

ST MARY'S

HOUSE OF WELCOME



A LASTING GIFT

to help support the chronically homeless and those who are extremely isolated and socially marginalised.

Remembering St Mary's House of Welcome in your Will.

Why leave a gift in your Will to St Mary's House of Welcome?

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will and making a lasting and invaluable commitment to make a difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Many of those who come to St Mary's House of Welcome for help experience multiple issues: sleeping rough, drug addiction, poverty, childhood trauma, mental illness, institutionalization, street drinking, all of which adds up to chronic social and health problems.

Our open-door policy means we are often the first point of contact for people when they need a place to eat, wash and access essential services. In addition to basic services, we also provide case management, psycho-social support and a comprehensive social inclusion program.



St Mary's House of Welcome only receives around 60 per cent of its funding from government. Instead, we rely on the generosity of our supporters to fund around 40 per cent of our other vital programs such as the meal service, amenities and social support activities.

Last year, we were able to provide some of the most vulnerable people in our community with:

- » **146,928** substantial, nutritious meal packs
- » Over **4,200** warm showers, toiletry packs and fresh clothing
- » Over **3,250** emergency food hampers
- » **1,000** support sessions with qualified community workers
- » **550** social inclusion activities such as art/craft, gardening, fishing and wellbeing groups.

By remembering St Mary's House of Welcome in your Will you will be helping to ensure we're there for the hundreds of people who rely on our service in the days and years to come.

We welcome you to:

- » Let us know you are thinking of leaving a gift in your Will.
- » Be acknowledged in your lifetime.
- » Visit us so we can show you through our Centre, show you what we do, and give you an opportunity to see your support in action.



Leaving a gift in your Will to support people experiencing chronic homelessness through St Mary's House of Welcome is an extraordinary act of kindness and a powerful reflection of your lasting commitment to helping some of the most disadvantaged members of our community. Your legacy is an investment in the future of effective services and programs for those who are sleeping rough, homeless and vulnerable in Melbourne.

Megan's Story



A Fitzroy local and supporter of St Mary's House of Welcome for more than eight years, Megan has seen first-hand people sitting outside our centre, waiting for food and support.

'It reminds me that not everyone is as fortunate as me'.

'St Mary's House of Welcome do fabulous work in supporting disadvantaged people in the local community. I already support St Mary's House of Welcome every year, and leaving a gift in my Will seemed the logical next (last) opportunity to provide that support. I feel my contribution is fairly small versus the obvious need, but I know it will help to provide someone with a safe haven, and hopefully, to get back on their feet'.

Megan has shared her decision with her loved ones and they fully support her decision. 'I hope if they are ever in a position to contribute, they feel empowered to support as well'.

'Leaving a gift in my Will seemed the logical next opportunity to provide support.'

How to leave a gift in your Will

We recommend that you speak to your solicitor or legal practitioner before making a Will. They can advise you on how best to ensure your wishes and intentions are met.

Types of gifts:

- » **Residuary:** A residual gift is what is left of your estate or percentage thereof after your loved ones have been provided for and expenses have been deducted.
- » **Specific:** A gift of a specific item such as shares or property.
- » **Pecuniary:** A specific sum of money.
- » **Percentage:** A percentage gift of the residual or entire estate.

Wording for your solicitor

"I give and bequeath to St Mary's House of Welcome (ABN: 54 050 278 754) for its general purposes, free of all duties:

The residue, or ____% of my residual estate / ____% of my entire estate after other gifts have been distributed, or

The sum of \$ _____, or _____
(item/asset)"



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I add a gift to St Mary's House of Welcome to my existing Will?

Yes, you can make changes to your existing Will. Simply consult your solicitor to create a Codicil. Often certain life events trigger changes to be made to your existing Will such as marriage, having a child or buying a house. These are good times to consider adding a gift in your Will to the causes that are important to you.

Do I have to notify St Mary's House of Welcome that I have left a gift in my Will?

We would like the opportunity to be able to thank you personally but You are under no obligation to let us know your intentions. We understand that this is a very personal decision and we will treat your decision and information with the strictest confidence.

How do I leave a gift in my Will and take care of my loved ones?

Taking care of loved ones is an important consideration for many of us. After remembering them you can consider leaving a gift to St Mary's House of Welcome. We recommend sharing your intentions with friends and family so that they understand why supporting the chronically homeless is important to you.

How will my gift help?

Every bequest helps us enable future generations of people who are homeless, disadvantaged and socially isolated to be nourished and safe, to have practical support and to find hope, experience belongingness and achieve to their full potential.

Does it matter the size of the gift?

St Mary's House of Welcome is incredibly grateful for all gifts, big or small, knowing they make a real difference to the lives of people who are chronically homeless or extremely isolated. Even a residual gift of 5% can have a significant impact on people's lives now and in the future.



Gift in Will Intention form

I am pleased to confirm that I have included St Mary's House of Welcome in my Will.

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

My Gift

- The residue of my estate
- ___% of my residual estate / ___% of my entire estate
- The sum of \$ _____
- Specific Item or Asset _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to St Mary's House of Welcome at:
PO Box 60, Fitzroy, VIC 3065 or email fundraising@smhow.org.au



