

Your legacy. **My future.**

**Brighten the
future for blind
children with a
gift in your Will**



RSBC

Royal Society for Blind Children



**FOREWORD BY
DAME JUDI DENCH, CH, DBE**

As an actor, I have always valued the gift of sight and how much the visual world plays in our lives. However, it wasn't until experiencing an impairment in my own vision that I came to more fully understand some of the challenges that blind and partially sighted people have to overcome, and how vital the support and encouragement of other people can be.

For nearly two centuries, the Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC) has been supporting blind and partially sighted children and young people to live a life without limits. RSBC believes no child in the UK should grow up to be poor and lonely just because they are blind.

RSBC recognises that parents will need immediate support from the point of a sight loss diagnosis. The earlier a family are empowered to help, the greater their confidence and the greater the well-being of their child. Until they are old

enough to understand how other people live, a life without sight is normal to a vision impaired child. They will not feel limited until someone teaches them otherwise.

RSBC are there to ensure that does not happen. They are there to help a blind child grow-up with the skills and confidence they need for them to flourish and fulfil their dreams and ambitions.

If you are considering remembering a charity in your Will, I do hope that you can support RSBC's vital work to change the lives of children like Liam, whose inspirational story you will read in this booklet. Whatever you decide, please take time to make a Will. It may be of crucial importance to loved ones and it is comforting to know that they are provided for.

Judi Dench

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN MAKE SURE THAT **EVERY BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS**

For nearly two centuries, the RSBC family has been giving blind children the courage and skills to live life without limits. By leaving a gift in your Will, you will be joining a community of others that, with a simple act of generosity, are ensuring that the future of blind children is a brighter one.



1950s A young girl learns Braille at RSBC.



RSBC offered piano tuning services in the Victorian era.



1970s a group of cubs from Dorton School raised £8,000 for the Leprosy Relief Association by climbing Mount Snowdon.



1954 Dorton House opens. Our annual sports days enabled pupils to strive for success.



HRH The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Dorton House in Seal to open Dorton College.



MEET LIAM, GRANDMA'S LITTLE CHAMPION

A gift in your will has the power to transform lives, like that of two year old Liam.

Liam was born with a genetic condition making him almost completely blind from birth.

A new born baby is a life changing event at the best of times, but Liam's parents found it very challenging to cope with a new baby and one with severe sight loss.

But with gifts in Wills, we are able to support families like Liam's with a dedicated Family Practitioner

His grandmother, Anita, who helps support Liam in his care had this to say about Rose, Liam's Family Practitioner.

"Liam always has a smile on his face when Rose comes to visit. She has become a really important part of his life and he is growing into a happy and confident toddler."

However, Rose is not just supporting Liam, but also his family and especially Liam's mum who says "I don't know where we would be without her help."

"Right from the start, she has been there for us, helping us to cope emotionally and bring the best out of Liam. She always listens and never judges. **It's easier to see a future for Liam now.**"

LEAVE A GIFT OF LIGHT IN YOUR WILL

1. Family comes first:

RSBC's Families First service can be on hand from the moment families hear the news to offer practical advice and emotional support so that parents can build an understanding of sight loss, adapt to it and build the self-belief that their family can live beyond it.



2. Providing the building blocks:

With your help, blind young people can achieve their full potential in the right learning environment. Dorton College, our popular specialist institute, delivers an inclusive and mainstream education programme, giving our students the perfect platform from which to grow.



3. Building friendships and character:

Through our extensive social groups, sport and well-being clubs, and creative programmes, blind young people will learn new skills, make friends and enjoy experiences that will boost their confidence.

4. Giving young people the best chance:

Too many blind young people are facing poverty and unemployment. Our Employment service provides bespoke training on topics such as CV writing, assistive technology and interview skills as well as work placements to give the best possible chance of finding employment.





WHY A GIFT IN YOUR WILL MATTERS

Every day four children in the UK will be diagnosed with a vision impairment. Without the kindness of people leaving a gift in their Will to RSBC, we simply would not be able to offer families the support we do today and in the future. These special gifts fund so much of our work to help parents understand their children's needs. There really is no better gift than giving a child the best start in life.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: How can I be sure that my gift will make a difference?

A: You can be certain that we will use your gift in the most impactful way possible. Your gift will always be used where the need is greatest, whether that is to fund more Family Practitioners to help more families like Liam's, to provide more clubs and activities for young people or to develop new education programmes to improve the lives of our students at Dorton College.

Q: Can I be sure the RSBC will still be here?

A: Of course! We've been around in one form or another for nearly two centuries and there is still so much work that we need to do. Whether it's expanding our Health and Well-being programme or growing our Social and Peer groups, we don't plan on going anywhere for a long time to come.

Q: How will my family feel if I leave a gift in my Will to RSBC?

A: Your decision to leave a gift in your Will to RSBC is something your family can be proud of. We always recommend talking to your family about your wishes and there are various ways in which you can leave a gift. Please see our section on 'What can you donate in your Will' on page 10.

Q: Can I afford to leave a gift in my Will?

A: Leaving a gift of any size is an amazing commitment to improving the life of a blind child. After making provision for your family and friends, do

consider leaving a gift to the RSBC in your Will. Any sum left, however large or small, will be used to make sure that no child in the UK grows up to be poor or lonely just because they are blind.

“Thank you to RSBC for the amazing work you do to help young blind people. We have always been happy to support such a worthwhile cause.” –

Nicola and Trevor



WHAT CAN YOU DONATE IN YOUR WILL?

There are several ways to leave a gift in your Will:

A residuary legacy – a gift of all, or part, of what is left after all other legacies, debts, tax and costs have been paid. The benefit of a residuary legacy is that it isn't devalued over time by inflation. As your estate increases so will the value of the legacy.

A pecuniary legacy – a gift of a specified sum of money.

A specific legacy – a gift of a specific item such as a painting, a piece of jewellery, or a car.

We do not suggest the wording for any gift you may wish to leave to RSBC in your Will (your solicitor will do that) but we do ask you please to quote our name and charity number as the Royal Society for Blind Children (registered charity no. 307892).

Free Wills, valuable advice

Make your Will with our partners, **Farewill.**

Farewill offer free wills and valuable advice. Their simple and convenient service allows you to make the right will for you in the way that best suits you – online, or over the phone.

You can take the first step by starting their online interview at any time.

The detailed guidance throughout the process will help you to consider everything you need to think about when making a will, and to identify any issues where expert legacy advice could be valuable.

Start making your will online today at: <https://farewill.com/rsbc-web/>

THANK YOU

Gifts in Wills are a very special and personal way in which to help blind children and give them a brighter future. We are so grateful to the many people who have supported our work in this way in the past and for the difference their legacies have made.

If you are thinking about leaving a gift in your Will and have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch – either using the form attached, or the telephone or email details below.

If you have already included RSBC in your Will and would like to let us know, we would love to hear from you. Any information you give will remain confidential to RSBC and will, of course, not be binding, but we would very much like to stay in touch and to keep you updated with the latest news about our work. We would also like to have the opportunity to express our appreciation and warmest thanks.

To find out more about our work please visit rsbc.org.uk or call 020 3198 0225

Disclaimer

The information in this booklet is general information and it is not designed to cover every situation. It is based on our understanding of the law in England and Wales at the time of publication, however legal rules may change. We have sought to ensure the information in this booklet is accurate and helpful, but RSBC can accept no liability for any errors that may occur.

For specific advice, we recommend that you contact your solicitor or professional advisor.

If you'd like to know more about our services, and how we can help blind children and their families, we'd love to have a chat with you.

Get in touch:

W: rsbc.org.uk

T: 020 3198 0225

E: giftsinwills@rsbc.org.uk

RSBC

Royal Society for Blind Children