



# Giving the most powerful Gift

Discover how your gift could support Children in Distress

# Welcome to your gifts in wills guide

Let me start by saying thank you. Thank you for thinking about leaving a gift in your will for Children in Distress. Your kindness could help us support children and families in Romania for years to come.

Children in Distress have been working for over 30 years to provide care for Children with a range of complex neurological needs, physical disabilities, and those who need a little extra support to overcome discrimination, disadvantage, and an opportunity to change their future - or just have a future.

But for that to happen Children and families need support, they need guidance. And sometimes they just need someone to fight for them.

I just hope that after reading this guide, you might consider leaving our wonderful children a legacy in your will. It really would be the most powerful gift.

Thank you,



Simon Errington, Co-Chair Board of Trustees



# Our Powerful History

## A crisis in care

In 1989, Romania's communist regime was swept from power by the Populist Revolution. The news media showed shocking images of children abandoned in orphanages and hospitals – images so horrific that many in the UK felt moved to take action.

One of these people was the Rev. Dr. John Walmsley from St. Laurence Church Barkingside in Essex. A true visionary and driving force, Dr Walmsley took part in the first aid convoys and had the idea of creating a charity.

The Association for Helping Children in Romania was the result of this idea. For the first few years its sole focus was children with HIV/AIDS – generally shunned by society. In the years that followed, the centres and programmes expanded, setting new standards for children with neurological conditions, severe disability, and autism.

With projects increasingly being initiated in Romania, the charity structure was changed to that of a foundation and was renamed to Fundația Copii în Dificultate (Children in Distress).

## Our mission

For over 30 years our work in Romania has grown. Our initial focus of caring for children with HIV/AIDS has evolved into provision of respite, palliative and end-of-life care, and we have developed some of the best-trained and most experienced paediatric nurses in Romania.

## Our work today is focussed in three areas:

**Casa Maria** is our brand new Children's Family Home in Romania that provides care for children living with the most severe disabilities. It builds on the legacy of our flagship St Margaret's Hospice and Children's Centre.

**Jansen Community Education** Outreach, is a community-based holistic education project providing grants for 20 children over a 6-month period, each year.

**Pine View Retreat Lodge** is our vision for the future – a respite space that will encourage social integration of children and young people of mixed abilities whilst providing rest for the children with complex disabilities, parents and carers.

# What your gift could do

Once your family is taken care of, a gift of any size can make a huge difference.

**£88**

Will provide a child with a full months worth of medical care, ensuring that they receive the specialist care they require.

**£90**

Will provide a child with the much needed activities to support their health and well being as well as social and emotional development.

**£150**

Will provide the live saving medication a child needs to help manage their medical conditions.

**£240**

Will provide a child with 3 meals a day as well as snacks that are specifically designed to match their dietary and nutritional needs.

**£300**

Will provide a child with specialist therapies that are designed to help with their physical and cognitive development.

**£3,350**

Will provide a child's full care costs for the month, including food, therapies and medication as well as a safe and warm space to live at Casa Maria.

# Things to consider before leaving a gift in your will

Your gift will help us provide essential medical care, food and education to children who need it most - but before you make your decision here are a few things it might be helpful for you to know



## Why wills are so important

A will is a legal document that lets you decide what happens to your money, property and possessions after your death (including digital assets such as online accounts).

If you have children under 18 it also allows you to assign a legal guardian to look after them.

After you have provided for your family and friends, a gift in your will is an opportunity to make a final and lasting gift to a cause you care about. Essentially, it's a way of continuing the support you showed during your lifetime which helps us plan for the future.

In some cases, leaving a gift to a charity in your will can help reduce the amount of inheritance tax that needs to be paid on your estate. If you'd like to know more about this we recommend discussing it further with a legal professional.

# Types of Gift

## A share of your estate

### (Residuary Gift)

This is a percentage of everything you own, minus any debts and liabilities. This is a good thing to think about if you know you want to make a commitment but don't necessarily know what your future finances will look like.

## A cash Gift

### (Pecuniary Gift)

This is when you leave a set sum of money.

I've decided to leave a gift in my will to Children in Distress.

### What next?

If you decide to leave a gift in your will for Children in Distress, then we would recommend that you make the change of your will with the help of a solicitor or legal professional.

When you leave your gift, you will need to decide the type of gift you would like to give.

To make things as easy as straightforward as possible for you, we have provided some suggested wording used for the most common types of legacy gifts.

## A special Gift

This is when you leave a gift that is not money - like a house or a car for example.

## A postponed gift

### (Reversionary Gift)

This is when you leave a gift for someone for a period of time and then the gift goes to another beneficiary, such as a charity. For example you may wish for someone to live in your house for their lifetime, but then for it to go to charity when they pass away.

### Residuary Gift

( a percentage of your estate)

" I leave \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the residue of my real and personal estate to Children in Distress, Ladywell Business Centre, Unit 31, 94 Duke street, Glasgow, G4 0UW. Registered Charity number: SC039383"

### Pecuniary Gift

( a set sum)

" I Leave the sum of (in words)

\_\_\_\_\_

Pounds (in figures) \_£\_\_\_\_\_

To Children in Distress, Ladywell Business Centre, Unit 31, 94 Duke street, Glasgow, G4 0UW. Registered Charity number: SC039383"

## Five Simple steps to Prepare your will.

Writing your will for the first time may feel like a daunting task - but it doesn't have to be. You can start by thinking about what you own, who you want to remember and what is important to you after you're gone.

- 1. Work out the value of your estate**  
Think about everything you own, minus everything you owe. This could be property, savings or digital assets.
- 2. Choose how you would like to leave your estate**  
Make a list of the loved ones and charities you want to benefit from your estate.
- 3. If you have dependant children or pets, choose a guardian**  
Think about who you would choose to be the legal guardian of those closest to you.
- 4. Choose your executors**  
Think about who is going to manage your estate and carry out your wishes – this person will be the executor of your estate.
- 5. Make notes of any questions**  
It's good to have all of your questions in place to talk through with your solicitor or will writer.

## Our Promise to everyone who leaves Children in Distress a gift.

We're committed to helping the children and families of Romania – which is why we'll always ask people to leave something to Children in Distress, helping us so that we can continue our work in the future, and provide these children and families with the help and support that they desperately need. We will always respect, recognise and appreciate all gifts that are left to us in your will. We also realise that rightly, your family and loved ones come first and we pride ourselves in communicating with your loved ones after you pass, to express our condolences and gratitude for the legacy gift that we have received.



***With your help, we will continue***

***To cure, sometimes; To help, often; To comfort, always.***

**Contact/Donate at:**



Children in Distress, Ladywell Business Centre,  
Suite 31, 94 Duke Street, Glasgow, G4 0UW



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