

Thank you
David



Leave a **legacy** of hope and **mercy**



My legacy gift to a ship with 'a cargo of mercy'



Dear Mercy Ships supporter,

On 29th March 2007, I stood on the north bank of the River Tyne watching the Africa Mercy hospital ship embark on her journey to deliver health and healing to some of the world's poorest people.

I had followed her refit at the A&P yard over a number of years and visited the ship on several occasions.

Over a decade later, the Africa Mercy is still continuing to bring hope, healing and joy to thousands of adults and children who through no fault of their own cannot afford medical care.

I love the work of Mercy Ships. So as I enter into the final season of my life, it seems a natural progression for me to include a gift for Mercy Ships in my Will - a gift that I hope will benefit so many people in the years and decades to come.

In material terms, my house is my most valuable asset, and it is my intention to leave the proceeds from its sale after my death to those who desperately need a chance to live a life free from pain and suffering.

For me this is a moral commitment. Having made this decision, I feel a sense of peace and satisfaction from knowing that my legacy gift in some way will redress the obscene imbalance in our world's wealth.

I hope that as you think about how your legacy will impact the lives and stories of other people that you too will consider including a gift to Mercy Ships in your Will.

Finally, my legacy gift is also my way of saying 'thank you and keep up the good work' to all the amazing volunteers who donate their time and expertise to Mercy Ships.

May you continue to save and change countless lives in the years to come,

David P. Normanton



Why leave a legacy gift to Mercy Ships?



It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the needs of people living in poor countries who often lack the means and opportunities to access any form of healthcare. Some are forced to struggle with pain and disabilities all their lives. Others must save up for years before they are able to see a doctor or a specialist. And even then, only a few get a chance to be healed.

Since its beginnings in 1978 Mercy Ships has set out to change this situation for some of the world's poorest people by giving them free access to healthcare, regardless of race, gender or religion.

"...daily, people streamed up the gangway for plastic surgery and eye treatments – infants born with cleft palates, faces bulging with tumours, children grossly disfigured... people of all ages blinded by cataracts.

For many the Mercy Ship was their only hope."

Lord Ian McColl,
volunteering with Mercy Ships in The Gambia, 2002

Mercy Ships is an international, faith-based organisation that gives ordinary people from all walks of life the opportunities to save or change lives through volunteering and giving generously.

Everyone onboard the *Africa Mercy* - the hospital ship run by Mercy Ships - including the captain, officers, doctors, surgeons, nurses, lab technicians, cooks and engine room crew are volunteers who pay to be on the ship. These caring and talented men and women tirelessly do their bit, and then a bit more, to help those who are suffering.

But what they do is only possible because of the generosity of supporters like you.

Every time you give to Mercy Ships you enable us to take our 'floating hospital' to places where thousands of people desperately need urgent medical care.

By including Mercy Ships in your Will, like David has done, you would enable us to continue to send our 'cargo of mercy' to some of the poorest countries in the world in the years to come.

Your legacy could provide the operating tools, the medicines and other basic supplies volunteer doctors and nurses can use to save countless lives. **Thanks to your generosity countless children and adults will receive the precious gift of a life free from pain and suffering.**

How your legacy gift could be



To save the lives of children like **Djaliou**

"My son will die without surgery please help him live." This is what Sara told one of our nurses when she came to the ship to register her five-month-old son for surgery.

Djaliou was born with a tumour mass on his tongue. Whenever he inhaled, his tiny ribcage shuddered as if he was taking his last breath. Our doctors operated on him and were able to save Djaliou's life. Today he is a healthy and happy boy with the prospect of a long, healthy life ahead of him.

Since 1978, Mercy Ships has provided 89,000 life-changing and life-saving surgeries to patients like Djaliou, in 55 developing countries.



A legacy gift of £20,000

would enable our skilled team of doctors and nurses to save the lives of hundreds of children like Djaliou. Your legacy will live on in the lives of these children and their families whose burden of pain and anxiety you have lifted forever.



To help desperate people like **Sambany**

Sambany heard about Mercy Ships on the radio and believed we could help him. Six people carried Sambany on their backs. They walked for two days to reach the ship.

"It was frustrating to see Sambany's face." said Dr Gary Parker, one of surgeons. ***"What could have been a basic surgery had now become a very difficult one because he couldn't access the care he needed."***

There was a significant chance that he would not survive the operation but Sambany was not afraid. He knew that Mercy Ships was his last hope.

Sambany's operation was successful and when he woke up the next morning he could not believe how his face looked.



A legacy gift of £50,000

would enable our medical team to provide free surgeries to hundreds of patients like Sambany who would never be able to afford such services. By leaving a legacy gift to Mercy Ships you are giving fragile, desperate people like Sambany a chance to live a normal life again.

used to save and change lives

To train local healthcare professionals

When she was 12 years old, Dr. Fifonsi Odry Agbessi, Benin's only plastic-reconstructive surgeon, saw a woman who had been burned with acid. The woman's skin had fused together, pinning her chin to her chest. ***"There was not one plastic surgeon to help her in Benin,"*** says Dr Agbessi. ***"I was so touched by her plight that at that moment I chose my future profession."***

When the *Africa Mercy* was in Benin in 2009 Dr Agbessi came onboard to be mentored by our plastic surgery team. And she returned to the ship again in 2017 during our second visit to Benin.

She relishes every opportunity to learn new things and to share what she has learnt with groups of nurses who attend her courses at Benin's largest teaching hospital. She firmly believes that when you are given a gift you are meant to share it. And that is exactly what she's doing.

Since 1978 our medical teams have trained over 6,000 healthcare professionals like Dr Agbessi. We impart valuable medical knowledge they can share with others. Also we aim to improve the surgical procedures in poor countries.



A legacy gift of £100,000

could help send the *Africa Mercy* to one of the poorest countries in the world, where we can provide urgent medical care and train local doctors and nurses to do surgeries and other medical procedures that can save people's lives.

To equip a new ship to impact more lives

In 2021 a new 'ship of mercy' will be serving alongside the *Africa Mercy*. This new ship which is being built in China will more than double our ability to save and change tens of thousands more lives in some of the poorest countries of the world.



The 11-deck, 37,000 GRT hospital ship will contain six operating theatres, more than 190 hospital beds, accommodation for more than 640 crew members, and onboard training facilities.

"By expanding our Mercy Ships fleet, together we can create a lasting legacy of transformation and hope in the lives of individuals and the countries we serve. I pray that you will continue to partner with us in this incredible mission."

Lea Milligan, Executive Director, Mercy Ships UK

A legacy gift of £250,000

could help equip the new ship with diagnostic equipment like medical imaging machines; treatment equipment like infusion pumps, medical lasers and surgical operation tools; or life-support equipment that will be used to offer safe medical procedures to thousands of people.

Our promise to you

We truly appreciate that the process of leaving a gift to a charity in your Will is a personal and sensitive one, which is why we promise to you:

1

We will answer any questions you might have about Mercy Ships honestly and quickly.

2

We will never pressurise you – making or amending a Will are big decisions so please take all the time you need.

3

We understand that your loved ones come first and we will never try to change that.

4

We promise to use your special gift wisely and effectively.

5

We promise you absolute confidentiality by keeping all the information you share with us in the strictest confidence.

6

We will tell you how your legacy gift could be used to the maximum benefit of the people we serve.

If you want to talk to us about how you want your legacy gift to be used please contact our Legacy officer at any time.

7

We respect your right to privacy – you do not have to tell us of your decision.

Frequently asked questions

Why should I make a Will?

A Will is the best way to ensure your wishes are carried out after your death. If you die without a Will, your money, property and possessions might not go to the people you care about or any charities that you have enjoyed supporting. Making a Will legally states how you want your estate to be divided up, and these wishes will be carried out.

Isn't it better for me to give to Mercy Ships now, rather than wait until I die?

We are grateful for all your generous gifts to Mercy Ships, no matter when you decide to make them. Some people choose to give during their lifetime and also include a legacy gift in their Will. Other people are unable to support us as much as they wish in their lifetime but leave Mercy Ships a share of their estate to help fund our future work.

Can I add Mercy Ships to my existing Will?

Yes you can. If you simply wish to add a gift to Mercy Ships you can do so by including a codicil with your current Will. A codicil is a form that lets you add an extra gift without having to update your Will. You need to ask your solicitor or a legal professional about this to ensure the process is carried out correctly.

Can I change my mind?

Of course you can. Your Will is your document and you can include, exclude, add or remove whomever you wish. If you change your mind or if your personal circumstances change, you are free to change your Will as many times as you wish.

Can I choose what my gift is spent on?

If you request your gift to be used for general purposes, we can use it where the need is greatest when the gift comes to us, which could be 10 or 20 years after the original Will is made.

If, however, you wish for your gift to be used to fund an area of our work that is close to your heart, please contact our Legacy Officer. They will talk you through the options available and the necessary wording to ensure the gift you write into your Will benefits Mercy Ships in the way you wish and will be valid in years to come.

Should I tell you that I have included Mercy Ships in my Will?

If you feel able to let us know you have written a gift in your Will to us, we can thank you and also make sure we don't ask you about this type of giving again.

Contact our Legacy Officer
Email: legacy@mercyships.org.uk
Tel: 01438 727800

How to include Mercy Ships in your Will



If you are considering including a gift to Mercy Ships in your Will, it is very important that you speak to your solicitor who can advise you about the right procedure and the tax efficient ways of including a charity in your Will.

If you have not made a Will yet we have a special partnership with a scheme called **The National Free Wills Network** that enables you and your partner to make your Wills for free, using qualified solicitors within reasonable travelling distance of where you live.

The Free Wills Network offers a free will-writing service - for a 'Simple', or 'Mirror' Will for couples, or to amend a Will by a Codicil - for supporters of all ages. Additional work may be chargeable. To find out more please call **01438 727800** or email: legacy@mercyships.org.uk

You don't have to include a gift to Mercy Ships in your Will, but we do hope you will consider it, after you have provided for your loved ones.

Anyone can include a legacy gift to Mercy Ships in their Will. Every gift, no matter how large or small, can help to take our 'floating hospital' to serve some of the world's poorest people.

If you have already written your Will and wish to leave a charitable gift to Mercy Ships, you can request and complete a codicil form available from your solicitor. Once you have completed and signed it you can ask your solicitor to keep it alongside your original Will.

To leave a legacy gift to Mercy Ships, you will need to use these charity details when wording your Will:

Mercy Ships UK
The Lighthouse
12 Meadway Court
Stevenage
SG1 2EF

Registered Charity No: 1053055. Registered Charity in Scotland No. SC039743. Company No: 3147724 (England and Wales)

Here are some types of legacy gift can you leave:

- **A share of your estate.** After you have provided for your loved ones, you can leave a share of what remains to charity. You can specify a percentage or share of the estate. This is known as a 'residuary gift'.
- **A cash gift.** This is when you leave a specific sum of money to us. This is known as a 'pecuniary gift'.
- **A specific gift.** If you wish to leave a certain valuable item or artefact to Mercy Ships you should consider adding it to your will as a specific legacy gift.
- **A gift in trust.** You can leave a gift for someone to use over a period of time. When the time has ended, the gift can be passed on to other recipients, such as a charity.

"Generous legacy gifts have provided the essential support needed to conduct thousands of life-changing operations in countries like Madagascar, Benin, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The generosity and compassion of donors who leave a gift in their Will is vital to our future of giving young and old patients the chance to live normal and happy lives."

Dr Peter Linz,
Mercy Ships International Chief Medical Officer

Leave a legacy of **hope** and **mercy**

Please complete the form and return it to us.

I would like to bring hope and healing to those who are suffering by including a legacy gift to Mercy Ships in my Will.

(Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ I have already included Mercy Ships in my Will
- ☐ I intend to include a gift to Mercy Ships in my Will
- ☐ I would like more information about the Free Wills Network scheme
- ☐ I am unable to include Mercy Ships in my Will at this time
- ☐ I would like to talk to someone about including a gift to Mercy Ships in my will. Please contact me using the phone number or address below

Address details

Full Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

We will never share your details with another charity for fundraising and marketing purposes.

Thank You.



Please note that this pledge is not legally binding and does not commit you to leaving a legacy to Mercy Ships. It is simply a statement of your intent at this time and any information you provide is confidential.

It is certainly not essential that you tell us of your decision to include Mercy Ships in your Will, but it would be a real encouragement to us.



Since 1978 thanks to the generosity of people like you:



89,000
free and life-changing
operations have
been carried out on
children and adults



420,000
dental
procedures
have been
carried out



40,800
local professionals
have been
trained in different
countries



223,000
local people have
been equipped
with basic
healthcare skills



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Mercy Ships UK, The Lighthouse, 12 Meadway Court, Stevenage SG1 2EF
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