honouring *your legacy* – your gift in your Will – with *our promise* that we will put it to work, transforming lives and communities.

If you are thinking ahead about how you can make a lasting difference through a gift in your Will, to us or to any charity close to your heart, we hope this guide will help you.

We recognise that planning your Will and considering gifts is important and can take courage, but you really can bring about long-lasting change for good. What an amazing thing to do – to leave hope and a more positive life behind for future generations.

# Small or large... gifts in Wills are *powerful*

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Adding a gift in your Will is your way to continue your support for the work of a charity far into the future. And everyone has the ability to make a difference, no matter what their personal circumstances might be. Every gift – whatever their size, small or large – is incredibly welcome and extremely useful to charities.

A lot of people prefer to leave 5 or 10% of what they have to charity, leaving the majority to take care of their children and loved ones.

If you let a charity know you've pledged a gift in your Will, they can show their

appreciation and let you know how your legacy will have an impact on the world.





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Our Employment Plus service works with **8,000** people, assisting many into employment.

# Choosing which charities *to support*

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Charities make an enormous contribution to all aspects of our lives and the world around us.

From homelessness to poverty, from health conditions to climate change and from loneliness to discrimination, charities do vital work. It's hard

to imagine what our communities would be like without all this good work done every single day.

Leaving a gift in your Will to charity is a powerful way to contribute to the future, and leave behind a clear sense of your own values for future generations. It's simple to leave a gift in your Will. You can choose to leave a gift to one or more charities. The choice is entirely up to you, and you can change your mind later on if your priorities, interests or circumstances change.







Each year we provide over **3,000** beds every night in over **86** Lifehouses for people experiencing homelessness.

# Getting started: include a gift *in your Will*

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If you want to look after your family or closest friends when the time comes, it's essential to make a Will. This is the only way to ensure your wishes are recorded clearly and adhered to, no matter how much or how little money might be involved. And after your loved ones are taken care of, it's a chance to show your enduring support for charities that reflect your view of the world.

## We're here to help you write – or update – your Will

Whether you are writing your very first Will, or simply amending an existing document,

we can help you. We have partnered with three different free Will-writing services to ensure that you can get the help you need to make a legal and up-to-date Will. You can find further information about the **National Free Wills Network**, **The Goodwill Partnership** and **Bequeathed** in our free Will writing leaflet.



## Why having an up-to-date Will matters

Whilst none of us like to think about what'll happen after we've gone, your circumstances may change dramatically over the years. So, to make matters as simple as possible for your family, it is important to make sure that the terms of your Will reflect all the gifts you are now able to make.

## Choosing the right kind of gift

The first step is to make a list of your assets – things like your home and property, your car, furniture and other valuable



household items, stocks and shares, and cash in the bank or building society. We've included a simple Will Planner to help you do this, which you'll find attached to this document.

**Then, after you've looked after your loved ones, there are three types of gifts you can add for a charity**

**1.** A popular type of gift is to leave a percentage of your estate – this is known as a **residuary gift**. It protects the other people in your Will and remains unaffected by inflation and other changes over the years.

**2.** Another solution is to leave a fixed amount of money. This is called a **pecuniary gift**, and it can be a specified sum or you can ask your executor to take inflation into account.

**3.** You can also choose to leave a **specific item** as a gift. This might be jewellery for instance, or a piece of art.

### **Avoid doubt – use clear and correct wording**

To make sure that there is no confusion about your intentions, we would always recommend that you speak to a solicitor or to a Will-writing specialist such as those we partner with. They can help you include clear and legally correct wording. This is equally important whether you are writing a new Will or updating an existing Will to add a gift (known as a codicil). You'll find more information about them inside the back cover of this guide.

# Life-changing work with the most vulnerable

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The Salvation Army has been devoted to serving the most vulnerable people in our society for nearly 160 years. And whilst the range of work we do now is much broader, there will always be people in need of our help.



Our goal is to provide practical, compassionate help, without discrimination or judgement. The services we offer are diverse and responsive to the realities of life in the communities we serve. Here are just a few examples:

## We bring people who are homeless in from the cold

Giving them warm and safe places to stay, and the chance to build new, independent lives.

## Our Churches and community centres help families struggling with poverty

Sadly, poverty is very much part of our society today as it was when we started. We help with food parcels as well as expert advice on benefits and debt resolution.

## We reach isolated and lonely people, especially the elderly

Many people feel cut off, ignored and forgotten by their communities. We create warm, welcoming spaces, giving them the comfort and support they need.





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Our cafes serve an important role in bringing together the community and combating isolation, as well as giving disadvantaged people new confidence and skills.





We run  
**year-round  
food banks**  
from many of our  
churches and  
community  
centres.

## Supporting people who are vulnerable and discriminated against

Many groups within our communities have a hard time overcoming obstacles, receiving the support they're entitled to and becoming truly independent. So we run innovative programmes such as projects providing training for people with disabilities to help them better find work.



These are just a few of the many services we provide for the most vulnerable people in our community. In fact, all around the world, The Salvation Army is working to relieve some of the biggest problems, including food and energy insecurity, refugee rights, mental health, equality for disabled people and debt crises.

## Around 50% of the donations we receive from the public are gifts in Wills

Gifts in Wills make a huge amount of our work possible. They help our officers, staff and volunteers provide support for people in the greatest need in our communities.



*“The Salvation Army really is a fantastic team – compassionate, capable, and determined to do all they can to help vulnerable people. They don’t judge them, but simply give them the practical help they need. That’s why I decided to leave a gift to The Salvation Army in my Will. You could call it my gift to future generations.”*

**Steve Haire**

# Your questions answered

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## **How do I include The Salvation Army or another charity in my Will?**

To include a charity, you specify the name, address, and registered charity number in your Will. You can leave a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or a particular item to the charity.

## **I want to leave a gift to The Salvation Army. What are the charity's details?**

Firstly, thank you! These are the details to include in your Will: The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, 1 Champion Park, London, SE5 8FJ.

A Christian Church and Registered Charity No. 214779, and in Scotland SC009359.

## **How can I make sure that I am helping charities but also look after my family?**

The best way to do this is to make provisions for your loved ones with the majority of your estate and leave the remaining amount to charity.

## **Can I change my Will once it's made?**

Yes, Wills can be changed any time during your life. Minor changes can be made through a codicil (an update to an

existing Will), while significant changes might require drafting a new Will.

## **What happens if I die without a Will?**

If you die intestate (without a Will), your assets will be distributed according to standard legal formulas, which may not align with your personal wishes.

## **Are there any tax benefits to leaving a legacy gift?**

Yes, legacy gifts to charity are exempt from inheritance tax in the UK. Additionally, if you leave 10% or more of your estate to charity, it can lower





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In **650** local centres across the country, thousands of Salvation Army volunteers work to serve their local communities.



The Salvation Army supports  
older people in **12**  
residential care homes and  
in community centres  
across the UK, ensuring a  
rich and fulfilling later life.



the inheritance tax rate for the remaining estate.

### **How can I ensure my wishes are followed after I pass away?**

Having a legally valid Will, reviewed by a solicitor, is the best way to ensure your wishes are respected. Choose a reliable executor to manage your estate and oversee the distribution of your assets.

### **What should I do if I want to leave a gift but my family is opposed?**

Discussing your intentions with your family and explaining your reasons can help address conflicts. It's also crucial to have a clearly written Will that reflects your wishes.

### **How can I find out more about the work of The Salvation Army?**

To discover more about the ongoing work of The Salvation Army please feel free to contact our Supporter Services Team on **020 7367 4800** or email us at **fr@salvationarmy.org.uk**

For more complex questions they can put you through to our Legacy Team. You can email us at **giftsinwills@salvationarmy.org.uk**

To find the location of your nearest Salvation Army Centres and discover more about the amazing work they're doing locally, visit **salvationarmy.org.uk/map-page**



*“My parents supported The Salvation Army, and I became interested when I saw the work you do in supporting people in devastating scenarios. This frontline compassion, helping those helping others, letting them know they are not alone in such dark times is priceless and a beacon of hope.”*

**Mel Jackson**

# Legacy terms *explained*

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**Beneficiary:** A person or organisation that receives benefits from a Will.

**Codicil:** An amendment or addition to an existing Will.

**Executor:** The individual appointed to administer the estate of a deceased person.

**Inheritance Tax:** The tax you pay the government on the value of your estate, if your estate is worth more than £325,000 – including a charity in your Will can reduce your inheritance tax burden.

**Intestate:** Dying without a valid Will, resulting in the estate being distributed according to statutory rules.

**Pecuniary Gift:** A fixed sum of money determined by the Will.

**Probate:** The legal process wherein a Will is proved in a court and accepted as a valid public document that is the true last testament of the deceased.

**Residuary Estate:** The portion of one's estate that remains after all debts, charges and bequests have been deducted.

**Residuary Gift:** A gift of all or a portion of the remaining estate after all other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid.

**Reversionary Gift:** A gift of property or possessions left to

someone for the rest of their life before being passed on to another beneficiary – the person who receives a Reversionary gift is known as a Reversionary beneficiary.

**Specific Gift:** A particular named item left as a gift in a Will, such as jewellery, furniture or stocks.

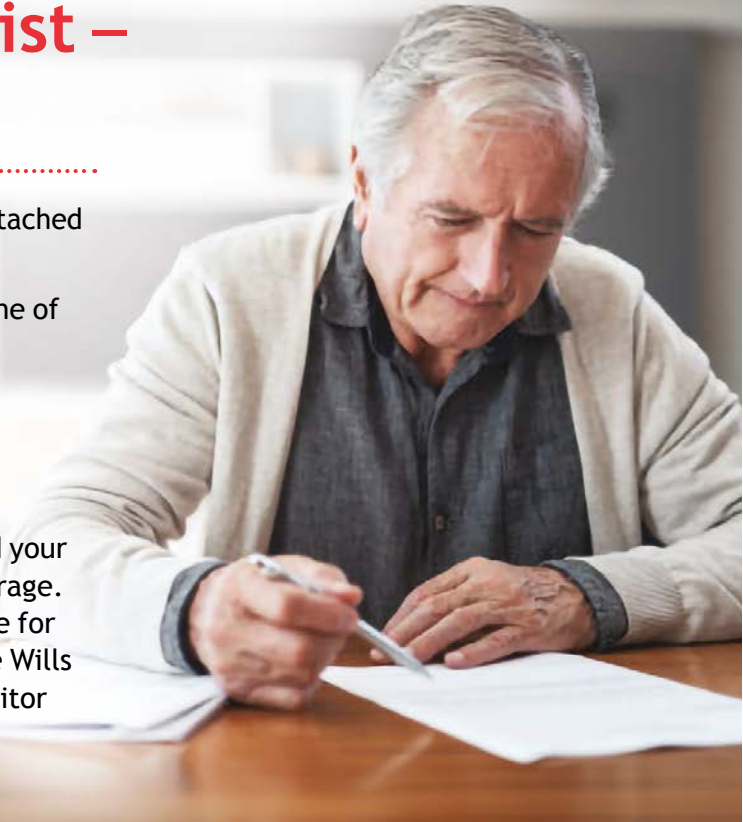
**Testator:** A person who has made a Will or included a legacy.

**Trustee:** A person or organisation that holds or manages and invests assets for the benefit of another.

# Your legacy checklist – *what to do next*

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- 1.** Use our Will Planner (which you will find attached to this guide) to make a list of your assets.
- 2.** Contact your solicitor or consider using one of our free Will writing services. You'll find more information about **The Goodwill Partnership\***, the **National Free Wills Network** and **Bequeathed** in our Will writing leaflet.
- 3.** Make sure your Will is signed, witnessed, and kept somewhere safe. If you have created your Will with Bequeathed, they offer free Will storage. The Goodwill Partnership provides Will storage for £24 per year. Unfortunately, the National Free Wills Network does not offer storage, but your solicitor can provide advice on this matter.



\*Not available in Scotland and Northern Ireland



# Our promise to you

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- ✓ We understand that your family and loved ones rightly come first.
- ✓ We appreciate that your Will is personal, so we will always respect your privacy.
- ✓ It is totally up to you if you decide to tell us that you've chosen to leave us a gift. But if you do, we will always give you the choice about how we talk to you in the future.
- ✓ We will never put you under any pressure. Choosing to remember us in your Will is your decision, which you need to make in your own time.
- ✓ We promise to use your gift carefully and cost-effectively, so that it can have the greatest impact on our work.
- ✓ If you or your family would like to know what gifts like yours help us to achieve, we will be happy to help you.

# How can we help?

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To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to charity, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Phone:  
**020 7367 4800**

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Email:  
[giftsinwills@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:giftsinwills@salvationarmy.org.uk)

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Website:  
[salvationarmy.org.uk/gifts-wills](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/gifts-wills)



The Salvation Army, UK Territorial Headquarters,  
1 Champion Park, LONDON SE5 8FJ.

A Christian Church and Registered Charity No. 214779  
and in Scotland SC009359.



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REGULATOR**

## Your legacy, our promise