

# *HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY*

**and help Samaritans provide its vital service  
for people in distress**

***WITH SAMARITANS***

## LISTENING AND SUPPORTING SINCE 1953



**On 2nd November 1953 Chad Varah, a vicar from London, founded what is now known as Samaritans.**

Upset by the suicide of a local 14-year old girl, he decided to set up an emergency phone line for suicidal people. Within two weeks, the number of calls was impossible to handle alone, and local volunteers began to offer their help.

These volunteers soon became the backbone of the listening service, and it wasn't long before he asked them to take over. 'On 2nd February 1954, I called these amateurs together and said, "over to you Samaritans... you are the life-savers".'

Samaritans has come a long way since this day. We are now an essential part of society, and have more than 203 branches in towns and cities across the UK and Republic of Ireland, offering a professional volunteer listening service.

# How a gift in your Will can make a difference

## ANSWERING EVERY CALL FOR HELP

**In 2003 we received 4.8 million contacts, just over 1 million of these were funded by legacies.**

Today, more people than ever are contacting Samaritans. This places huge demands on our limited resources, and we're simply unable to answer every call. Not getting through to a Samaritans volunteer can be a devastating experience for someone in extreme distress – leaving them feeling isolated, hopeless and unwilling to try to reach us again.

That's why legacies are so important to us; they provide the backbone of funding for our emergency telephone service. A legacy of £17,000, for example, can help us meet the costs of running an emergency phone line for an entire year. By remembering us in your Will, you'll help us be there for everyone who needs us in the future.

## TRAINING VOLUNTEERS

**Every year, we train around 3,000 new Samaritans volunteers to cope with the increasing number of calls, emails and other points of contact.**

The future of Samaritans depends on our dedicated volunteers. They give up their days and nights to listen to people who often have nowhere else to turn.

We always need more of these remarkable individuals – and your legacy could help us transform other good listeners into skilled Samaritans volunteers. For example, a gift of £1,000 can train 55 volunteers for life. Yours will be a gift that will last for years to come.

## REACHING OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

**In the UK today, 70% more people die by suicide than in road accidents.**

In a society where suicidal thoughts and difficult emotions are often a taboo subject, people often feel forced to cope with impossible situations alone.

Your legacy could help us reach these people – we work regularly with schoolchildren, teenagers, the elderly, the homeless and other groups at a higher risk of suicide and depression. A gift of £26,000 could help us run our email support service for a year. In 2003, we received a staggering 99,000 emails; many from young people. Over half talk openly about suicide and depression. Your legacy will help us reach them – and provide much-needed emotional support when they need it most.

# Leaving a gift to Samaritans in your Will

## WHY LEAVE A LEGACY?

At Samaritans we rely on voluntary donations to fund 97% of our work, and legacies are an essential part of this. Leaving a legacy to Samaritans can help us to build a future where everyone has someone to turn to for emotional support.

Leaving a legacy is also a tax-efficient way for you to support a cause that you care about. If the assets you leave in your Will are valued at more than £263,000\*, the beneficiaries of your Will could have to pay 40% Inheritance Tax on anything over that amount. However, any donations to charity are exempt from tax and therefore the amount you leave to Samaritans will be the amount we receive.

## MAKING A WILL

Having a Will is extremely important. It's the only way to ensure your family and friends are cared for and that all your wishes are met.

Writing a Will need not be expensive – and a solicitor or financial advisor will help you prepare one. First, decide on what kind of legacy you prefer.

## TWO WAYS TO LEAVE A LEGACY

### **Pecuniary legacy**

If you want to leave a gift of a fixed amount, then choose a pecuniary legacy. Your gift can be a lump sum or a specified item, such as a piece of jewellery.

### **Residuary legacy**

You can leave a percentage of what is left of your estate once you have provided for your friends and family. This is called a residuary legacy.

## *ADDING A GIFT TO YOUR EXISTING WILL*

By making your Will, you've already remembered the people who matter most to you. If you would like to amend your Will to include Samaritans, it's a very easy process. Simply ask your solicitor to help you complete a short form called 'a Codicil'. This document will sit with your current Will and record any new wishes.

## *HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE*

**Legacies are extremely important to us and really do make a practical difference to the work that we do.**

Our outreach work is crucial in enabling us to reach people who may not be aware of Samaritans but would benefit from the service we provide. In 1998, a legacy of £33,000 allowed our Gloucester branch to invest in a new van, as the old one desperately needed replacing. The van was converted into a mobile centre and is used as a place for people to sit and talk. The branch regularly employs the van to visit shows, town centres and rural areas, giving the volunteers an opportunity to reach out to people in the local community who may otherwise never call, but desperately need to be heard. It also provides a secure place from which the volunteers work.

Our branch in Plymouth built an extension to their existing building with a generous legacy of £34,000, creating more rooms to receive callers and adding essential facilities for volunteers. A second legacy of £70,000 enabled them to further expand by purchasing the house next door. The extra space this created provides access for disabled callers and volunteers and an important training space, where new volunteers meet or additional development is provided for existing volunteers.

## GLOSSARY

<b>Administrator</b>	If someone dies without making a Will, a court appoints an administrator or executor to sort out their assets and estate.
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Your family, friends or anyone else you wish to receive something from your Will.
<b>Codicil</b>	A document that sits with your Will, recording any new wishes.
<b>Estate</b>	Your estate is everything that you own, including your car, your house and its contents, valuables, investments, savings and life assurance policies.
<b>Executor</b>	The person who sorts out your Estate and carries out the instructions you set out in your Will.
<b>Intestacy</b>	Determines who inherits someone's Estate if they die without a Will.
<b>Legacy</b>	A particular item or money that you want to give away; for example, an heirloom to your grandson.
<b>Pecuniary legacy</b>	A gift of a fixed amount. A pecuniary legacy can be a lump sum or a specified item, such as a valuable watch.
<b>Probate</b>	The court order authorising a person to deal with the assets of the deceased.
<b>Residuary legacy</b>	A percentage of what is left of your estate once you have provided for your friends and family.

### NEED MORE HELP?

For more information about leaving a gift to Samaritans, or anything else we can help you with, please call our Supporter Care team on 08709 00 00 32.

#### Alternatively contact your local branch

## PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR PLANS

### Please send the form to:

Supporter Care Department  
Samaritans  
Freepost SEA12780  
Epsom  
KT17 2BR

### Or to your local branch

Please contact the  
Supporter Care team on  
08709 00 00 32 to locate  
your nearest branch or visit  
our website. See below.

### For more information about Samaritans visit our website

[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

### Samaritans

A registered charity

### Please fill in your details so we can contact you

First name	Title
Last name	
Address	
Postcode	

I am happy to be contacted by telephone, my number is

Tel

I am happy to be contacted by email, my address is

Email

### Please tick the appropriate boxes

**Yes I will be leaving a gift in my Will to Samaritans**

Your Will is a private family document and you may not wish to tell us how much you have left in your legacy. However, it would help us plan for the future if you are able to tell us.

Pecuniary legacy

£

Residuary legacy

**I am considering leaving a legacy to Samaritans and would like to know more about your work**

Please contact me by  Phone  Post  Email

**I am considering leaving a legacy to Samaritans and have all the information I need**

**Data Protection** Samaritans and Samaritans Enterprises Ltd would like to send you information about our ongoing work. If you would prefer not to receive this information please tick the box.

From time to time, Samaritans agrees with other like-minded organisations to write to some of each other's supporters. If you prefer not to be contacted in this way, please tick the box.

Please cut along dotted line to detach form

## **WITH SAMARITANS**

**For confidential  
emotional support**

### **Phone**

08457 90 90 90 (UK)

1850 60 90 90 (ROI)

### **Email**

[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

### **Visit**

Your local branch to  
speak face to face with a  
Samaritan. Details in your  
local phone directory or  
from our website  
[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)