Marie Curie

Your gift will have a lasting impact, no matter the shape or size

Let's talk about it in your free Wills guide

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It's a privilege to serve as Marie Curie's CEO but I know that by including a gift in my Will, I can impact end of life care far into the future. So just like you, I decided to start my Will Talk and include a gift to Marie Curie.

I believe that whoever we are and wherever we're from, we all deserve the very best end of life care – along with our family and loved ones. Your gift will bring expert care to so many people – and by sorting out your Will, you'll also make sure your loved ones are looked after too.

Thank you for starting your Will Talk.



Matthew.

Matthew Reed,
Chief Executive Officer
Marie Curie

Welcome

Our Chief Medical Officer, Dr Sarah Holmes, talks about the big question: why should you include a gift in your Will to Marie Curie?

Talking about your Will isn't always easy.

But it's important that we do because once you get started, it quickly feels more comfortable. A Will Talk will give reassurance that your loved ones will be looked after when you're gone – and it's a powerful way to make sure more people have expert end of life care, far into the future.

Just like Wills, end of life care is another tricky subject to talk about. But so many of us will need expert care one day, so I wanted to take a moment to talk a bit more about it and introduce you to this guide.

Did you know that every three minutes, someone in the UK dies without the care and support they need? That's 200,000 people every year. But it's only a current snapshot of the challenges we face, because by 2035, the number of people needing end of life care in the UK will rise by more than 60,000 to over 660,000 people per year.

And it's heartbreaking to learn that certain groups are more likely to miss out on the right end of life care, including people with dementia – the leading cause of death in England and Wales.

So taking the time to read this booklet – and start a Will Talk – really matters.

It shows that, like us, you believe that everyone deserves a good experience at the end of life – whatever the illness, wherever they are. That people should be comfortable, that pain and other symptoms are managed, and personal wishes respected. And that family and loved ones also get the expert help and support they need too.

So, from all of us, thank you.

Inside this guide you can read why Healthcare Assistant Rachel is including a gift in her Will to Marie Curie and meet Emma who got involved in our Will Talk campaign because of the care her mum received. We've also added some small steps to getting your own Will Talk started.

So thanks again for taking the time to read this guide. Thank you for joining this important conversation. And thank you for caring about end of life care as much as we do.

Together, we really can help more people in their final years, months, weeks and days. We can leave this world a kinder place. Something everyone will talk about for generations to come, I'm sure.

Sarah

Dr Sarah Holmes, Chief Medical Officer





Did you know?

1/3

Gifts in Wills make up more than a third of Marie Curie's voluntary income.

1/4

Gifts in Wills pay for the care of more than a quarter of all people we support.

Over 15,300

people wouldn't receive the vital care and support they need without gifts in Wills.

*These stats are for 2024-25.

Why your gift matters

Almost 1 in 3
people don't get the right end of life care.

9/10
people dying in the UK need palliative care.

By 2050
the need for end of life care will rise by almost 25% compared to today.



Your Will Talk is powerful

We need urgent change to stop people dying without the care they need. Any gift you choose to include for us will help us close the care gap – and move us closer to a day when everyone has the right end of life care.

The incredible things your gift could do

Hospice care

You could help us care for people around the clock, at home or in one of our hospices – and care for their loved ones too.





Our team

Your special gift could help support our team of over 5,000 Marie Curie Doctors, Nurses, Healthcare Assistants, Counsellors and Volunteers.

Support over the phone and online

Your gift could help us double the reach of our information and support services to 4.4 million. You could help keep our free phone lines open so people can access practical and emotional support, wherever they are. Or you could make sure we're always online to answer questions, from a terminal diagnosis to finances and grief.



Companions

Our companion volunteers focus on what's important to each person they visit. Whether accompanying someone to an appointment or being there to listen, or even giving loved ones a break to pop to the shops, they're a vital part of our team.





Research and campaigning

You could fund our important research into end of life care, power our campaigns and push for changes in policy to close the care gap.

"We want others to benefit from the wonderful support we had when we needed it."

Barry,
who decided to include a gift in his Will for Marie Curie



Rachel's Will Talk

After working as a Marie Curie Healthcare Assistant since 2023, Rachel knew that Marie Curie would have a place in her Will. Here, she talks about why it's so important to her and her family.

Before joining Marie Curie, Rachel worked in the NHS for nearly 30 years, including some time in the ambulance service.

"When I went to a palliative job in the ambulance service, I always felt that's where my heart was. It's really lovely to have the time with patients to give quality care.

"Now, as a Marie Curie Healthcare Assistant, I work night shifts, which are 10pm until 7am, where we go to patients' houses when it's their wish to die at home. We care for the patient overnight, and it also gives the family a break, which is really a privilege.

"I understand that letting people into your home who you've never met before and trusting them with your loved one is not an easy thing to do. A lot of them have been caring for their loved ones for a long time before support services come in. So when they feel secure, they feel safe with you, they trust you, that's massive.

"You make such a difference just by being there, taking that pressure off the family and supporting the patients. Every morning I drive home and I think, 'this is such a worthwhile job'."

Continued...



A gift to reflect what Rachel cares most about



"They're looking after someone 24 hours a day. The pressure, the guilt, the lack of control, not being able to take away this awful thing that's happening to their loved one. It's overwhelming, so anything we can do to take the pressure off is huge.

"A good end of life experience means people having space to have conversations so they can share their wishes. It means someone can die where they want to die, have dignity, peace and feel safe."

Why Rachel has decided to include Marie Curie in her Will.

"I recently did my Will, so if we die and our children are looked after, the remainder of the estate goes to Marie Curie. My family don't need it, my husband's family don't need it, and I know how much patients do need it.

"I can see how important that money is. My children have said that they'll do the same thing because they can see how important it is to me."



"I want to know that after I'm gone, I'll still be there in some way, helping care for people at the end of their life."

Trusted care and support for over 75 years

Behind our expert care, leading research and relentless campaigning is 75 years of knowledge and experience – all made possible by kind gifts from people like you.

1948

Our origins

The Marie Curie International Memorial was formally established on 6 July 1948, and shortly afterwards became the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation.



1958

Care in people's homes

A decade on and public support helped launch our first Day and Night Nursing Service in London, providing round-the-clock care for people in their homes.



1980s

From homes to hospices

Marie Curie Homes started to become Marie Curie Hospices, caring for more patients who were more seriously ill, for shorter periods of time. Our supporters' kindness continued to grow, helping hospices develop new day services in communities.

2015

Helping more people than ever

We changed our name to simply 'Marie Curie'. To help care for anyone with an illness they're likely to die from, and to support those close to them. This could be a range of conditions from dementia to motor neurone disease.

Today

We care no matter what

Now, people proudly join forces every year to support our Great Daffodil Appeal and fund the vital work of our nursing team. Many of them also decide to include a gift to us in their Will. We've grown into a nationwide compassionate community, full of people who make our work possible.

Tomorrow

More comfort and lasting change

A gift in your Will of any size could make a difference. It could help us close the gap in end of life care and reach many more people. It could also help fund important research, and improve standards of care for all.



Emma's Will Talk

Emma featured in our TV advert about including a gift in your Will – sitting, chatting with her fiancée, Zuzana. Here, she remembers her mum and the end of life care she received at our Marie Curie Hospice, Bradford.

"My mum was gregarious and full of energy…

"…I would be exhausted after 24 hours with her! She was a people person, she loved to party, was an avid reader and loved being in nature. She was very kind and we were really close; we spoke every day on the phone.

"Mum and I had booked a girls' trip to Portugal, which we'd never done before. Looking back, I wonder if she booked the trip because she knew something wasn't right.

"I encouraged her to go and see the GP when we got home, and not long after that she was diagnosed with stage four of a rare form of cancer.

"Mum went through chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and major surgery… She was given the all-clear, and that Christmas we all got together as a family.

"But the cancer came back quite viciously, and that unfortunately was the start of the end. Mum continued to have the treatment, but chemotherapy is brutal and she was getting weaker and weaker."



Photo: Emma with her mum

A Will Talk full of love and care

"The last six months of Mum's life were spent in the Marie Curie Hospice, Bradford. The NHS staff in the hospital did everything they could to keep Mum alive, but we were so relieved when she got a bed at the hospice.

"It was a very different environment in the hospice...

"...there were different activities going on that she could get involved with. Mum liked to look her best, so she would have her hair and nails done in the salon, she could do her painting, which she enjoyed.

"Mum had a positive experience at the hospice, and so did we as her family. Society struggles with grief and people being ill, and so people often tiptoe around difficult conversations. The staff at the Marie Curie hospice weren't like that, they were very practical, helpful and attentive.

Click here to watch our TV advert

"I saw the TV advert as an opportunity to share my mum's story.

"When Zuzana and I were approached, we looked at each other and said it was meant to be because there are way too many connections with Marie Curie for both of us in such different ways."

"For Mum to be surrounded by other women going through a similar experience in the hospice meant that she felt less alone. I hope she found comfort in that."



Photo:
Emma and her fiancée, Zuzana

Let's talk about the different types of gift

A residuary gift

This is a share of your estate. This means it's not a fixed amount and should keep its value, unaffected by inflation.
To include a residuary gift, you could use this wording:
I give to Marie Curie of One Embassy Gardens, 8 Viaduct Gardens, London SW11 7BW, registered charity numbers 207994 and SC038731 [all / __%] of the residue of my estate absolutely for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Legacy Administration Manager or other proper officer at Marie Curie for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

A pecuniary gift

This is a 'cash gift' – a specific amount of money given in a Will.
To include this kind of gift, you could use this wording:
I give to Marie Curie of One Embassy Gardens, 8 Viaduct Gardens, London SW11 7BW, registered charity numbers 207994 and SC038731 the sum of [£specify words and figures] free of tax for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Legacy Administration Manager or other proper officer at Marie Curie for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

Specific

This is an item like jewellery, stocks and shares or property.
To include a specific gift, you could use this wording:
I give to Marie Curie of One Embassy Gardens, 8 Viaduct Gardens, London SW11 7BW, registered charity numbers 207994 and SC038731 [name and description of item] absolutely for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Legacy Administration Manager or other proper officer at Marie Curie for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

Common questions about Will-writing

Can I write my own Will?

We suggest you use a solicitor or Will-writer, though it's not necessary. But you should get your Will reviewed by a legal expert to make sure it's valid and legal.

Can Marie Curie write my Will?

Our trusted partners offer free Will-writing services. You can find out more on the next page.

Are there tax benefits to including a gift in my Will?

Because we're a charity, most gifts to us are exempt from Inheritance Tax. You can find out about other charitable tax benefits by visiting HMRC at: **gov.uk/browse/tax/inheritance-tax** or by asking a solicitor.

Got a question?

Just visit **mariecurie.org.uk/willtalk** or call **0800 716 146**

Our free Will-writing service

We offer a range of free, easy-to-use Will-writing services, nationwide. They're available to anyone aged 18 and over who wants to write or update a 'simple Will' for free.

Online

England and Wales:
mariecurie.org.uk/onlinewill

Scotland and Northern Ireland:
mariecurie.org.uk/onlinewillSNI

Phone

020 8050 2686

Or to book a call, visit
mariecurie.org.uk/telewill

In person

Visit
mariecurie.org.uk/solicitorwill

"I included Marie Curie in my Will because the nurses always go the extra mile, I know it's a cliché, but they do!"

Liz,
who decided to include a gift in her Will for Marie Curie



Photo: Liz (Left)

A quick checklist that could help make an impact for years to come

Jotting down a few details now can help you decide who and what you'd like to include in your Will.

YOUR DETAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Next of kin name and address: _____

_____

Executors' full names and addresses: _____

_____

Children's full names and addresses (if applicable):

_____

_____

_____

Guardians' full names and addresses (if applicable):

_____

_____

_____

Funeral instructions:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Other: _____

_____

_____

YOUR ASSETS

Your home (or share in it)	£ _____
Other property or land	£ _____
Home contents, including furniture and fittings	£ _____
Valuable items (such as antiques or jewellery)	£ _____
Cars and vehicles	£ _____
Money in banks and building societies	£ _____
Stocks, shares, investments	£ _____
Insurance and pensions	£ _____
Other savings and assets	£ _____
Any business you own or are a shareholder	£ _____

TOTAL ASSETS £ _____

Next steps

We're happy to chat...

If you need more help or have more questions simply contact your local Legacy Lead:

Email **willtalk@mariecurie.org.uk**

Search **'Marie Curie Will Talk'**

Or visit **mariecurie.org.uk/giftinwill**

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Registered Charity no. 207994 (England & Wales), SC038731 (Scotland).

DM7468

Marie Curie