

“The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone,
but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.”

By leaving a gift in your will you can help ensure that Open Door Exmouth continues to be at the heart of our community, responding where the need is greatest, helping the most vulnerable, and making a positive difference in our town.

Research from Remember A Charity has shown that although 74% of the UK population support charities during their lifetime, only 7% of people donate to charities in their will once their family and friends have been provided for. In fact, 50% of adults in the UK haven't written a will and 50% of those who have will never update it after the first time it has been written. Whatever your age, an up to date, professionally written will is incredibly important. It is the only way to ensure that your wishes are carried out after you die and that the people and the causes you care about are provided for in a way that you intend.

Who can write a will?

- A Solicitor - the cost of using a solicitor can vary due to how complicated your will may need to be. Please get a quote from your solicitor before you begin writing your will. If you do not have a Solicitor you can find one in your area by contacting The Law Society on 0207 242 1222 or visiting www.lawsociety.org.uk
- A Will Writer - there are a lot of companies who write wills and this is another option. Please make sure you are using a reputable company by checking that they are members of the Institute of Professional Will Writers - www.ipw.org.uk
- Your Bank - a lot of the larger banks now offer the opportunity to write your will in your local branch. Contact your bank to find out if they offer this service.

How do I choose an Executor for my will?

An Executor is the person named in your will who has the responsibility of carrying out your final wishes. Executors can be your loved ones or a professional like a Solicitor or your Bank Manager. Please note that being an Executor does not mean that they are excluded from your will.

Legacies Guide

What legacy should I leave?

The two most common gifts left to a charity are:

- You can leave a specific sum of money in your will.

(Pecuniary Gift)

- You can leave a percentage of the remainder of your estate, after all the other gifts have been allocated and all costs have been paid. This type of gift is often particularly valuable to a charity as its value will increase in line with the value of your estate.

(Residuary Gift)

How do I include a gift in my current will?

If you have already made a will but would like to add in a gift to Open Door Exmouth, you can do this with a codicil form, which allows you to amend or add to your will without having to write a new one. It needs to be signed in the presence of two witnesses – these witnesses cannot be a beneficiary of your will or codicil, or their spouse or civil partner. Your codicil should be stored with (but not attached to) your original will, and a copy of the codicil should be kept with any copies of your will held by your solicitor or by other individuals.

We recommend that you always seek advice from a legal professional when writing a will or codicil.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why make a gift in my will to Open Door Exmouth? A gift in your will costs you nothing during your lifetime and won't affect you now, but will one day make a real difference, enabling Open Door Exmouth to continue to help those most in need in our community.

Do I have enough money to leave a gift in my will? Every gift we receive from our supporters, no matter how large or small, makes a real and tangible difference to the work of Open Door Exmouth and the people we help. Even a small percentage of your estate can make a big difference to charity.

What about Inheritance Tax? Any gift made in your will to Open Door Exmouth also has the added benefit of being exempt from Inheritance Tax (IHT) and could even reduce the liability for your loved ones if your estate is over the IHT threshold. For more details see www.gov.uk/browse/tax/inheritance-tax

Should I tell you that I've left a gift to Open Door Exmouth in my will? There is absolutely no obligation to tell us that you have left a gift in your will. However, if you would like to let us know that you have remembered Open Door Exmouth in your will, we'd love to hear from you so that we can say thank you for remembering the charity in such a personal way. To let us know, or for any other questions, please contact Helen Tribble, Projects Director, on 01395 224218 or helen@opendoorexmouth.org.uk.

How should I word the gift in my will?

1. If you are leaving a percentage, we recommend you word your document as follows:

I give% of the residue of my real and personal estate which I can dispose of by will in any manner I think proper to Open Door Exmouth (Registered Charity No. 1094599) of The Open Door Centre, St Saviour's House, Church Street, Exmouth, EX8 1PE for their general purposes and the receipt of the Treasurer or the proper officer for the time being of Open Door Exmouth shall be a complete discharge to my Executors.

2. If you are leaving a set amount in your will, we recommend you word your document as follows:

I give the sum of pounds to Open Door Exmouth (Registered Charity No. 1094599) of The Open Door Centre, St Saviour's House, Church Street, Exmouth, EX8 1PE for their general purposes and the receipt of the Treasurer or the proper officer for the time being of Open Door Exmouth shall be a complete discharge to my Executors.

“If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be here now.

What Open Door does is so good, it should be available everywhere.”