



**How a gift in your Will can transform  
the lives of the most vulnerable**



## What will your legacy be?

When I hear from people who have arranged to leave a gift in their Will to The Salvation Army. I find they have all kinds of reasons for doing so.

For some, it is an affirmation of their Christian faith. For others it is a matter of principle, because they share our values of service and compassion.

**Whatever your reason, you would be leaving a legacy of love and hope for generations to come.**

I hope you'll find answers to any questions you might have about gifts in Wills on these pages - both in practical terms and some evidence of the extraordinary impact they can make to those in greatest need. **Thank you so much again for your interest.**

With warmest regards,

*Dean Pallant*

Lieut-Colonel Dean Pallant, On behalf of The Salvation Army



## Contents

**3** *Introduction from  
Lt Col Dean Pallant*

**4** *How you make  
a Will*

**5** *Why leave a gift to  
The Salvation Army?*

**6** *A great way  
to begin*

**7** *Your gift of hope*

**8** *Your questions  
answered*

## How you make a Will



### Make a list of your assets

Have a look at the simple Will Planner we've included with this guide. The main things to consider are your home and property, your car, your furniture and other valuable household items, stocks and shares, and cash in the bank or building society.



### Contact your solicitor or use one of our free Will services

To find out more, visit [salvationarmy.org.uk/freewills](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/freewills) or contact our Legacy Team on 0800 144 4774



### Sign and witness the Will

You must sign your Will in the presence of two independent witnesses who must watch you and then watch each other sign the Will. Your solicitor will guide you through the process.



## My gift to future generations

After more than 20 years of visiting my local Salvation Army, and being a volunteer, I've got to know them very well. They never turn people away, no matter what their background or circumstances might be. There is no judgement, The Salvation Army simply provide the practical help they need. That's why I'm leaving a gift to The Salvation Army in my Will.

## How a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army can make a difference to the most marginalised

Every aspect of the work we do is made possible by the generosity of kind people like you, but gifts in Wills are special because they allow us to plan for the future.

It might surprise you to learn that as much as 50% of our donated income comes from gifts in Wills. They are a vital lifeline for The Salvation Army and the work we do in communities around the UK.

Just last year, we provided 3,151 beds every night in over 86 Lifehouses for people experiencing homelessness and supported a total of 8,830 victims of modern slavery. Many had been forced into a life of crime until they were rescued and came to us.

A gift in your Will would help make sure that we can continue to transform lives for as long as we are needed.

**Please consider leaving this powerful gift of hope for so many people who, in years to come, will need the love and care of The Salvation Army.**



## Your life-changing gift starts here...

Once you choose to support The Salvation Army in your Will there are a few ways you can do it.

- Leave a percentage of your estate**  
 A popular and straightforward way is to leave a percentage of your estate, known as a residuary gift. It protects the other parties in your Will and remains unaffected by inflation and other changes.
- Leave a fixed sum of cash, called a pecuniary gift**  
 You can give a specific sum, or you can request that the executor take inflation into account.
- Leave a specific gift**  
 This could be an item of jewellery, or some shares, or a piece of artwork, etc.

We would be happy to talk to you about different types of legacy gifts - so please get in touch with our Legacy team at [legacy.enquiry@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:legacy.enquiry@salvationarmy.org.uk) or call us on 0800 144 4774.

## Your Will Planner

Our simple Will Planner will help guide your decision making and gather the details your solicitor will need when you meet to write your Will. Find it in your envelope or download it at [salvationarmy.org.uk/willguide](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/willguide)

Assets	Liabilities
House and any other property to be sold	Loans
Carriage to be sold or gifted	Carriage to be sold or gifted
Investments	Investments
Bank and building society accounts	Bank and building society accounts
Shares of particular companies	Shares of particular companies
Other	Other
Total	Total

## A gift of hope for people in greatest need

By mentioning The Salvation Army in your Will, you'll help our officers, staff and volunteers provide the support that vulnerable people desperately need.

Gifts in Wills help fund over 80 supported accommodation services across the UK and the Republic of Ireland. We call these services 'Lifehouses' because they are more than a place to stay. We provide people experiencing homelessness with a range of support across employment, debt problems, training, spirituality, loneliness, addiction or mental health.

These special gifts have also meant our Employment Plus service can continue to operate at the heart of communities in more than 180 locations, empowering people to overcome obstacles they face and fulfil their life ambitions.



*Amel loved life as a hairdresser. But at 27 she had a baby who was born brain damaged. She began using drugs to cope and then became homeless. She managed to beat her drug addiction in her 40s but not having a stable home left her in serious debt. But she took positive action after hearing*

*about our Debt Advice Service at her hostel. We supported Amel to clear her debt. Setting up a payment plan gave her respite from creditors so she could rent privately. She told us: 'having this debt resolved felt amazing. It was such a relief'.*

These are just a few examples of how gifts in Wills, small and large, have enabled us to continue or develop much needed services.

**A gift in your Will to The Salvation Army is truly a gift of hope for those in greatest need.**

## Your questions answered...

### Q. Why is it important to make a legally-binding Will?

If you want to be absolutely certain that your wishes will be met when you die and that your estate is distributed to the people and causes you care about, then it's important to make a Will. Your Will makes sure that your loved ones and the causes close to your heart will be taken care of in the way that you decide.

Making a Will makes it easier for the people you leave behind - as it removes any uncertainties and makes sure that no doubts and disagreement will arise.

### Q. Can I write my own Will?

Yes, you can write your own Will. However, to ensure it is legally binding and covers everything, we would always recommend you instruct a solicitor to write your Will, as a professionally written Will is more likely to accurately convey your wishes after you've gone. We have included a handy Will Planner with this guide, designed for the first stage of the Will making process - helping you to prepare for a meeting with your solicitor.

### Q. How to get help writing your Will

If you do not already have a solicitor, The Law Society can provide you with a list of local



solicitors in England & Wales ([lawsociety.org.uk](http://lawsociety.org.uk)).

In Northern Ireland, contact The Law Society of Northern Ireland ([lawsoc-ni.org](http://lawsoc-ni.org)).

In Scotland, contact The Law Society of Scotland ([lawscot.org.uk](http://lawscot.org.uk)).

You can also find out more about the range of free Wills services we offer on our website. Visit [salvationarmy.org.uk/freewills](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/freewills) or contact our Legacy Team on 0800 144 4774.

### Q. What are Executors?

Executors are the people you choose to be legally responsible for carrying out your wishes when you are gone. They collect

your assets, pay debts and distribute your estate to the beneficiaries named in your Will. An Executor can be a beneficiary too. The role of Executor can involve a lot of work and is a considerable responsibility, so it is important to choose your Executors wisely and confirm with the individuals chosen that they are happy to take on this role.

### Q. I already have a Will, do I have to re-write it to include a gift to The Salvation Army?

Rather than rewriting everything you can instruct a solicitor (by letter or email) to add an amendment to your existing Will - which they will then prepare.

## The life-changing impact of gifts in Wills

A few years ago, a boy called Malachi wrote to The Salvation Army, donating the £5 he had been given by the tooth fairy 'so you can build homes for people who are homeless'. Malachi's kindness inspired a visionary project to accommodate rough sleepers and give them a new start in life.

Part-funded by the gifts that kind supporters have left in their Wills, Malachi Place opened in 2020, offering 42 homes for homeless people, as well as a bicycle repair workshop where skills can be learned that will help them find jobs.



Hannah struggled with her mental health at university and then discovered she had dyslexia but managed to complete her studies. She became very ill with Covid and her life started to go downhill. She told us 'I didn't feel good enough even for the simplest roles and was getting into debt'. She was introduced to our Employment Plus scheme, and got support with her CV, job applications and interviews, which gave her confidence to get a job.

**'I have hopes for the future now - to be independent and get my own place.'**

**Q. If I do leave a gift, how will you find out?**

Your Will is private and we won't know if you have left us anything unless you tell us - or until the time comes for your Will to be read. However, if you have included a gift to The Salvation Army in your Will, we would like to know so we can say thank you, and stay in touch in the way that suits you best.

**Q. Does The Salvation Army really need a gift from me?**

The short answer is 'yes'. Our work is only made possible by our supporters, and almost half of our donated income comes from those kind individuals who decide to leave gifts in Wills to The Salvation Army. So you can see how important your gift would be in making a life-changing difference to those in greatest need.

**Q. What if I change my mind?**

Including a gift to The Salvation Army in your Will does not make it a binding commitment while you are still alive. You are free to change your mind - and change your Will again - at any time.

**Q. What will The Salvation Army do with my gift?**

With the help of our supporters, we're tackling some of society's biggest problems and the impact we make on vulnerable lives and communities is immense. In the last year alone, we supported almost 9,000 victims of modern slavery and human trafficking in the UK, helping people recover from their ordeal and rebuild their lives. We provided over 3,100 beds in our Lifehouses for people experiencing homelessness and in over 600 local churches across the

## The Salvation Army cannot know what the future holds, but we know that we'll be needed.

country, thousands of Salvation Army members and volunteers worked to serve their local communities. A gift in your Will would help support this vital work for many years to come.

**Q. What about Inheritance Tax?**

Leaving a gift to The Salvation Army - or any other charity - may lower your overall Inheritance Tax Liability. If you leave a certain percentage of your estate to charity, you may be eligible to pay a reduced rate of Inheritance Tax. Every case is different so it's best to speak to a solicitor.

**Q. 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, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN. A Christian Church and Registered Charity No. 214779, and in Scotland SC009359.**



**We would be very happy to talk through any aspect of gifts in Wills with you. For a friendly chat, please email [legacy.enquiry@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:legacy.enquiry@salvationarmy.org.uk) or call us on 0800 144 4774. Thank you.**



The Salvation Army, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN Telephone: 0800 144 4774  
Email: [legacy.enquiry@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:legacy.enquiry@salvationarmy.org.uk) Website: [salvationarmy.org.uk](http://salvationarmy.org.uk)

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