

**NO ONE SHOULD
HAVE TO FACE THIS
JOURNEY ALONE.**

**THE
KIRKWOOD
SUPPORT
LIFE®**

**A Gift in your Will helps us be there
for patients, every step of the way.**

A woman with short brown hair, smiling and looking off-camera to the left. She is wearing blue V-neck scrubs. The background is a blurred hospital room with medical equipment and a patterned curtain.

**THE
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With patients every step of the way since 1987

The Kirkwood have a wonderfully dramatic history – in the literal sense of the word. In June 1981, BBC2 screened a performance of a play called ‘Going Gently’ which told the story of two men facing their final days in a grey, drab hospital ward. It highlighted the vital need for a more compassionate, loving and supportive environment for those facing their last days.

“YOUR LEGACY CAN ENSURE OUR PATIENTS LIVE THEIR BEST LIFE.”

After the play aired, a moving review of the production was printed in the Huddersfield Examiner which prompted local man, David

Stocks, to write a letter in response. David’s father had died from cancer at home and, seeing first-hand what his father had gone through, he urged people to get in touch to discuss the idea of building a hospice for the local community.

The response to David’s appeal was remarkable and fundraising efforts began in earnest. Six years later, in March 1987, The Kirkwood’s hospice opened its doors and began providing the kind of expert, compassionate care that David knew from experience was essential for patients living with a life limiting illness.

Today, The Kirkwood are so much more than just a building. We are a movement; a community of dedicated doctors, nurses, practitioners, volunteers and supporters who are committed to providing the very best care for anyone affected by a life limiting illness. We are there every step of the way for patients and their families, and our goal is to offer The Kirkwood experience to as many people as we can reach.

David was just one man, but sometimes one person makes all the difference. Every legacy – no matter how small – ensures that our movement continues to grow and that our patients can live the best life they can for as long as they can.

Thank you so much for considering us.





**“THEY BROUGHT ME
BACK FROM MY LOWEST
EBB AND HELPED ME TO
LIVE AGAIN.”**

I knew about The Kirkwood from my days as a Yorkshire White Knights biker. I used to do runs out there regularly – dropping off blood and collecting tests and what not. But I never in a million years imagined that I would end up being a patient there. It’s just not something you ever really think about. Then one evening I was doing a drop when the roads were pretty icy. We’re used to being out in all kinds of weather and the council had been out gritting so I reckoned I would be OK. I was just coming up to the roundabout that leads to the hospice when the bike skidded out from under me. I put my foot down to steady myself and that’s when I felt the pain shooting up my spine. I thought I’d just put my back out, but it turned out it was a lot more than that.

When I found out that I had cancer in my spine, my liver and my lungs it was such a massive shock. I’ve never been that low in my life and I just thought – that’s it, I’m going to die.

But the nurses and the doctors from The Kirkwood brought me back to life and reminded me that I have a lot more living to do. ‘You’re not going to die, Maurice,’ they said. ‘You’re here so we can help you get back home.’ And that’s exactly what they did.

I ended up staying in the In-Patient Unit for five weeks and being away from your family for such a long time is hard. You start to feel a bit isolated and alone, but the nurses and doctors and even the cleaning staff make you feel like you’re part of one big family. I used to get all the local chat from



the cleaner and it’s the only time in my life I’ve ever called a doctor by his first name.

There are angels everywhere you go but there are a lot of them in The Kirkwood. I’ll always remember one nurse in particular, Esther. I had just come back from radiotherapy and was waiting to be picked up and taken back home. I was in a waiting room by myself and I was in pain. She came and sat with me and just held my hand for such a long time. She didn’t have to do that – I’m sure she had other things to do and she could have left me to get on with my thoughts – but she stayed with me and talked to me and made sure I didn’t feel so alone.

There are so many people at The Kirkwood who do an amazing job and nowt’s too much trouble for anyone. I hadn’t been able to have a bath for years because it was too painful getting in and out, but they got me in the bath with all the bells and whistles (and bubbles!); it was so nice to be able to relax and not worry about how I was going to get myself out and dried. Little things like that can make such a difference when you’re feeling so low and in so much pain.

And the support doesn’t stop when you go back home either. They’ve helped me with all sorts of things. It used to take me over an hour to sort out my medication but then they put everything

in a little box for me so I know what I need to take every day. They call me up every two weeks to see how I’m doing, and I know that there’s someone at the end of the phone if I’m worried about anything or need to ask a question. They’ve been brilliant to my family as well. My wife and my daughter have both spoken to the counsellors there and I know it’s helped them a lot.

Like everyone with an illness like mine, I have good days and bad days but I’m back out on my bike now and my son-in-law and I are planning a charity ride to raise money for The Kirkwood. I can never thank them enough for everything they’ve done for me. If it wasn’t for them I’d be curled up in a ball somewhere thinking about what’s coming. Now I’m making the most of the time I’ve got left.

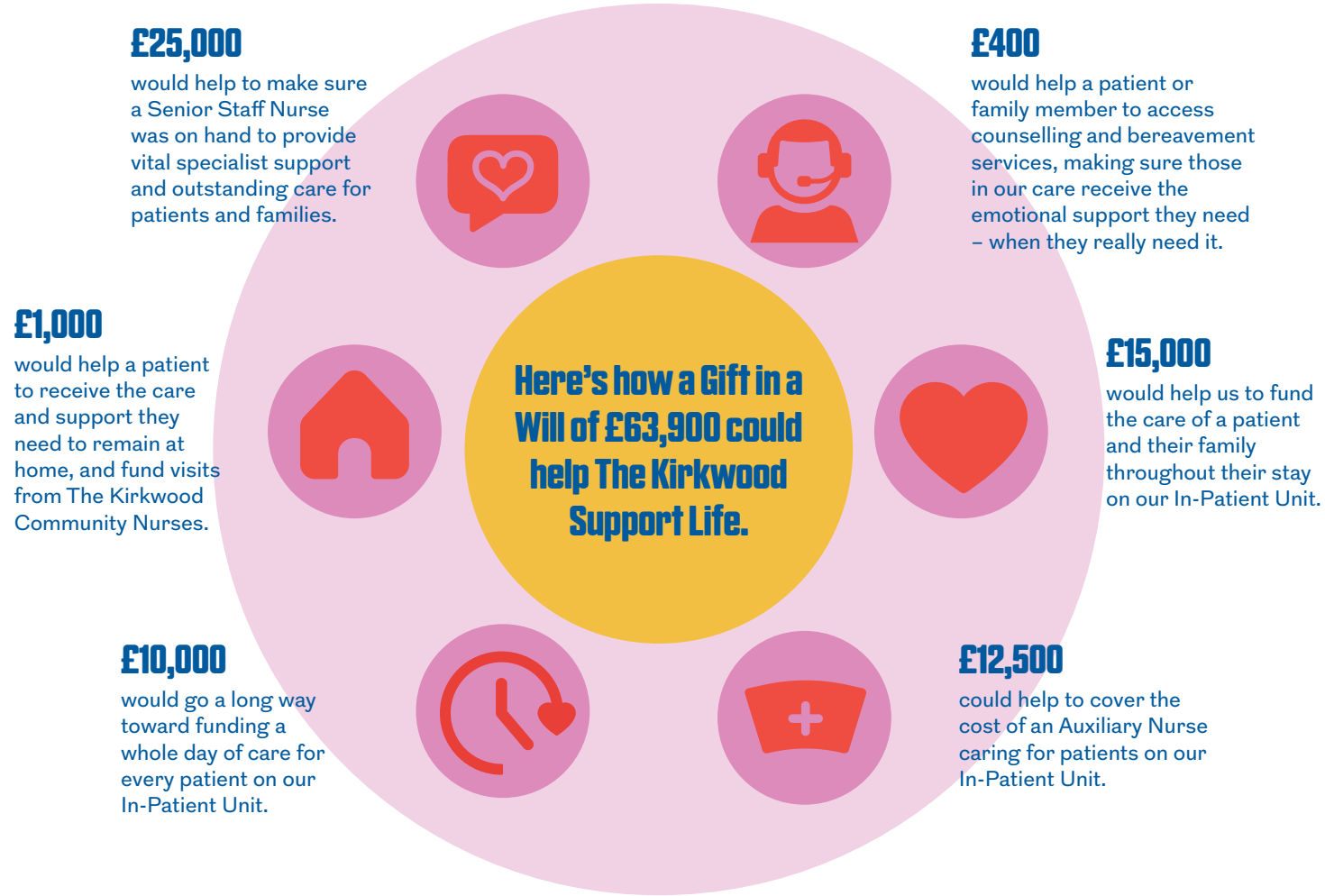
The Kirkwood is part of our family now and we do all we can to raise money for them. What I’d say to anyone who’s thinking about leaving them a Gift in their Will is please do it. You’re helping people live their life and have time with their families for just that little bit longer. And that’s so important. Life is so precious. The nurses and doctors will never be forgotten in my family and they deserve all the support they can get.

Maurice

“You’re helping people live their lives for that little bit longer – and that is an amazing gift.”

GIFTS IN WILLS HELP IN SO MANY WAYS

We are incredibly grateful for every single gift we receive. Gifts in Wills help us to be there for people in Kirklees living with life limiting illnesses – improving their quality of life in ways that really matter and making sure everyone in our care has the chance to make the most of every single day. These gifts also mean we can help families and loved ones get the support they need.



A gift of any size would do so much to help The Kirkwood Support Life.



“YOUR LEGACY HELPS US BE THERE FOR PEOPLE THROUGHOUT KIRKLEES.”



We're here to help you make your Will

As a charity we exist to Support Life. And that's why we believe it's really important to plan for the future and get all your affairs in order. Making a Will is a lot less complicated than you might think and we're here to make it a reassuring and straightforward process, accessible to all our patients, their families, our supporters and our local community.

We often partner with local solicitors who offer free or discounted Will writing in exchange for a donation to The Kirkwood and we also have an online service for those who would like to make a Will in that way.

These partners can vary from month to month, so please visit our website for the latest offers: thekirkwood.org.uk/makeawill

“As with any legal document, the correct wording is important to make sure your wishes are carried out just as you'd like. That is why we'd always recommend you get the right advice when leaving some money to The Kirkwood or any other charity.”

Ellie Hirst, Chadwick Lawrence solicitors.



Make a Will Month

Make a Will Month happens in March and October each year and offers anyone over 55 the opportunity to make or update a Will for free. If you haven't got around to thinking about your Will yet this is a great time to do it. Your own solicitor will be able to talk to you in more depth about how they can help you, or you can choose to speak to one of our partner solicitors listed on our website, or visit: freewillsmoth.org.uk

And of course, we are always here to help as well. Though we can't offer any legal or financial advice, we can certainly talk to you about the impact a Gift in your Will could make to everyone connected with The Kirkwood.

**SUPPORT
LIFE**

**“PLAN YOUR LEGACY
AND HELP THE
KIRKWOOD PLAN
FOR THE FUTURE.”**





Our promise to you

We understand that choosing to leave a Gift in your Will is a big decision, and we will be honoured if you choose to Support Life by helping The Kirkwood.

In return for your support, we promise to follow the following principles:

- 1** We understand and respect that when making your Will, friends and family always come first.
- 2** We will never forget that choosing to leave a Gift in your Will is your decision (and we'll never put pressure on you).
- 3** When you leave a gift to The Kirkwood, we'll make sure it's used responsibly and in the best interests of all who rely on our care, focussing on areas it will have the greatest impact.
- 4** We know things change sometimes – so if you need to alter your Will in the future we'll completely understand. And you don't need to tell us if you do.
- 5** If it's important to you, we'll give you and your family as much choice as we can about how your gift is used.
- 6** If you choose to leave us a Gift in your Will, we'd love to hear from you so we can say thank you. But you don't need to tell us. Your privacy is really important and we appreciate that your Will is personal to you.
- 7** We'd like to keep in touch to show you the difference we are making for local people, but we'll give you the option to choose how and when you would like to hear from us.
- 8** We will never sell your personal information to anyone else. Ever.

If you have any questions about leaving a gift to The Kirkwood in your Will, please get in touch. We're here to help.

**For any enquiries, please call Dawn Walker on: 01484 557 911
or email: giftsinwills@thekirkwood.org.uk**

“To think of others when you yourself are not going to benefit is such a noble thing to do and should be celebrated, so I would like to say a huge thank you if this is something you feel able to do for The Kirkwood.”

Dr Stephen Oxberry, Medical Director

Gifts in Wills help to take care of 1 out of every 5 of our patients. We simply couldn't do what we do without the kindness of supporters like you.



**SUPPORT
LIFE**

There are different ways you can help The Kirkwood Support Life by leaving a Gift in your Will

Each one means the world to us and ensures that we're able to provide the very best care and support to those who need us, today and into the future.

A cash (or pecuniary) gift

This is when you choose to leave a single, precise cash gift from your estate.

A specific gift

This type of gift is usually something like property or an individual valuable item, such as an antique or piece of jewellery.

A life interest

If you wish, you can leave a gift for use over a specific period – for example, the income from an investment. After that time has passed, the gift could then be passed on to another recipient or family member.

A share of your estate or residuary gift

After you've provided for your loved ones and taxes have been paid, you could choose to leave

a share or the full remainder (the residue) of your estate to The Kirkwood. This means that your estate is passed on to those you care about as well as supporting your local hospice.

What are the tax implications of leaving a gift to The Kirkwood?

The good news is that if you decide to leave a gift to us in your Will, it can reduce the amount of inheritance tax that the rest of your beneficiaries will have to pay. It's also a tax-free gift for us, which is hugely helpful.

If you decide to leave at least 10% of your taxable estate to charity, the inheritance tax for the rest of your estate drops from 40% to 36%. It also means that every £100 that you give to The Kirkwood only costs your estate £24 and that both the charity and your beneficiaries receive more.*

This is just a very brief explanation, but of course your solicitor or financial advisor can talk to you in more depth about what it will mean specifically for you and your estate.

*Figures correct as of July 2023. The Kirkwood is not a legal or financial advisor, please seek professional advice for tax implications unique to you.



Suggested wording on how to leave a Gift in your Will

We would always recommend talking to your solicitor or a Will-writing expert to make sure the wording of your Will is clear and unambiguous. Here are some helpful examples of what you might say:

For a residuary legacy: 'I give all / a fraction / a percentage of the residue of my estate absolutely to The Kirkwood, 21 Albany Road, Dalton, Huddersfield, HD5 9UY, Registered Charity Number 512987, to be applied by The Kirkwood for its charitable purposes, and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon Treasurer or any other proper officer of The Kirkwood, for the time being, shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees.'

For a pecuniary legacy: 'I give to The Kirkwood, 21 Albany Road, Dalton, Huddersfield, HD5 9UY, Registered Charity Number 512987, absolutely, the sum of (amount in figures, amount in words) to be applied by The Kirkwood for its charitable purposes, and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon Treasurer or any other proper officer of The Kirkwood, for the time being, shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees.'

For a specific gift: 'I give The Kirkwood, 21 Albany Road, Dalton, Huddersfield, HD5 9UY, Registered Charity Number 512987, absolutely, (write in here whatever you wish to give) to be applied by The Kirkwood for its charitable purposes, and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon Treasurer or any other proper officer of The Kirkwood, for the time being, shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees.'

However you choose to support The Kirkwood, please make sure that your instruction clearly includes our unique Registered Charity Number: 512987. Then you can rest assured that your gift will get to us safely and promptly.





Glossary of Terms

Here are a few terms you may find useful to understand before making your Will.

Beneficiary

A person who benefits from a Gift in your Will.

Bequest/Legacy

A Gift in your Will.

Codicil

Making a change or addition to your existing Will Estate – total sum of all your possessions, property and money.

Executor

A person you ask to make sure the wishes expressed in your Will are carried out. Executors can also be beneficiaries.

Inheritance Tax

The tax payable on your estate if it is more than an amount specified by HM Revenue and Customs. A gift to charity is exempt from inheritance tax.

Mirror Will

Two identical wills written for married couples.

Pecuniary Legacy

A gift of a specified sum.

Residuary Legacy

A gift of what is left of your estate (or part of) after all debts, taxes, costs and other bequests. It can be a percentage, fraction or part of an estate.

Reversionary Legacy

A gift of a Will that reverts to another beneficiary (such as a wife, husband or child) when the original beneficiary dies.

Specific Legacy

A gift of a particular item in your Will e.g. a painting, antique, jewellery, etc.

Witness

A person present at the signing/authorising of your Will. A witness cannot be a beneficiary.



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The Kirkwood

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Dalton
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thekirkwood.org.uk

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Registered Charity No: 512987