

Your guide to leaving a gift in your Will

Help transform healthcare in East
London for generations to come



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“The treatment was fantastic. And being able to leave the hospital so quickly was amazing.”



Ian was able to recover faster and return to his active life sooner after undergoing groundbreaking robotic heart surgery at St Bartholomew's Hospital. Gifts in Wills make innovative procedures like these possible.

Ian, pictured above with his nurse.

Through it all, always

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Barts Charity.



As the dedicated charity for East London's hospitals, we help bring the very best care to the people of East London – funding innovative research and cutting-edge treatments. And with a gift in your Will, you can help us be there for generations to come.

If you or someone you love has been treated at a Barts Health Hospital, you'll know that as well as groundbreaking new treatments, the little things matter too.

A chair next to a loved one's bed, gym facilities to help cancer patients recover, or a tote bag to take home your loved one's things after they've gone. That extra level of care and support – that's what Barts Charity makes possible.

The power of a gift in your Will



Care from day one

Gifts in Wills helped us refurbish the Women's and Neonatal Unit at Whipps Cross Hospital, giving babies born in East London the best possible start.



From the heart

At Barts Heart Centre, cardiovascular specialists are saving lives every day using cutting-edge equipment funded by gifts in Wills.



Stronger every day

Funding from gifts in Wills helped us introduce new gym facilities across our hospitals, so cancer patients can prepare for and recover from treatment.



Comfort in later life

With help from our supporters, we've made older people's wards more comfortable for those living with dementia and delirium, with nostalgic touches to bring moments of joy.

Transforming trauma care

Gifts in Wills help support specialists like Karim, whose groundbreaking research is saving thousands of lives across London and beyond. He's based at the world-renowned trauma centre at The Royal London Hospital, where innovations funded by gifts in Wills are transforming treatment for traumatic injuries.

“Funding from Barts Charity means my team and I can continue to improve treatments and care for our patients, now and in the future.”

Professor Karim Brohi, Consultant Trauma and Vascular Surgeon

A lasting tribute to Dillan



Dillan's final wish was simple – to go outside. But the rooftop above the children's ward wasn't accessible. After Dillan sadly died following his battle with leukaemia, his mum Amy worked with the team at The Royal London Hospital to transform the space into Dilly's Den. A vibrant outdoor haven for seriously ill children, it has wheelchair-friendly paths, medical support access, and sensory zones. It's a place for play, peace, and precious memories. Thanks to our supporters, along with the family's fundraising, every child at The Royal London Hospital can now enjoy the outdoors.

"Dilly's Den will bring so much joy to our patients who are bed-bound, and it means families can continue making magical memories, even when in the hospital."

Katy West, Macmillan Paediatric Oncology
Clinical Nurse Specialist

The different ways to leave a lasting legacy



Residuary gifts

A residuary gift is a percentage of your estate that you'd like to give to charity after all other gifts, debts and expenses have been paid. Many supporters choose to leave a residuary gift after providing for loved ones, ensuring their legacy continues to make a difference. Because a residuary gift is a percentage of your estate, it will keep its value over time. A gift of just 1% of your estate can have a significant impact.

"I give 5% of the residue of my estate to Barts Charity, registered charity number 212563."



Pecuniary gifts

A pecuniary gift is a fixed sum of money. It's simple and straightforward to include and ideal if you have a specific amount in mind. It's worth keeping in mind though that the value of a pecuniary gift may reduce over time due to inflation so you may wish to ask your solicitor about index linking your gift to maintain its value.

"I give the sum of £5,000 to Barts Charity, registered charity number 212563."



Specific gifts

A specific gift is a particular item, such as jewellery, artwork or shares. Whilst this is a less common choice, it does allow you to leave something meaningful or valuable that may not be monetary. It can be a way to donate assets that hold personal or financial value.

"I give my gold necklace to Barts Charity, registered charity number 212563."

A sisterhood legacy

Margaret, a former consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, was a remarkable woman. And she began her award-winning career right here, in East London, at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Her sister, Lorna, pledged to leave a gift in her Will to Barts Charity to honour Margaret's spirit and dedication. This generous gesture will ensure that Margaret's legacy of care continues to impact future generations in our East London hospitals.

Lorna's gift will support breast cancer services in recognition of her sister's passion for healthcare, and the impact she had during her time at the hospital. It will also support clinicians, researchers, nurses and caregivers to continue to deliver world-class care for local patients.

With a gift in your Will, you can join Lorna and Margaret in leaving a legacy of care for people across East London. And be there through it all, always.



Margaret at St Bartholomew's Medical College, 1950.



Your questions answered...

Do I need a Will?

A Will gives you control over how your assets are shared and ensures your loved ones are cared for according to your wishes. It also allows you to leave a lasting legacy – such as supporting a cause you care about. Writing a Will isn't just for the elderly or wealthy – it's for anyone who wants to make life easier for their loved ones and have a say in what happens to their estate. If you have children under 18 it also ensures you can specify a chosen guardian who will look after them.

What happens if I die without a Will?

Dying without a Will in the UK is called 'intestacy.' Your estate will be distributed according to the fixed rules of intestacy which may not reflect your personal wishes or relationships. Without any named guardians it will also be up to the courts to decide who looks after any children.

When should I make a Will?

All adults should have a Will but often a significant life event might prompt you to think about the future – such as becoming a parent, buying a home, getting married, receiving a health diagnosis. It's the best way to ensure your loved ones are protected after you've gone. Time spent in hospital can often bring these thoughts to the fore, making it a natural moment for people to consider their legacy.

Can I leave my gift to a specific area of work?

Not all future needs can be known today, as health needs evolve and change over time. So by far the best option is to leave an unrestricted gift to leave flexibility and ensure your gift can have the maximum impact on the needs of future generations. If you wish to support a specific area then we would recommend talking to a member of the team. They can ensure your wishes are kept broad enough to be fulfilled when the time comes. You can do this by contacting **legacy@bartscharity.org.uk** and a member of the team will be in touch.

What about my family and friends?

When it comes to your Will, your loved ones will always come first. But after they're taken care of, a gift in your Will is a chance to invest in a cause you care about, and be there for others, too.

What if I change my mind?

Your Will is a chance for you to make your wishes clear. You can always change your mind, and you're under no obligation to tell us if and when you do.

Is it expensive to make a Will?

It needn't be. A simple Will done with a solicitor for one person can cost around £100, but solicitor charges can vary. A more complex Will involving trusts, overseas property or blended families may cost more. It's worth checking if you have access to legal services through work, insurance or union membership.

We've also partnered with Octopus Legacy to give you the chance to make or amend a simple Will for free – with expert support. Find out more on page 13.

Will my gift make a difference?

Every gift left in a Will makes a difference. Just 1% of an estate could have a huge impact, helping us to be there for staff and patients for years to come. Without these special gifts, we wouldn't be able to fund all the long-term projects needed to improve patient treatment and care – while taking care of the little things that make hospital that bit easier to bear.

Are there any tax benefits if I leave a gift to a charity in my Will?

Gifts to registered charities are exempt from inheritance tax and are taken out of your estate before it's decided how much inheritance tax needs to be paid. So as well as choosing to support a cause that's important to you, it may also help to reduce how much tax is owed. If you leave 10% or more of your estate to charity, the tax rate on the rest of your estate may be reduced, potentially increasing what your loved ones receive. You should contact HRMC or a solicitor who would be able to advise on up-to-date Inheritance Tax thresholds as these are subject to change.

What details do I need to know to include Barts Charity in my Will?

Your solicitor will need to include the following information:

Name: Barts Charity

Registered Charity number: 212563

Address: 12 Cock Lane, London, EC1A 9BU

Who should I get in touch with if I have further questions?

Please email legacy@bartscharity.org.uk if you have any further questions and we'll get in touch.

Write your Will for free



Your Will is a powerful way to look after the people you love and the causes you care about. It's a great way to leave a lasting legacy and to help build a better future for your community.

And, thanks to our partnership with Octopus Legacy, you can write or update your Will at no cost to you – online, over the phone, or even in person.

Be there through it all, in three easy steps

1. Get started

Visit will.octopuslegacy.com/bartscharity to write your Will online, or call 020 4525 3605 to book an appointment with a Will-writing expert.

2. Have your Will checked by a professional

An expert will review your Will within 10 working days. Once you've signed, your wishes will be officially recorded.

3. Keep us up to date

Please let us know if you plan to include a gift to us in your Will. This allows us to show our gratitude and keep you informed about the impact your future gift will have.

While many who use this service choose to leave a gift in their Will to Barts Charity, there's no obligation to. But if you do, you'll help to transform healthcare right here in East London.



For the patients of tomorrow

Nell's life was turned upside down when she was given the devastating news that she had triple negative breast cancer. "Everything just went really quiet...I remember thinking, is this happening?" she says.

Thankfully, the team at St Bartholomew's Hospital – bolstered by research and cutting-edge treatment funded by our supporters – were able to save Nell's life.

"Having all of my cancer care at St Bartholomew's Hospital meant I had the best possible outcome." Nell.

How gifts in Wills are improving cancer care:

- ◆ Each year we invest in world-leading cancer research to help improve diagnosis and treatments for our community.
- ◆ We've funded state-of-the-art radiotherapy equipment that's benefiting thousands of Barts Health patients each year.
- ◆ We've introduced new CT and MRI scanners to detect cancer earlier and faster at the Early Diagnosis Centre at Mile End Hospital.



A legacy for our next generation



Air pollution is putting children's health at risk – and your legacy could help change that. Exposure to air pollution at a young age can set children up for a lifetime of respiratory problems. And for children with asthma, exposure to air pollution can make their symptoms much worse and, in some heartbreaking cases, can even be fatal. Gifts in Wills are helping to support UK-leading research in this area.

“Barts Charity's funding has supported us to do research in the local community, not just in a lab. We want to understand the bigger picture of air pollution and how we can support the population of East London.”

Abigail Whitehouse, Paediatric Respiratory Consultant and researcher

“Robotic cardiac surgery has completely transformed how I care for my patients. It’s not just a technical evolution – it’s a profound human one.”

Dincer Aktuerk, a Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Barts Heart Centre and Ian’s surgeon (page 3)



Will you be there – always?

In the future, your gift could help fund the next revolution in treatments.

If you’d like to chat to a member of the team to answer any questions or discuss how your gift in your Will might be used to power change in the future, please do get in touch – we’re always happy to help.

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