

# A legacy of kindness



Sisters of Charity  
Foundation



## Gifts in Wills

How would you like to  
**be remembered?**



**As someone who left  
the world a kinder,  
fairer and more  
compassionate place?**

# A life-changing gift



**Your Will reflects who you are, what you value and the contribution you would like to make to the world.**

By choosing to support the Sisters of Charity Foundation through a gift in your Will, you will be providing support to people who are struggling and need a helping hand through difficult times.

We are honoured to continue the tradition of compassion and care that the Sisters of Charity brought to our country when they first arrived here in 1838. Through their work in hospitals, schools and the community, the Sisters saw the direct impact of poverty on people's health and wellbeing and they sought innovative solutions and partnerships to bring assistance to people across many areas of need. Today, we continue this legacy through our social justice programs.

Your Will is an opportunity to ensure your beliefs and values live on. By supporting the work of the Foundation, you are bringing compassion and hope to many people in our community that are marginalised and disadvantaged. Be assured we will use your gift to create the greatest impact for the most vulnerable people among us.

We are grateful that you are thinking of including the Sisters of Charity Foundation in one of the most important documents of your life. Please contact our Gifts in Wills Manager Estelle Muller on (02) 9367 1262 or [e.muller@rscoffice.com](mailto:e.muller@rscoffice.com) if you have any questions.

**“By supporting the work of the Foundation, you are bringing compassion and hope to many people in our community that are marginalised and disadvantaged.”**

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Burton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louise M. Burton  
CEO

# A life transformed through education

**Whether large or small, a gift in your Will offers you the chance to help others after your lifetime.**

Our scholarship program gives young people from out-of-home care backgrounds the support they need to focus on their education, so they can create a better future for themselves.



Serra used her scholarship to complete a Diploma of Nursing at TAFE.

## Serra's story

"I didn't actually complete high school, I dropped out in Year 8. I went through a phase where I was hanging around bad people, I didn't have a home to live in. I couch surfed for many years.

There came a point when I finally reached out to a counsellor and social workers to help me find a safe place to live.

"I found studying quite challenging as I live independently and was working full time hours so that I could pay for my rent, my groceries and other bills. The study load was big, we had many assignments, many exams, and it was very fast-paced. Work experience was also challenging! It was confronting being in the hospital, caring for sick people and getting exposed to a clinical environment.

**"I was shocked when I came to the end of the course because I really doubted myself as I struggled so much with the studies. Now that I've actually had time to process it, it's amazing, it feels so surreal."**

"I guess I like helping people because I've been through a lot of bad experiences myself – I can relate to them. I definitely want to work with kids. Sick children, children that don't have a home. Growing up without support was hard, not receiving the love that you need as a child, but it's also made me

really strong, it's allowed me to gain independence and the drive to succeed in life.

"I would like to thank the Sisters of Charity Foundation so much for giving me this golden opportunity. It's helped me, and it's also allowed me

to help other people, so thank you."

Supporters like you are not only changing the lives of individual students but strengthening us as a nation – as these inspiring, resilient young people bring their skills and talents into the community.

# Things you should know

## **We urge you to look after your loved ones first**

We understand it's important to look after your family and friends first. It's a big decision to choose what you would like to happen in the future and firstly we want to make sure you've taken care of your loved ones in your Will. After doing this, if you feel like you might like to help future Australians and their families who are experiencing poverty and disadvantage, we would be so grateful.

## **Ongoing impact**

Many people are happy for us to use their gift for the area of most need. However, if there's a particular area of our work that speaks more deeply to you, please let us know. We will work together to ensure your gift has the greatest impact for future generations.

## **Every bequest counts**

No matter the size of your gift, remembering the Sisters of Charity Foundation in your Will can ensure that future generations facing financial hardship and disadvantage are supported.

Thanks to gifts of all sizes, the Sisters of Charity Foundation will continue to be responsive to need. We'll be supporting community projects that uplift and care for communities around the country. We will be giving dedicated, resilient young people who've experienced true hardship a chance to go to university or TAFE and imagine a new future for themselves. And we'll continue to care for the most marginalised, most vulnerable people in the the way that the Sisters of Charity have done since they first arrived in Australia.

# Innovation, independence and hope

## **Our Community Grants Program funds a wide range of services that have developed solutions to local problems.**

We help disadvantaged and under-served people by funding programs for at-risk youth, Indigenous Australians, people living with disabilities, those struggling with homelessness and poverty, the prison-affected, survivors of domestic violence and many more.

Your generosity has allowed our Foundation to support entrepreneurial organisations that have a clear and powerful vision. Fighting Chance and its sister organisations, Jigsaw and Avenue, have a vision of an Australia in which people with disability are fully included in the workforce – we have proudly supported them since 2012.

“Being different isn’t easy, and I was bullied at school – teenage girls in particular can be cruel. I hung out in the library or the computer lab,” says Sarah, who has autism.

When it came time to find a job after school Sarah, like many other people with a disability, faced an impossible challenge.



Sarah gained skills, an employment history and confidence at Jigsaw. She now has a job as Office Assistant at Fighting Chance and is excited about her future.

**“I learnt a lot and did a lot of growing up at Jigsaw,” Sarah says fondly. “I gained experience in digitisation, file management and managing my emotions and reactions – I can be a stress head! I am so much more confident now and able to advocate for myself.”**

“I applied to heaps of jobs, trying to get in the system... I wrote my own applications and expressions of

# Ways to leave a gift in your Will

There are three types of gifts you can choose from:

## A residuary bequest

After taking care of friends and family, you can leave all or a percentage of the remainder of your estate to the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

## A percentage of your estate

Leave a nominated portion or fixed percentage of your estate to the Sisters of Charity Foundation. This will remain future-proof and you'll be less likely to need to update your Will in the future.

## Cash bequest

You designate a specific amount of money to be given to the Foundation.

## Contingency bequest

A contingency bequest is conditional on a certain event occurring before distribution to the beneficiary. For example, your gift to the Sisters of Charity Foundation can take effect after the death of your spouse. In this way your spouse retains your estate for life.

## Life insurance or superannuation policies

Subject to the terms of the policies, you can make the Sisters of Charity Foundation the beneficiary of an insurance or superannuation policy.

When leaving a gift to the Sisters of Charity Foundation we encourage you to notify your loved ones. We would appreciate it if you could let us know of your decision so we can thank you in advance and keep you up to date about areas of particular interest to you.

interest to positions in everything from hospitality work to dog walking to retail, and no one was biting – absolutely no one was biting,” Sarah recalls. “I was pounding the concrete, emailing every company I could think of, putting out resumes left, right and centre, and nothing solid came of it.”

Sarah met a careers counsellor who told her about Jigsaw, a social enterprise that gives people with disability the opportunity to develop work skills in a real business, join the workforce for the first time, and use those experiences to transition into other roles.

Happily, Sarah is now well on her way towards building a secure future for herself.

# Our promise to you

- 1 We will always respect your privacy and treat your information confidentially.
- 2 We understand your family and loved ones will always come first.
- 3 We recognise it's your decision to leave a gift in your Will and you need to decide in your own time.
- 4 We would love to know if you have left a gift in your Will to the Sisters of Charity Foundation, but we understand if you would prefer not to tell us.
- 5 If you do tell us, you can decide how you would like your gift acknowledged and how we talk to you about our work in the future.
- 6 We will use your gift carefully and thoughtfully, so it has the greatest impact.
- 7 We understand that at any time you have the right to change your mind about a gift in your Will to the Sisters of Charity Foundation.
- 8 We will honour your gift with sensitivity, care and respect.

# How to word your Will



If you already have a Will and would like a gift added to the Sisters of Charity Foundation, you can speak to your solicitor about adding a codicil – a short legal amendment.

If you do not have a legal advisor, we can introduce you to one to assist you in making or amending your Will, and whose services will be provided free of charge. We encourage you to seek legal advice when preparing or amending your Will to help ensure your wishes are fulfilled and to avoid confusion after your lifetime.

You may find the following wording helpful in preparing your Will.

**I give and bequeath to the Sisters of Charity Foundation**

(ABN 99 342 873 237) of Level 7, 35 Grafton Street Bondi Junction NSW 2022 to be applied for the purposes and objects of the Sisters of Charity Foundation:

The remainder of my estate in whatever form, after payment of any debts, liabilities and taxes and after the provisions of my Will (for my family, friends and others) **have been fully paid and/or satisfied**

**OR** [insert percentage here] % **of my real estate property known as** [insert address]..... (or shares, debentures or other assets as the case may be)

**OR the sum of \$** [insert amount here]

# A history of compassion and care

## A brave mission

Moved by the plight of the needy in Ireland, in 1815 Mary Aikenhead founded the Sisters of Charity to serve those living in poverty.

The order was unenclosed, to allow the Sisters to walk with the poor and marginalised, offering practical relief and spiritual nourishment.

When Bishop Polding sent a request to Mary Aikenhead asking her to send Sisters to the most neglected portion of the Catholic world, she responded by appointing five volunteer Sisters to Australia.

In 1838 these courageous women began their ministry in Australia by assisting the convict women in the female factory at Parramatta. From these humble beginnings the Sisters of Charity continued to answer the call to ministry in hospitals, schools, prisons and social welfare activities.

## In search of social justice

In order to promote in perpetuity the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Australia, the Congregational Leader and Council established the Sisters of Charity Foundation in 2000.

The Sisters knew that while there were plenty of government-funded initiatives and established charity organisations that helped many

in our society, countless others were overlooked. The Foundation's first initiative, the Community Grants Program, was aimed at helping smaller groups who already make a big difference to those in need, so they can have an even greater impact.

The Foundation continues to take the history and values of the Sisters forward through our social justice programs.



Sr Germanus McQuillan talking with a prisoner, Long Bay Gaol, NSW ca 1980. Photo courtesy of the Congregational Archives.



Sr M. Maurus Tierney providing a meal for the unemployed in Tusculum Lane, Potts Point, 1940. Photos courtesy of the Congregational Archives.

As well as delivering funding to small community organisations offering targeted solutions to local problems, the Foundation supports some of the most vulnerable groups in our community through its programs. With your support and inspired by the work of the Sisters, we continue to step up where the need is great – whether it’s housing for a family escaping trauma and tragedy or giving young people the opportunity to achieve their potential through education.

**The focus of each program we support is different, but the goal remains the same: empowering individuals, families and communities to overcome disadvantage and achieve a better quality of life.**

# What to do next

We'd love to hear from you and we're happy to answer any questions you may have. If you would like to have a confidential discussion with our Gifts in Wills Manager Estelle Muller, please call **(02) 9367 1262** or email **[e.muller@rscoffice.com](mailto:e.muller@rscoffice.com)**



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