

Your will: a gift that lasts forever

Your guide to all you need to know about leaving a gift in your will to Sightsavers

Photo © Sightsavers/Jason J Mulikita



Sightsavers

A message from Mary's surgeon

"Mary's sight had gone blurry at least a year before our team met her, but her vision had got so bad, she struggled to help at home, play with friends or even read at school. She was often teased, and at just 10 years old, she spent most of her time alone.

"When our teams finally brought her to the hospital, I could see that cataracts were stealing her sight – and threatening her chances for the future.

"We restored Mary's vision in one, straightforward procedure. Her transformation was incredible – it was like seeing a different girl! She had such a beautiful smile and she was bursting with energy, just like a 10-year-old should be.

"To make such a difference to children's lives is the biggest reward. Every day I get to wake up knowing I'll make a real difference to someone in poverty, who could go on to become a doctor or future leader – all because of people like you. So thank you, for helping to transform lives in my country.

"I feel so lucky to do what I do. I get to help children like Mary escape blindness, so they have the chance to follow their dreams. And I get to be there when a child opens their eyes, and sees the world again.

"Saving sight is a team effort and we just can't do it without supporters like you."



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "G Msukwa".

Dr Gerald Msukwa,
Paediatric Surgeon,
Queen Elizabeth,
Central Hospital,
Blantyre,
Malawi



Photos throughout unless stated otherwise

You can help a child like Mary follow her dreams



You and Sightsavers: a shared mission

Our vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes, and where people with disabilities participate equally in society.



Ophthalmic nurse Ndumeso Ndlovu screens children as part of Sightsavers programme to eliminate trachoma in Binga, Zimbabwe.



Protecting sight

We prevent sight loss and avoidable blindness in some of the poorest parts of the world by treating conditions such as cataracts and fighting debilitating eye diseases.



Disability rights

We promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities, and we campaign for disability rights so everyone has the chance to go to school, earn a living and be happy.



Working locally

We work with governments around the world to tackle the problems at the root of avoidable blindness, and we work with local communities to support people who need it most.

You can help make miracles happen

For more than 75 years Sightsavers has been working to prevent avoidable blindness in some of the least developed areas of Africa and Asia. In this time, thanks to our supporters and partners, we've delivered 9.76 million sight-restoring cataract operations, provided 1.85 billion treatments to protect against neglected tropical diseases like river blindness and trachoma and trained 3.65 million dedicated health workers, teachers and volunteers

Each of these numbers represent people whose lives have been changed. You can be part of this change in the years to come with a gift in your will.

After you've taken care of your loved ones, we'd be very grateful if you'd consider leaving a gift – large or small – in your will to Sightsavers and leaving the world a brighter place for those at risk of sight loss.

Writing your will and planning for the future is one of the most important things you can do and Sightsavers would be delighted to help you with making or updating your will at no cost to you. Sightsavers has partnered with LawOnline to allow you make your will or update an existing will for free online, in a series of easy-to-follow steps – all from the comfort of your own home.

We have also partnered with Free Wills Network to help put you in direct contact with a local solicitor who can then support and advise you on making or updating your will. Again this is a free service: there is no obligation to leave a gift to Sightsavers in using these services. We would only ask that you consider giving the gift of sight.

You can read more on both these services and on the value of legacy giving to Sightsavers in the pages that follow. Making your will is of course a personal matter – it is something to take time and careful consideration over. I would be delighted to help you in any way or answer any questions you may have, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by calling 01 271 0021 or emailing me on legacies@sightsavers.ie.

Thank you,



Declan White
Fundraising manager
Sightsavers Ireland





“The most important thing is that I can see my wife, my children and my grandchildren”

When Sightsavers first met 69-year-old Winesi, cataracts had robbed him of his sight. His sight had been getting worse for more than a decade, which meant he had never seen his 18-month-old grandson, Luka, and it had been 12 years since he had last seen his wife’s face clearly. “I imagine what she looks like, but I can’t remember that well,” he told us.

With Winesi unable to work, his wife Namaleta was struggling to support their family and he worried about their future.

A quick cataract operation changed everything. “Because of my blindness, I wasn’t able to help my family with the harvest. Instead, I was sitting around helplessly while they did all the work. I felt really sad and sometimes I couldn’t hold back my tears. But this year I was able to help harvesting the crops, which was a great relief!

“My illness affected every aspect of our lives. It was like our lives were on hold. Now I am a free man again and can go anywhere by myself. The most important thing is that I can see my wife, my children and my grandchildren. I missed seeing their faces so much.”

You can help change more lives by leaving the gift of sight to others in your will.



“The best part of my job is seeing someone’s life transformed for the better”

Jeremiah Gwafa has been working as an ophthalmic nurse since receiving training from Sightsavers more than 20 years ago and is now working in his local community to help eliminate trachoma in his native Zimbabwe.

Jeremiah sees first-hand the pain trachoma can cause to families in his local community of Binga. “Blindness comes about when the eyelashes turn inward and they scratch the cornea continuously. Now life becomes unbearable for the patient. They live in perpetual pain.”

The advanced stage of trachoma is known as trichiasis, and an operation is often required to avoid permanent blindness.

Sophia, pictured above, was suffering from advanced trachoma and was spending her days on her own at home. Jeremiah performed a straightforward operation on both her eyes and restored her sight as well as her independence.

It was one of 87 operations that Jeremiah delivered that year through the training and support he received from Sightsavers.

A gift to Sightsavers in your will can change the lives of individuals, families and indeed whole communities.

**208 million
people**

protected against
blinding trachoma

You can make or update your will for free with Sightsavers

Make or update your will online

.....



Sightsavers has partnered with LawOnline (www.lawonline.ie) to offer you a free, confidential and secure will-writing service.

You can now choose to make an existing will or create your new will online – all from the comfort of your home!

We would be delighted to help you with this free and innovative online service. And while there is no onus to leave a gift to Sightsavers, any gift in your will – large or small – would be helping to change lives and would mean so much to all at Sightsavers.

Just go online, call Declan at Sightsavers on **01 271 0021** or email legacies@sightsavers.ie to get started.

- It's completely free and confidential
- The process is simple, safe and secure – there is no fee or obligation
- All the paperwork is handled online and from the comfort of your own home

www.sightsavers.ie

Law  **online**

Make or update your will with a local solicitor



Sightsavers is delighted to offer you the opportunity to have your will written for free by a local solicitor through the Irish Free Wills Network.

More than 70 solicitors are now part of this nationwide network.

You'll be able to work with a local solicitor who will simplify the process and help you create a straightforward will at no cost to you.

While there is no obligation to do so, we would ask you to please consider leaving a gift to Sightsavers in your will.

To receive your information pack just go online, call Declan at Sightsavers on **01 271 0021** or email legacies@sightsavers.ie

- Speak to a reliable, private and confidential solicitor about your will for free
- The process is simple, safe and secure – there is no fee or obligation
- All the paperwork is handled by a trained solicitor local to you

www.sightsavers.ie



We'd be delighted to help you with any questions about making your will. If you do choose to leave a gift to Sightsavers, we'd love to hear from you!

Imagine: your legacy could change a child's future

Education is key to a child's future, but a visual impairment can impact a child's ability to learn in the classroom. In an innovative programme Sightsavers is now training teachers in schools as a first line in screening their students for a range of eye conditions. Children identified by their teachers are referred to a team of mobile eye health staff. The specialist teams then travel to the school to assess and treat each child. Through this programme free spectacles are provided to children to help correct their vision.

A gift in your will could help deliver more eye screening programmes for schools and make a lasting difference in the countries where we work.



Your support is in safe hands

Your gift in your will – large or small – is vital in achieving Sightsavers' goal of eliminating avoidable blindness and promoting equality for people with disabilities.

Your donations have enabled us, during our history, to screen 236 million people for a range of eye conditions, to distribute 7.95 million pairs of glasses to correct and improve vision and to support more than 380,000 people with disabilities to live independently.

We do our best to spend wisely, we have strong financial management systems in place and we make sure our programmes have a long-lasting impact.

By offering these free will services either online or through a local solicitor, we hope you will benefit from the peace of mind that comes from knowing that, with an up-to-date will, your loved ones are provided for and that your financial matters are all in hand.

**1.85
billion**

treatments to help
protect against sight
loss over the last
75 years

What our supporters say

The work you do, giving people young and old the gift of seeing, is wonderful and I am grateful that by supporting Sightsavers I have helped in a very small way.

Thank you sincerely for your life-changing work. Never underestimate the power of a small group of people who are committed to changing the world.

You're giving sight and new hope to people I will never know.
Thank you.

To be able to enable others to see the beauty around us – rivers, flowers, sunrise, sunset, smiling faces – what a gift! Long may your work continue.

Our promise to you

Support from our donors is crucial for people around the world with avoidable blindness, which is why we take fundraising and our relationship with you very seriously.

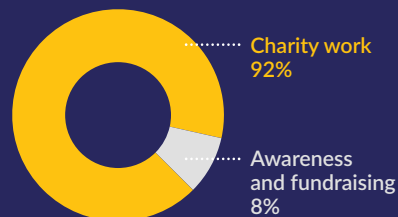
Read about our promise to you: sightsavers.org/promise

Every cent counts

For every cent we receive, including donated supplies:

92% goes on vital charity work

8% goes on growing awareness and our fundraising



When leaving a gift in your will to Sightsavers you may need to provide the following information to your solicitor:

Sightsavers Ireland

Registered charity number: 20053246

305 The Capel Building
Mary's Abbey
Dublin 7
D07 RD25

Tel: 01 663 7666
Email: info@sightsavers.ie
Website: www.sightsavers.ie
Donations: 1800 20 20 20

Join in:

