

Help save lives with the gift of a lifetime



1 in 7
missions are
funded by gifts
left in Wills

I'm Helen, the Operations Coordinator for the Children's Air Ambulance. It's my role to coordinate the Children's Air Ambulance Air Desk, providing a key link between clinical teams, flight crew, hospitals and other stakeholders.

It's a sad fact that babies and children can be so ill, that their little hearts falter or they are born with illnesses neither they nor their family can control. We want every child to have the best chance of growing up and we work tirelessly to make sure they get the care they need, fast. I know the importance of our service and how gifts left in Wills really helps keep us flying. A gift in your Will could really help save so many children and help keep families together to create lasting memories.

I have seen our service grow, since its launch in 2012, so that we can now reach even more babies and children that need specialist care. Children like Edith, who needed specialist nursing after an emergency operation to remove her appendix.

Of course, your loved ones come first but by leaving a gift in your Will to the Children's Air Ambulance, you can help save little lives. Your gift allows us to be there for families in their greatest hour of need. It gives children a future they might otherwise have had taken from them.

With your support, we can help even more children and keep more families together – what a legacy.

Thanks,
Helen



Helen Tracey
Operations Coordinator

"The Children's Air Ambulance is amazing. I think getting Phoebe to the specialist care she needed so urgently saved her and certainly improved her recovery time. She is now back to her usual self and I will always be very grateful for what they did"

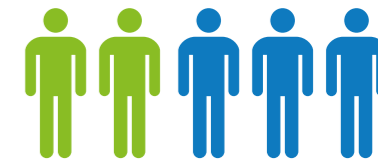
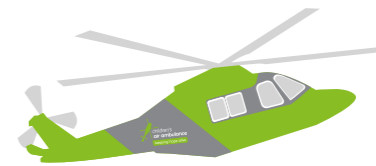
Amy Honour, Phoebe's mum



Keeping hope alive for little lives



The Children's Air Ambulance is an inter-hospital transfer service flying critically ill babies and children from one hospital to another for specialist care that they need.



The Children's Air Ambulance launched in 2012, with our first patient transfer flying from Scarborough Hospital to Hull Royal Infirmary in May 2013.

Our helicopters fly at a top speed of 165mph, flying on average four times faster than a land ambulance travels by road.

Often time saved, is a life saved.

Our unique service carries two pilots alongside up to three clinical specialists. This means they can focus on their patients care.



Our helicopters are based in Doncaster Sheffield Airport and London-Oxford Airport allowing us to reach children who need our help right across the UK.

We work with 10 clinical partner teams across the UK



A step-by-step guide

A professionally written Will, and keeping it up to date, is the only way to make sure your wishes will be carried out when you're no longer around.

+ Step 1: **Talk to a solicitor**

If you don't have a Will it is recommended you get professional advice from a solicitor to ensure your Will is legal, and exactly how you want it.

Of course, if you already have a Will it's important to keep it updated. This includes when you purchase property, get married, have children or receive a large sum of money such as an inheritance. If you need to make major changes to your Will, you should speak to a solicitor who can amend it for you.

+ Step 2: **Decide who will benefit**

Before you meet with a solicitor consider what you wish to leave to your family, friends and the charities you support. Make a list of what you own and what you owe. This will help you work out the true size of your estate, and what you could leave to those loved ones and causes close to your heart.

+ Step 3: **Decide how you want to leave your gifts**

You can leave three different kinds of gift:

- a share of your estate (residuary gift)
- a specific sum of money (pecuniary gift)
- specific items like jewellery, furniture, land or shares (specific gift)

Just a small percentage of your estate would make a huge difference to the children and families who desperately need our help.

Taking care of your wishes

We understand that family comes first. That's the way it should be. We know that's your decision and we do not want you to feel pressured in any way. You should feel nothing but joy in giving such a precious gift.



James, transferred in 2014

- + We will handle your gift with care and respect.
- + Whatever your wishes, we will always be professional and sensitive. We respect your privacy and understand that writing a Will is a private matter. If you let us know, we will keep your wishes confidential.
- + We would like to give you the opportunity to learn more about the service you are supporting. Should you let us know your intentions we'd like to thank you and make sure you have no unanswered questions.
- + And of course we understand that circumstances change and you may change your mind. Letting us know your intentions is in no way binding.

How to include us in your Will

If you have spoken to your loved ones and made the decision to include a gift in your Will to the Children's Air Ambulance then we'd like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

To include your gift, you will need to pass on our charity's details to your solicitor.

Charity name: The Air Ambulance Service

Registered charity number: 1098874

Address: Children's Air Ambulance
Blue Skies House
Butlers Leap
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV21 3RQ

Other ways to get involved

Give a gift in memory

Remember someone special with a gift in their memory while supporting the Children's Air Ambulance. Many people suggest donations in lieu of flowers, you can create a tribute page on our website or request collection envelopes for use at funerals.

For more information, please contact our dedicated in memory team on 0300 304 7730 inmemory@childrensairambulance.org.uk or visit theairambulance.org.uk/memory

Donate your pre-loved items

Your unwanted clothes, bags and shoes can help keep us flying. Just drop them off at our nearest clothing bank to you – it couldn't be simpler! Visit our website to find out where your nearest collection point is theairambulance.org.uk/ways-to-give/reuse-recycle.

Volunteer

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our charity. The hours our volunteers donate help keep our charity boutiques open and support us when fundraising in the community. Their time can be valued at more than £1 million, but to us, it's priceless. To find out more information about volunteering your time visit theairambulance.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering.

keep their
memory
Flying

Edith's Story

When six-year-old Edith needed specialist nursing after an emergency operation to remove her appendix the Children's Air Ambulance flew her to a paediatric intensive care unit 75 miles away.

Edith had been taken by land ambulance from her home in Canterbury to the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital in Margate with a high temperature and complaining of feeling unwell. It was only a year since she had recovered from meningitis and her family were very worried about her health again.

Initially she was given intravenous fluids but her condition didn't stabilise so she was transferred to the hospital's high dependency unit where an ultra-sound scan revealed that her appendix had burst.

Edith urgently needed an operation and the Children's Air Ambulance was mobilised to fly from our base in Oxford to collect colleagues from the South Thames Retrieval Service (STRS) and fly them to Margate to accompany Edith



to King's College Hospital, London – where there is a specialist paediatric department - for surgery.

But her condition was rapidly deteriorating and her kidneys had started to shut down so surgeons at Margate performed an emergency appendectomy. They found that her appendix was gangrenous, which explained Edith's rapid decline.

The STRS team arrived on the helicopter while Edith was still in surgery. When she came out of the operating theatre they stabilised her ready for the flight back to London.

"Everyone was very reassuring and explained what was going to happen when she came out of the operation. They answered all our questions and we were relieved to know that she would be in good hands and be taken to the specialist post-operative care she needed as quickly as possible," says Edith's mum Alex.

Alex was able to see her daughter and give her a kiss before she was put into the helicopter – which acts as a flying intensive care unit – for the 33 minute flight to London.

Edith's dad Jeff travelled in the helicopter with her.

"It took a while for the team to get Edith into the helicopter but I was told what was happening and kept informed every step of the way until the helicopter took off which was very reassuring. I watched it fly away and then drove to London to join them at the hospital," says Alex.

The road journey took her three hours.

Edith was kept in an induced coma at King's for one and a half weeks while her body recovered from the surgery. During this time her parents stayed in a family centre near the hospital and between them kept a 24 hour vigil at Edith's bedside.

Their eldest daughter Abigail (12) was looked after by relatives but she was able to see her sister when she regained consciousness.

After another week in hospital Edith was discharged and had some time resting at home before going back to school. She has made a full recovery and is very proud of her operation scar – which she thinks makes her a superhero!



If you would like to know more about leaving a gift in your Will, or have any questions, please contact our dedicated team on:

Call: 0300 3045 999

Email: legacies@childrensairambulance.org.uk

Visit: childrensairambulance.org.uk

