



A gift in your will protects the future of the hospice.

# YOUR GUIDE TO, LEAVING A GIFT & IN YOUR WILL

### Welcome

We are so grateful that you are considering leaving a gift in your will to Garden House Hospice Care. We know that opting to support a charity, once you've considered everything you wish to leave to loved ones, is an important choice to make. I can assure you it's a decision that will play a key role in helping us to provide our services for many years to come.

Hospices have transformed the way people and their families are looked after at the end of life, and a lot of that has only been achieved thanks to the generosity of donors and people who believed in the importance of supporting hospices through gifts in their wills.

We are committed to providing personalised specialist care with dignity and respect to those facing a life-limiting illness across North Hertfordshire and surrounding areas. But to do this we need to continue to think bravely, to innovate and to work harder. Our focus is on remaining relevant to our community and to develop our services so they are always responding to the needs of the people who use them. By choosing to support us in this way, you are helping to make this possible. Our income is unpredictable and volatile; donations and fundraising can flex and our contracts with the NHS are subject to budget cuts and changes. Gifts in wills give us certainty, confidence and security that in the future, those donations will come.

This booklet is not only a guide to the practicalities of leaving a gift in your will, it also contains stories from other legators and information that should help you feel confident in your decision to support Garden House.

Gifts in wills fund our innovation, our special moments, our day to day. They make a tremendous contribution to the lives of our patients and their loved ones, which I think is an extraordinary legacy to leave behind.

Thank you.

Hurt

**Lisa Hunt** Chief Executive Officer Garden House Hospice Care lisa.hunt@ghhospicecare.org.uk



### What is a Legacy?

A legacy is a gift that is left to us in a will and it allows you to state that, after you die, a sum of money or a % of your estate can be given to a person, charity or organisation.

Legacies allow our important work – providing care for people with a life-limiting illness – to remain possible.

There will always be a need for end-of-life care. In fact, demand is expected to rise. Gifts left to us in wills are used to fund services.



Every gift, no matter how big or small, will be used to make a real difference to the lives of people in our local community, providing them with the support and care they need at a difficult time.

initiatives



support

services

### What type of gift can I leave?

There are several types of gifts you can leave in your will. It's helpful to understand the difference between them. They include:

- A pecuniary legacy is when you leave a fixed sum of money.
- A specific legacy is when you want to leave a specific item to a specific person.
- A residual legacy is a share of your estate, a % of what is left after all debts and taxes have been paid.

We have included some suggested wording for your will should you wish to use it. This wording can be used in your will, depending on the type of gift you are leaving.

A percentage share: a percentage of what is left over after loved ones have been cared for , this is also know as residuary.

I give all or ....... % share of the residue of my real and personal estate which I can dispose of by will in any manner I think proper to Garden House Hospice Care (Registered Charity No. 295257 (England and Wales) of Gillison Close, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 1QU to be applied for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or the proper officer for the time being of Garden House Hospice Care shall be a complete discharge to my executors.

**Fixed amount:** a specific amount of money, this is also know as pecurinary.

I give the sum of  $\pounds$  ...... [insert amount in numbers and in words] pounds to Garden House Hospice Care (Registered Charity No. 295257 (England and Wales) of Gillison Close, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 1QU to be applied for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of Garden House Hospice Care shall be a complete discharge to my executors.

### Garden House was top of my list

Mary's mum, Della, was a volunteer at Garden House, making tea for patients. The family donated to the charity whenever they could, inspiring Mary to remain a loyal supporter too. Now, she has made the decision to leave a gift in her will. She explains why:

"In all the years I've been associated with the Hospice, I've seen the growing need and how many situations people are in at the end of their life. Maybe they are alone, they are not very well, they are afraid, they have family or friends who are also struggling with the illness or impending death of somebody. There is a great deal of love and care that is needed in those circumstances, that can only be given in hospices, who are mostly run thanks to donations.

"The care here is unique and for the mind, body and soul. There is great dignity for the patient. From the receptionist greeting you, the ambience in the building, the garden, every aspect of the place has got care and love in it."



"Making a will is hard because it forces you into doing something you've been putting off. But having gone through it with my mum, I know it makes things easier for the people who are left behind, it's comfortable for them knowing your wishes have been made.

"I do what I can to support while I'm alive, but in doing this I've also made sure something is there when I die too. Garden House was top of my list because of the care, love, need, support and kindness, and knowing that I am leaving them something to make use of, and that will all go on after I've gone." 45% of people on our Inpatient Unit are discharged, following a stay that has focused on treating their symptoms – both physical and mental – so they can carry on living well at home.

## Polly's story

### How your donation could help

By the time Polly was told she has womb cancer, it was unfortunately inoperable. Shortly after her first chemotherapy session she was rushed to hospital with her lungs collapsing and her heart failing. A previously unknown, underlying heart condition hadn't been identified.

She was transferred to Garden House Hospice Care, where her family were told she could die within hours, but the team were able to stabilise Polly. A few days later, she told us:

"The instant welcome, love, support and encouragement and the way people weren't treating me as if I was at the end, but a beginning of a process – from then on I just thought I'd fallen into heaven." Ten days later, Polly was no longer relying on oxygen and she was well enough to be discharged. Her illness cannot be cured, but she left no longer in pain or afraid. Her symptoms were under control and she was able to attend not one, but two parties within a fortnight of being home.

Her husband, Ashley, who'd been able to sleep comfortably at her bedside throughout her stay said:

"I hadn't really given a hospice much thought, but it's such a joyful place. We've come in expecting the worse and suddenly things have gotten better and better, and now Polly's going home, not dying at all."

### How your gift could help

We receive gifts of all sizes. In recent years they have ranged in size from £26 to £478,000.

The donations below are genuine gifts we have received, and how they could have been used to support our work.

Dora left £23,991 which would support all the patients attending classes or workshops run by our Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists for nearly four weeks. Married couple Margaret and Michael each gave a legacy in their individual wills, amounting to  $\pounds$ 1,500. This could have paid for the costs of buying, repairing and replacing equipment for a month.

Sheila left £5,000, which could cover almost a week of home visits made by our Health Care Assistants in the Community team.

John left £61,035, which could fund nine days of our Inpatient Unit operating at full capacity, including staffing costs, food and overheads.

## Nicky's story

#### A perfect way to remember mum

Nicky's parents, Edna and Jack, were very supportive of the Hospice movement, and £10,000 was gifted from their estate when they had died.

The money was split between two areas of need at the time. A portion was used to fund the Hitchin Wellbeing Hub, a weekly drop in giving people experiencing loneliness or isolation access to activities, advice and a social get-together. The remainder was used to purchase four beds for use on the Inpatient Unit.

The family were all closely linked to the Garden House. Nicky is a volunteer at The Depot, her daughter is a nurse who works within palliative care and a family friend received care from Garden House too.

"Mum and dad had always valued the Hospice movement, so we were delighted to be able to support its work," said Nicky.

NICE

"Mum was a very social lady who loved nothing better than a cup of tea – especially if

there were biscuits – and a chat, so funding the Hitchin Hub felt like a perfect way to remember her."

Kerry Cunnane is the charity's Legacy Manager. She said: "Your gift will be spent carefully on the area of greatest need when the funding is received. It may pay for new projects, equipment, or core running costs. Either way, gifts like those left by Edna and Jack will make a difference to the patients and their families who are using our services at that time, care that will not be forgotten."



# Val's story

# Garden House's future is only possible with the support of people like us

Val and lan first supported the hospice in the early 90s, when due to their experiences they decided to support Garden House and leave a gift in their wills. That legacy has remained in place.

Ian had kidney failure and died in December 2017. Myself and Ian visited the Hospice for 9 months prior to this, attending classes and Ian had weekly sessions in the gym, whilst I enjoyed the gardens. The school aged grandchildren visited as well, while Grandee was in the gym. The exercises he did with the physiotherapy team kept him on his feet, literally. He had always loved sport, and he was still able to hit a bucket of golf balls almost until the end. When his health declined a hospital bed was set up at our home within 24 hours, and the Garden House Community Services Team visited regularly. They were wonderful with lan, and our children. They showed us that this experience can be positive for the individual and the family.

Garden House is innovating and striving to improve for patients of the future. But that future is only possible with the support of people like us. Ordinary people. By leaving a gift in your will to Garden House, you are showing others what I learned and firmly believe in, it is possible to live your life well, right until the end.

### How can we help?

Leaving a gift in your will is a big decision so it is only normal you may have some questions. Should you like more details on leaving a gift in your will or you have any questions at all please contact our fundraising office on 01462 679540 or email legacies@ghhospicecare.org.uk

If you have already left a gift to the Hospice in your will and would like to tell us, we would love to hear from you and let you know what a difference you've made.

#### Our details

When leaving a legacy to Garden House Hospice Care in your will, please use:

Our full name: Garden House Hospice Care Our full address: Gillison Close, Letchworth Garden City, Herts, SG6 1QU Our registered charity number: 295257

My brother-in-law was helped through his terminal illness with the help of Hospice at Home and my sister was able to spend her last day in the gentle and loving care of our local hospice. It is wonderful to know that a legacy can do so much to help alleviate the pain of others, and to support those who dedicate their lives to this important work. Moira, who's sister, Sophie, left a legacy to Garden House.

#### Make a Will

Here at the Hospice we run a 'Make a Will' campaign every year with local solicitors who will write your will for free in exchange for a donation to the Hospice. If you would like further details please have a look on our website or call our Fundraising office.



#### Glossary

Sometimes the language used when talking about wills can get a little bit confusing so here are some common words and their meanings.

**Assets** – Property owned by the person who has made the will

**Beneficiary** – A person that benefits from the will

Bequest – A gift left in a will

**Codicil** – To change an existing will you can add a codicil. Often it is as easy and no more costly to make a new will.

**Estate** – The entirety of all the deceased's assets

**Executor** – A person or persons appointed in the will to administer the estate

**Testator/Testatrix** – This refers to the person making the will



#### FAQ's

Writing a will can leave you with lots of questions, here are a few frequently asked ones that might support your understanding.

#### Most of my assets will be divided between my children, can I still give to the Hospice?

Of course, we understand how important family and friends are and that you want to look after their futures. Gifts left in wills can come in different shapes and sizes so anything you can give we would be grateful for.

#### Why should I make a will?

By making your will now you can be sure that your estate will go exactly to the people and places you love and care for the most. Writing a will is the only way to make sure this happens.

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

All gifts left to Garden House Hospice Care are free from inheritance tax as we are a charity.

#### Do I need to tell Garden House Hospice Care that I have left a gift in my will?

If you would like to tell us about your gift we would love to hear from you. Knowledge of a future legacy can help us plan clearly for the future. However, notifying us is not essential.



# **THANK YOU**



#### For more information

Visit www.ghhospicecare.org.uk Call 01462 679540 Email legacies@ghhospicecare.org.uk



Registered Charity No. 295257