



Giving in your Will

Leave a lasting gift that will help your community for years to come

We know that your family and friends will be first in your thoughts when considering your Will. After taking care of them, you may wish to consider helping your community for years to come by leaving a gift to the MK Community Foundation.

The Community Foundation is a charity that builds stronger communities and enriches lives by enabling donors, from all walks of life, to support local causes. Since 1986, the vision, commitment and generosity of local people and businesses has made it possible for us to back thousands of projects across our area with grants totalling £20 million. Our grants address a very wide range of topics, including children, health, community life, the arts, older people, work and training and care for the environment.

Making a Will does not have to be expensive or complicated. Your solicitor can help you make choices to suit your circumstances. Gifts to charity are exempt from Inheritance Tax and could help reduce the total amount of tax paid on your estate. You can help to make a difference for many years to come by leaving a gift to your community, through the Community Foundation.

Giving by will – how does it work?

We offer a range of options. Your gift can support the Community Foundation, so we can direct funds toward the best local groups and most critical community needs. You may add to one of our themed Funds. You may specify local organisations you want us to help, or you may create a named Fund that will pursue your own unique charitable interests.

Supporting the Community Foundation

By simply naming the MK Community Foundation as the beneficiary of your gift, you provide us with the flexibility to support a wide variety of important causes and to respond to changing needs in the future. We guarantee to use your gift in the best and most effective ways to improve lives in our communities.

Supporting a themed fund

You can add your gift to one of the special themed funds at the Community Foundation. We invest your gift alongside others, multiplying your generosity so the benefits last for years to come. Our themed funds include:

Surviving Winter Fund – raises vital funds for charities delivering emergency food, care and warmth across the community of Milton Keynes.

Sports fund - supports programmes that seek to integrate people with disabilities along with able-bodied people in all communities across our city as well as promoting excellence within sport.

Women's Fund – enabling women to play a full and active part in communities.

Arts Fund – to reach a wide variety of people in need as well as contributing to the culture artistic life in MK

Supporting specific charities

If you have one or more favourite local charities, you can leave a gift in your Will to the Community Foundation with instructions to distribute the income between them, perhaps over a period of years. We will make sure that they continue to be effective, and if for any reason one of your charities closes down in the future, we will redirect your gift towards another organisation that best matches your interests.

Creating a named Fund

With a gift of £10,000 or more in value, you can establish a unique Fund at the Community Foundation. Your named Fund will be invested to benefit charitable causes according to your wishes. You can specify that the income is used in one or more of the ways set out above, or you can leave instructions for us to support the groups or issues you feel most passionately about. For example, you may want us to help people in the area where you live, people facing a particular problem, or to support a field such as the arts, amateur sport or education. The Community Foundation will work closely with your relatives and/or professional advisors to ensure we meet your interests. You can name your Fund after you, your family, another loved one, or it can be named for the cause it supports. If you prefer, your Fund can be anonymous.

Giving by will – types of legacy

You can choose to remember the Community Foundation in your Will in a number of ways. Your solicitor can advise you on the different forms of gifts, which include:

- **A Residuary Legacy** – a gift made of the remainder of your estate after all other gifts have been handed out and debts paid off. This can be either the total of the remainder or a percentage.
- **A Pecuniary Legacy** – a gift made of a fixed sum of money.
- **A Specific Legacy** – a particular named item left as a gift in your Will, for example, shares, property, jewellery, furniture or a painting.

Giving by will - the next step

You should consult a solicitor for advice to ensure that your family, friends and the causes you believe in are provided for in the way you wish. If you already have a Will, the simplest way to make minor changes or additions is through a Codicil. This is an instruction that your solicitor will help with to be kept with your existing Will. We have specimen wording available to help your solicitor ensure that the Community Foundation can manage your gift to us according to your wishes.

Find out more

This leaflet only gives an outline of how we can help you. Please note that by providing the wording we are not confirming that a Will or Codicil will be effective and we strongly recommend that legal advice is sought in respect of the drafting and also the correct execution of the Will or Codicil.

If you would like to talk about your gift to the Community Foundation, please contact Jennifer Walker, Director of Development on 01908 304436 or email

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