What will your name stand for?

Leave a lasting legacy
Leonard was an outstanding leader of the 617 Squadron and risked his life protecting his country. He never wavered and never left a man behind. He had so much courage and determination, qualities that survived the war and lived on in his humanitarian work.

His journey started when he took a dying man, Arthur Dykes, into his home. With no money, Leonard nursed Arthur himself. His dying wish to Leonard was that ‘if somebody else comes along, whoever it might be, don’t turn him away’. So Leonard never did.

Leonard’s legacy...

After the Second World War, RAF pilot Leonard Cheshire decided that he owed his fallen comrades ‘a duty... to build a more liveable world’. 2017 would have marked his one hundredth birthday, and in his centenary year, his legacy lives on more than ever.
...became our legacy

These humble beginnings – one man, one kind act – turned into one vision and one charity, known today as Leonard Cheshire.

Today we support individuals to live, learn and work as independently as they choose, whatever their ability. We’re at the heart of local life – opening doors to opportunity, choice and support in communities around the globe.

You too can change the world for disabled people, like Leonard did. Just by leaving us a gift in your will.

‘[We] need to set our sights high, to be satisfied with nothing less than the best, and to commit ourselves totally and unreservedly to participate in the struggle to build a more liveable world.’

Leonard Cheshire
RAF pilot – and our founder
A legacy across the UK

All of our work started with just one compassionate man. Last year in the UK we provided a range of residential support for 3,500 disabled people. We also supported 6,500 people to learn new skills, gain experience and find work. And we campaigned to create a better world for the 1 in 6 of us who are disabled.

Will you help us make sure we are always there for disabled people by leaving a gift in your will?
‘You hear of horrific things happening to people, but you never expect it to happen to you.’

‘Being at Leonard Cheshire was great for me and helped me develop my confidence.’
Jonathan

As the most decorated RAF pilot of the day, Leonard Cheshire knew that fighting for a cause takes determination. Jonathan knows it too.

When he became paralysed from the neck down after catching bacterial meningitis, at first he just wanted to give up.

But then Jonathan found hope and support at a Leonard Cheshire care home. He benefited from round-the-clock care from nurses and staff.

We made sure Jonathan received the expert care that makes the ordinary and the extraordinary possible.

Now, Jonathan has regained his confidence, and with his new-found determination he has recently achieved a university degree.

This is what a gift in your will can do for people like Jonathan. Every day.
A gift in your will could allow more disabled children to enjoy school and learn the skills they will need to provide for themselves and their families in the future.
A worldwide legacy

Leonard Cheshire worked just as hard to help disabled people overseas as he did in the United Kingdom.

As a testament to his hard work in India, one of the many countries he worked in, he was called ‘the greatest man since Ghandi’ by Indian Prime Minister Nehru.

We carry on Leonard Cheshire’s commitment to help people all over the world. Today, we are part of a global network of more than 200 locally funded Cheshire organisations in 54 countries.

By working with local communities, last year we helped nearly 3,700 disabled children in Africa and Asia to get the education they deserve.

Take Gurston in Kenya. He was severely bullied by children as well as adults about his spine curvature, until his school refused to let him attend.

We enrolled Gurston onto our inclusive education programme and supported him through school, where he made strong friendships, learned new skills and built up his confidence. He developed a passion for music and is now building a career in the music industry.
Arthur’s story

Arthur is leaving an amazing legacy – a gift in his will to Leonard Cheshire.

Leonard Cheshire’s commitment to achieving opportunity and independence for disabled people led him to establish the charity over 70 years ago. His values of kindness and compassion live on through the charity’s supporters today. Supporters like Arthur.

Leonard was Arthur’s boyhood hero ever since he read ‘Bomber Pilot’, Leonard Cheshire’s book about his experiences in the RAF. As a student in Plymouth, Arthur met Leonard when he gave a lecture at his college. Leonard’s vision of peace, making the world a better place and the example he set inspired Arthur. He went on to become a policeman, keeping the peace in his local community for over 30 years.

Flight Lieutenant Leonard Cheshire with his crew, RAF 35 Squadron in 1941
As well as his connection to Leonard, Arthur was motivated to support the charity after seeing first hand what disabled people can achieve with the right support. After retiring from the police force, Arthur worked at an agricultural college, Pathfinders. The students at the college had a range of different disabilities, and Arthur says they were ‘a delight and a pleasure to work with.’

When Arthur was writing his will it felt natural to him to leave a gift to the charity which his hero, Leonard, had founded. His personal experience of working with disabled people helped to reinforce his decision. Arthur feels that making a gift in a will is a very personal decision for someone to make – one that should reflect their own lives and values, and the things that are important to them.

‘In 2017 I had a dream come true: flying in a two seater Spitfire at Biggin Hill, even taking the controls at one point. I’m truly blessed and want to continue my support for Leonard Cheshire “from the clouds” through a gift in my will.’
Arthur
Leonard Cheshire and David Jones have something in common. They have both left a legacy that is helping disabled people to live full and happy lives.

David Jones left a gift in his will to Leonard Cheshire. In Danybryn residential home, near Cardiff, David's gift has provided an exercise bike for residents.

Laura Smith was left unable to walk independently after a childhood illness. But now she's at Danybryn residential home and David's gift is helping her to make those once impossible steps.

Laura walks with a frame now and is determined that, because of David's gift, she'll soon be able to take even more steps with even less assistance.

To people like you and David, to every one of you who leaves a gift in your will, Laura says a huge thank you.

David's legacy

Leonard Cheshire and David Jones have something in common. They have both left a legacy that is helping disabled people to live full and happy lives.

David Jones left a gift in his will to Leonard Cheshire. In Danybryn residential home, near Cardiff, David's gift has provided an exercise bike for residents.

Laura Smith was left unable to walk independently after a childhood illness. But now she's at Danybryn residential home and David's gift is helping her to make those once impossible steps.

Laura walks with a frame now and is determined that, because of David's gift, she'll soon be able to take even more steps with even less assistance.

To people like you and David, to every one of you who leaves a gift in your will, Laura says a huge thank you.

‘At first I started on level 1 and now I am up to level 15 ... it’s helping me to realise my dream of being able to walk again.’

Laura
Your legacy

We all want to make sure our loved ones are cared for when we are no longer around to look out for them. But could you leave an extra gift to help Leonard Cheshire support generations of disabled people to come?

Your gift could pay for a minibus to take disabled people out into their communities. Or for exercise equipment that could support a disabled person to walk for the first time. Or for a new garden for residents at one of our homes to enjoy.

It’s not easy to decide what to leave in your will. So we’re here to help you with the process.

These are the types of gifts that you can pass on:

- A ‘residuary gift’ is a percentage of your estate that can be left to Leonard Cheshire, after other gifts and taxes have been paid. This is the simplest type of gift, as it doesn’t affect any specific sums of money you have left to your loved ones.

- A ‘pecuniary gift’ is a specific sum of money you can gift to us, which can be as large or as small as you like. Every penny adds up and your gift will make a huge difference to the lives of disabled people, no matter how much you leave.

Speak to our gifts in wills team for more information:
☎️ 020 3242 0418
✉️ giftsinwills@leonardcheshire.org
A legacy that lasts

Leonard Cheshire was determined to bring about real change and create a better world for disabled people. One hundred years after his birth, we make sure that his character lives on, in our work and through the people we support.

In 2017-18 we directly supported 10,000 people in the UK. That's 10,000 people who benefited from our care and support when they needed it most.

Be part of Leonard's legacy and your legacy will last too. Leaving a gift in your will helps us to support even more disabled people for years to come, and improve lives all over the world.

Even 1% of your estate could help a disabled person to live a fulfilling life.
When you remember us in your will, we will remember you too by writing your name in our Book of Remembrance, kept in pride of place at our central office. We are happy to discuss with you how you would like to be remembered at your local service.

You will have made a permanent impact on the world with your gift and it will never be forgotten.

Remember us and we’ll remember you
I’ve made my decision, what do I do next?

You’ve done the hard part and made the decision, now we’re here to help you. Below we’ve provided suggested wording to use in your will, so it’s easy for you to make the next steps.

If you’re planning to leave a residuary gift:

‘I give to Leonard Cheshire of 66 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL, charity registration no 218186 and Scottish registered charity no SC005117 all [or ......% share] of my residuary estate for its general charitable purposes. I declare that the receipt of the duly authorised Officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors.’

If you’re planning to leave a pecuniary gift:

‘I give to Leonard Cheshire of 66 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL, charity registration no 218186 and Scottish registered charity no SC005117 free of all tax the sum of £... for its general charitable purposes. I declare that the receipt of the duly authorised Officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors.’

If you are planning on leaving a gift to an area of our work, or to one of our services, we can suggest wording to use so please get in touch. A short paragraph of text in your will can go a long way. A few words from you can become years of happiness for a disabled person.
Gifts in wills, large or small, make up nearly half of our donations, so your gift is hugely important to disabled people in the UK and overseas.

Leave a legacy today.
For more information, advice and queries, get in touch with our gifts in wills team:

☎️ 020 3242 0418
@d giftsinwills@leonardcheshire.org
leonardcheshire.org/giftsinwills

This leaflet can be made available in alternative formats, including large print, audio and braille. Please contact us for more information.