

Your Will...

Your Wishes...

Writing and updating your Will can be an inspiring process. It's your chance to make sure your loved ones are looked after and to think about the world you'd like to leave behind.

After you've taken care of your loved ones, including a gift in your Will for a charity like YMCA East Surrey is a very special legacy to leave.

A charity gift in your Will doesn't have to be large. Even just a small percentage of what's left after your loved ones are provided for can make a huge difference to YMCA East Surrey's work with those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged in our local community.

“ I want to thank you for providing my son with the opportunity to try Boccia. This was such a huge achievement for him because he hasn't wanted to try a new activity for many years. He is usually very anxious in new situations and with new people, so it was such a milestone for him. The YMCA made him feel so welcome and watching his face light up with enthusiasm and enjoyment was fantastic to see. ”

“ Many thanks to the wonderful YMCA East Surrey! My autistic son went to Yippee and Yip4Youth disability clubs and he had a great time, while giving our family much needed respite. All the helpers are my heroes, you are kind and caring people, and you helped us immensely. Thank you! ”

“ My behaviour after leaving school was completely unacceptable and antisocial. I fell in with the wrong crowd and was taking drugs, setting a terrible example to my younger brothers. I'm so grateful for the help from YMCA Hillbrook House. It has given me my independence and maturity and turned me into a young man. ”

“ My YMCA counselling sessions have been excellent. The counsellor has truly been fully supportive and taken the time to listen and help me to realise what I need. I have made decisions I would not otherwise have made and feel all the more positive for it. I am not scared of the future anymore now that I have the tools and resilience to cope. ”

Leyla's story

Leyla enjoys the time she spends at our Yippee playscheme so much that she joined the group to celebrate her 8th birthday. YMCA staff took the children on an outing to a local farm, decorating Leyla's wheelchair with balloons and surprising her with a birthday cake and candle.

Leyla's smile lit up her face – a very different picture to the description of her as a younger child, as painted by one of her carers.

“For the first five years of her life, Leyla's medical condition and complex needs meant that she was either in hospital or at home,” explains Amanda. “All her contact was with adults and she was an unhappy and miserable little girl.”

YMCA's Yippee playscheme provides age appropriate activities for children aged 5-11 with a wide range of disabilities and complex needs. Ensuring that children can play with friends and try out new activities, whilst giving families some much needed support.

“The YMCA staff are always friendly and pleased to see Leyla. The care is excellent and she absolutely loves it here,” says Amanda. “Leyla's family can have a break as they know she is in good hands. Her older brother and sister can also have time off from being carers and it gives them a chance for some quality time of their own.”

“Leyla may have very specific care needs but she deserves to be around people who want to be her friend. It isn't enough for her just to mix with those who are being paid to look after her. Yippee gives her a fun chance to be a child and have fun. ”



A gift in your Will can help us:

- ▶ Provide **accommodation** for young people with nowhere else to go.
- ▶ Promote stable, healthy **families** to give young children the best start in life.
- ▶ Promote **health & wellbeing** our fitness gym and physical activity sessions for people with disabilities.
- ▶ Provide **training & education** to give young people the chance to build better futures.
- ▶ Give **support & advice** to young people who need help to overcome the challenges they face.

None of this work would be possible without the kindness of those who support us.

Your loved ones come first. Your Will allows you to take care of them after you are gone. You may feel that once you've made provision for the people you love, there will be nothing left of value. But in fact, a small percentage of what's left can go a long way to help our work with vulnerable and disadvantaged people in East Surrey.

If you do decide to leave a gift, we always recommend you speak to a solicitor about making this change. The correct wording to make sure your wishes are carried out is:

I leave.....to YMCA East Surrey of YMCA Sports and Community Centre, Princes Road, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 6JJ, registered charity number 1075028 and registered company number 03716594.

If you want to leave a gift in your Will to YMCA East Surrey, we recommend you speak to a solicitor about making the necessary changes.

Just a small
percentage
could make a
big difference.

Give the gift of hope in six easy steps

- 1 Decide who will be the executor for your Will who will ensure your wishes are respected and carried out faithfully.
- 2 Calculate the value of your estate, taking into account the value of any property and investments, as well as any debts.
- 3 List anyone you want to remember in your Will, including your family and favourite charities.
- 4 Go to a solicitor to draw up your Will.
- 5 Keep your Will in a safe place and make sure your executor(s) know where to find it. You can also ask your solicitor to look after your Will for you.
- 6 You can tell us that you've left a gift if you want to, and we'd love to thank you properly – but you don't need to let us know.

Aaron's story

For 19 year old Aaron, life so far has been a battle. "It's been really tough," he says, "and sometimes I was completely on my own. Everything got on top of me. Now, with the support of the staff at Hillbrook House, I feel as though I can keep on fighting."

YMCA Hillbrook House offers safe accommodation and support for young people who would otherwise be homeless and aims to help them work towards independent living.

Difficult home circumstances made Aaron homeless without choice and dependent on the kindness of his girlfriend and her family. The insecurity of a 'sofa-surfing' lifestyle

left him suffering from depression and anxiety and in danger of dropping out of college.

"It was a very low time for me," says Aaron. "I felt extremely stressed. Securing a place at Hillbrook House has turned my life around."

Aaron is grateful for the support of his YMCA key worker. "I can't praise her highly enough," he says. "We have an amazing relationship and she has helped me so much. I've learned a lot from the other residents and have nothing but respect for them. It's like a community here. It's been a hard year, but all the negatives are finally turning to positives."

“Without Hillbrook House, there is no doubt at all that I would have dropped out of college. I'm so thankful for the support I've received. I feel safer, I'm less stressed and better prepared for the future. I want to tell other people, who may be in a situation like I was, that there is a way forward.”

Our promises to you

If you are considering leaving a gift to YMCA East Surrey in your Will, we want you to feel completely comfortable about it. These are our promises to you:

- ▶ We'll always treat you and your legacy with respect and will never put you under pressure – this is your decision to make in your own time.
- ▶ We also realise that, rightly, your family and loved ones will always come first.
- ▶ You can tell us that you've left a gift if you want to, and we'd love to thank you properly – but you don't need to tell us and we won't keep asking you.
- ▶ If you do tell us, we'll give you the choice about how we talk to you in the future about our work in the community.
- ▶ Your gift will always be used where it's needed most, so it has the greatest impact on the local community.
- ▶ We will use your gift carefully, efficiently and cost effectively.
- ▶ Whatever you're able to give, we'll treat your very special gift with sensitivity and respect.
- ▶ You can change your mind about a gift in your Will at any time in the future and you don't need to tell us if you do.

Thank you for thinking of YMCA East Surrey in connection with your Will.

Give the gift of hope

A gift in your Will to YMCA East Surrey can make a huge difference to vulnerable people of all ages in East Surrey.

Your questions answered

What type of gift can I leave?

Many supporters choose a residuary legacy (a percentage of your estate) because it keeps pace with inflation. You can also leave a pecuniary legacy (a specific amount of money) – as this is a fixed amount, its value may reduce over time. Any gift – whatever the size – will make an enormous difference to the lives of people we work with in East Surrey.

Do I need to draw up a new Will?

If you have a Will and just want to add a gift to YMCA East Surrey, you can simply add a Codicil to update your existing Will. Your solicitor will be able to help you ensure your wishes are known and acted upon.

Do I need a solicitor?

We advise you to consult a solicitor whether you're making or changing your Will. You can find a solicitor in your area at www.lawsociety.org.uk or call 020 7320 5650 (Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.30pm).

Who should I choose as executor?

When you make a Will, you need to choose your executor(s) – the people who will deal with distributing your money and property after your death. Consider whether a close friend or family member is the right person to ensure your wishes are carried out. Some people choose to pay a bank or a solicitor to act as executor.

What is inheritance tax?

Some estates are liable for inheritance tax. Currently this is a 40% tax on estates worth over £325,000 (subject to government change). Legacies to charities are free of inheritance tax. We would strongly recommend that you speak to a solicitor for advice on tax issues.

“ When my YMCA instructor at the Stroke Rehabilitation class first told me I'd be able to walk on the treadmill, I thought she was joking. It seemed completely unachievable. A year later, I am now using it regularly for a few minutes at a time. Without the help and support of the YMCA Exercise Referral team I would never have reached this milestone. The classes keep me from feeling socially isolated – it's like being part of one big extended family. ”
