

CHICKENSHED

THEATRE CHANGING LIVES

YOUR GIFT

THEIR **FUTURE**

A guide to leaving a gift in your Will

INDEX

About us Page 2

Changing lives Page 3

How your gift will help Page 5

Will making tips Page 6

A word from our legacy team Page 7

Frequently asked questions Pages 8 - 10

How to leave a gift in your Will
and wording you can use Pages 11 - 12

Letting us know if you're leaving
us a legacy Page 14





I think legacy is a very positive word. I see it as an exciting word that should be used more in society. It's like watering and keeping a plant growing. It's feeding something that is beautiful.

Jo Collins MBE, Co-Founder of Chickenshed

ABOUT US

By remembering us in your Will you can help us continue to create bold and beautiful work through our productions, performance training, education courses and outreach projects.

We've had an incredible 50 years trailblazing diversity, equality and inclusion but there's still a lot to do. It is our young limitless belief that we further, share more, and bigger change, both nationally and globally

**This is our vision,
and it's pure
JOY!**

**The GREATEST
legacy you can
leave.**



CHANGING LIVES

We're for everyone with much of our work focusing on the young people of today, and helping them create a better tomorrow.

Many are extremely vulnerable, have previously been excluded from mainstream education settings or have been marginalised by disadvantage, but are nurtured by and benefit from the inclusive nature of Chickenshed.

Chickenshed creates a safe space where people can connect emotionally to themselves, to each other and our wider community.

By working together creatively we lift each other up and create wonder out of chaos.



Chickenshed has shown me a kind of world I never knew existed; including me in a community that I never dreamed of. Before Chickenshed I always felt like I had to lay low, not draw attention to myself. Now I'm able to express myself and I'm part of a cause so much bigger than me. I feel my future now has so many more possibilities and paths to take. They have helped me be more accepting of myself and recognise that there's other people with similar stories to me. We can show the world our point of view and be recognised.

James Hicks Beech – FD Student



My life is now about being with friends. I am living my own dream. My future looks amazing and new.

Member of Chickenshed's Children's Theatre

HOW YOUR GIFT WILL HELP

Leaving a gift in your Will can help Chickenshed with:

- One to one specialist care to support young people with additional needs, ensuring each student or member is able to fully participate in all activities as part of the group.
- The cost of our in-house counselling service for young people who need extra support with difficult circumstances in their lives.
- Free and subsidised tickets for disadvantaged children who have never been to the theatre before.
Mentoring support for vulnerable students.
- The cost of staging a project, providing an unforgettable experience and a platform for young people's voices to be heard.
- The cost of our medical support team, who care for our students with complex health issues.



Chickenshed has been a part of my life for so long that I can't imagine one without it. It means family and community. I take everything that I learn and experience into all the other areas of my life. It is these experiences that make me who I am and encourage me to be better.

Toby Lyons – Youth Member

WILL MAKING

TIPS

Think about your assets

Spendsome timelisting theassets you own, their worth and whether you share ownership. You should also think about any debts and estimate their value, as these will reduce your estate. Consider how and where information about your estate is safely kept, so you can give secure access to this and have it all in one place.

Appoint roles in your Will

Your executors arethe people named in your Will who will look after your estate after your death. They can be family members/friends/ professionals or even organisations such as your bank. You need to be able to trust them implicitly to look after everything and carry out your wishes. If you're choosing a loved one, it's a good idea to discuss this with them and make sure they're happy to be appointed.

A Gift in your Will to Chickenshed

After considering your loved ones, you may wish to think about how your values can live on through supporting causes you care about.

Make sure your Will is valid

When you come to sign your Will, you need to make sure that there are two independent witnesses who can sign the document and watch you sign it. These witnesses must not be beneficiaries of your estate as this Will mean that their gift becomes invalid.

Have a think about your funeral

We know it's not easy, but it's certainly helpful for your loved ones to know how you envisage your life being celebrated. You may wish to consider having a collection for Chickenshed at your service, or an 'In Memory' JustGiving page where people can not only leave donations, but share messages, memories and photographs.

A WORD FROM OUR LEGACY TEAM

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Chickenshed.

As a charity we require £3.8 million a year to keep our doors open. £2.2 million is raised through ticket sales, membership fees, education grants, hiring our spaces and our outreach work.

£1.6 million needs to be fundraised.

Leaving us a gift in your Will can help bridge this gap and change the way we can plan for the future.



We understand that making a Will can feel daunting; there's a lot of reasons why half the nation don't ever get round to it!

This is why we'd like to help you as much as possible, by keeping it simple.

The next few pages will offer helpful information, including: FAQ's, how to leave a gift in your Will, wording you can use and Will making tips.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I make a Will?

A Will empowers you to have complete control over what happens to your money, property and possessions after your death. You can name and assign legal guardians for your young/vulnerable children. You can choose an executor who will ensure that your wishes are adhered to. Writing a Will saves your heirs time, money and emotional energy to settle your affairs once you've gone. There can also be certain tax benefits.

Writing a Will can be easier than you think and can put your mind at rest knowing that your loved ones and future generations are taken care of.

Without people like you leaving gifts to charity, places like Chickenshed would simply not exist.

What happens if I don't leave a Will?

In the absence of a valid Will, your estate will be distributed according to 'intestacy' rules determined by the government. These rules are antiquated and do not take modern family dynamics into account such as unmarried couples or step-children. This can result in your estate going somewhere you don't want it to, and create a lot of family conflict.

Most importantly, if you have not specified a legal guardian for your young/vulnerable children, the courts can decide who takes care of them.

The only way to ensure that the people and causes you love are looked after, is to make a Will.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to use a solicitor?

While anyone can write a Will, there are certain requirements to make sure it is valid, so it's essential that you take advice from a professional. Working with an SRA regulated solicitor will give you the most peace of mind, especially if your affairs are complex. You can find a list of legal professionals in your area by visiting lawsociety.org.uk. We are in touch with two local legal firms who will be happy to help you (Southgate Solicitors and Parkes Wilshire Johnson).

Will writing firms have become a popular option in recent years due to the affordability factor. If you're considering going down this route, make sure that you use a reputable firm and undertake appropriate research.

Please see our website for contact information of the above providers.

I already have a Will, how can I add a gift to Chickenshed?

You can add a 'codicil' (which is a legally binding amendment to your Will) to include additional beneficiaries.

Leaving a gift to Chickenshed can be as quick and easy as calling your solicitor, quoting our charity name and registration number (The Chicken Shed Theatre Trust, Reg No: 1012369) and letting them know how much you'd like to gift.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it true I can save money on Inheritance Tax?

Chickenshed is a registered charity which means that your legacy gift may be exempt from Inheritance Tax. If you decide to leave at least 10% of your estate to charity, the Inheritance Tax rate on the rest of your estate may reduce from 40% to 36%. We recommend that you seek advice from your financial or legal adviser.

I have more questions. How can I access free legal advice?

Chickenshed will be hosting a number of legacy information events and drop-in clinics over the course of the next year with our legal specialists.

If you would like to register your interest and for any general queries, please contact legacy@chickenshed.org.uk



“Legacy is a very important thing to leave otherwise you just live your life and then finish it. By leaving a legacy you're continuing. You're carrying on and your life will always be here at Chickenshed.

Mary Ward MBE, Co-Founder of Chickenshed

HOW TO LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

And wording you can use.

After taking care of family and friends, including a gift in your will to Chickenshed is an incredible way to celebrate your life and support the charity you love.

There are two ways that you can do this:

A Residuary Gift

This is a share of someone's estate. This type of gift guarantees a fair distribution among all the people you want to benefit.

Your solicitor can use the following wording and details to ensure that your wishes are carried out:



I give my Residuary Estate (residuary estate will need to have been defined elsewhere in the will and is a gift made after deductions of debts, taxes and expenses, which usually fall on residue) **to The Chicken Shed Theatre Trust of 290 Chase Side, Southgate, N14 4PE, Registered Charity Number 1012369.**



**Do something important with your life.
Make a difference. It's the most beautiful
thing ever.**

Emma Cambridge, Mentor, performer, alumni

HOW TO LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

And wording you can use.

A Pecuniary Gift

This is a fixed sum of money also known as a cash gift. If you would like to protect the value of your gift from diminishing over the years, you could think about index linking the sum that you give to Chickenshed. (Index linking ensures that an asset's insured value is adjusted in line with changes in inflation, deflation and the cost of living.)

Your solicitor can use the following wording and details to ensure that your wishes are carried out:



I give the sum of (£ in words and numbers) absolutely to Chicken Shed Theatre Trust of 290 Chase Side, Southgate, N14 4PE, Registered Charity Number 1012369 and I declare that the receipt of the treasurer, or any other proper authorised officer of any charity benefitting under my Will, shall be a sufficient discharge for my Trustee who shall not be concerned as to the application of any gifts or payment.

Any gift we receive, no matter the size, makes a vital contribution to our ongoing work.

Unrestricted gifts of all sizes are essential and they enable Chickenshed to use your donation wherever the need is greatest. Whilst you are, of course, welcome to leave a gift for a particular area of work, we encourage you to include the words 'general purpose' to allow Chickenshed to adapt, should a particular project no longer be running.



Chickenshed is every bit of me and means everything to me.

Member of Chickenshed's Children's Theatre

LEAVING CHICKENSHED A LEGACY?

Please let us know!

We understand that the details of your Will are a private matter and we will treat any information you give us with the strictest confidence.

If you would like to let us know that you have planned to leave Chickenshed a gift in your Will, we would love the opportunity to thank you and keep you involved with our work.

If so, please complete the form below and return to: **Chickenshed Legacy Department, Chase side, Southgate, London N14 4PE** or email legacy@chickenshed.org.uk or call on **020 8292 9222**.

Please tick the relevant boxes and we will contact you:

- I have already included a gift to Chickenshed in my Will
- I am considering leaving a gift in my Will to Chickenshed
- I would like to discuss leaving a gift to Chickenshed
- I am interested in attending one of your Legacy Information events

Please let us know how you would prefer to be contacted (*tick each that applies*) Email Phone Letter

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel No

**YOUR
GIFT**

**THEIR
FUTURE**



Chickenshed
290 Chase Side
Southgate
London
N14 4PE

T: 020 8292 9222
E: info@chickenshed.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1012369

