

# Save lives with the gift of a lifetime



Derbyshire · Leicestershire · Rutland  
Warwickshire · Northamptonshire



“The air ambulance did save my life and I will always be grateful. Today I feel fine, perfectly well but without them that day I may not have survived.”

**Angie Crompton**

Many people in the local community are often surprised to hear that 1 in 7 of our rescue missions are funded by gifts in Wills. By leaving a gift in your Will, you will help us be there for more people that need us. People like little Jess, who was involved in a terrifying car accident. Our crew were soon on the scene and thankfully she went on to make a full recovery. You can read more about her amazing story inside.

I find it moving that so many people choose to leave a gift in this way. I have left a gift in my Will to the charity because I want our lifesaving work to continue.

Of course, loved ones come first at such times but any amount you can leave will help transform lives. We receive no government funding so without the support of local people like you, we simply wouldn't get off the ground.

I hope you find this leaflet inspiring, and if you do have any questions please get in touch with our Legacies Team who will be more than happy to help you.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



Karl Bexon  
Critical Care Paramedic  
and Airbase Manager



## Our lifesaving services

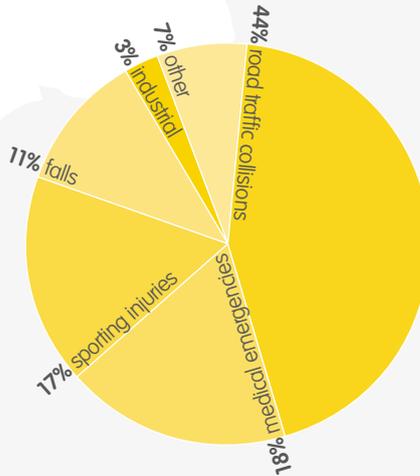
Our helicopters and critical care cars serve a total of five counties; Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. We provide rapid response to trauma and medical emergencies over a population of more than 3.2 million.



£1,700  
each mission



Our services carry trauma doctors on board as well as highly skilled critical care paramedics. The advanced skill of our crew means they can undertake on-the-spot surgery and administer advanced drugs to stabilise patients in a critical condition. This pre-hospital intervention lays vital groundwork for hospital staff and works to increase the speed and extent of our patient's recovery. It can make the difference between life and death.



Average 6 missions a day





## Everyday miracles

Little Jess and her family had been on their way home from a christening when the unthinkable happened. Unexpectedly, Jess ran out into the road – straight into oncoming traffic.

The next thing her mum knew, she was kneeling over her little girl in the middle of the road, watching her drift in and out of consciousness and praying that she would just keep breathing.

When we were called to Jess' side our crew sprang into action.

It was immediately clear that, alongside other injuries, Jess was suffering from a major trauma to her head. Our crew stabilised her, giving pain relief and swiftly and safely transferring her to our helicopter and taking flight to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

**"As she lay in the road, Jess was not looking at me, but just staring, her eyes flickering. I could tell she was going downhill there and then. I just kept thinking – oh my god my child is going to die in my arms.**

**"Then I heard the helicopter and there was a sea of orange people. It means the world that the air ambulance could be there that day – the doctors have told me that if she had travelled by road she wouldn't have made it. The air ambulance crew saved her life."** – Katie, Jess' mum

Jess spent several days in an induced coma. When she woke up, she had to learn to swallow, talk, sit up, stand and walk. But remarkably, just 18 days later, she was discharged. Less than a month after her accident, she had made a full recovery.

For Jess there was no time to spare. The speed of the helicopter and the expertise of our crew at the roadside were key to her recovery.

Jess is now a happy and healthy six year old. She and her family have become keen fundraisers for the charity that helped save her life.





## Giving the gift of a lifetime

“I owe my life to The Air Ambulance Service.”

15 year old Oliver Wright suffered a severe allergic reaction. Thankfully our crew were on the scene within minutes to help save his life.

We all understand the importance of The Air Ambulance Service, but it is often not until we, or our loved ones, need it that we truly feel its value. We hope you'll never need The Air Ambulance Service, but if you do, we will be there for you. We want to always be there.

## Taking care of your wishes

- + We understand that family comes first. That's the way it should be. Our services focus on keeping families together through the toughest of times.
- + We will handle your gift with care and respect. Whatever your wishes, we will always be professional and sensitive.
- + We know that it'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.
- + 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.

# A step by step guide

A professionally written Will, and keeping it up to date, is the only way to make sure that your wishes will be carried out after you've gone.

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

If you don't already have a Will it is recommended that 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 up to date. 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 in 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 friends, family 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).
- an item like jewellery, furniture, land or shares (specific gift).

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

# Other ways to get involved

## + **Make a Will Week**

Every year during Make a Will Week, participating solicitors have agreed to waive their fee for basic Will writing, or for amending an existing Will. In return for this service, they request that you make a donation to The Air Ambulance Service which reflects their time and expertise. Solicitors generally charge over £150 to draft a Will, so your donation will really help us to keep flying and saving lives.

## + **House clearance**

We run over 40 boutique shops across the country to raise funds for the charity. This allows us to offer a house clearance service should this be appropriate in your situation. We will arrange for a property to be cleared free of charge, ready for sale. All items from the house including furniture, clothing, ornaments and other items can then be sold through our shops to raise lifesaving funds.

## + **Gifts in memory**

Many people choose to suggest donations in lieu of flowers at the funeral as a special way to remember people. This does not mean that there will not be any flowers at a funeral but does allow your guests the choice of supporting a cause you believe in. It can be a lovely gesture to celebrate the life of someone with an in-memoriam gift to a good cause.

Please contact Charlotte Jolliffe on 0300 3045 999 or visit [wndlrairambulance.org.uk](http://wndlrairambulance.org.uk) for more information.

It's a sad fact that accidents happen, people will be struck suddenly by acute and unexpected medical conditions, sporting injuries will occur, and road traffic collisions are inevitable. While we work with our communities and NHS partners on prevention, we know we will never eradicate these things. But we can, and we will, work tirelessly until everyone, without exception, gets the care they need – and fast.

There is no doubt that by leaving a gift in your Will to The Air Ambulance Service, you will help save lives. Your gift will help us be there for families in their greatest hour of need. It will give people futures they might otherwise have had snatched from them. What a legacy...



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

**Chloe Bass**  
**Legacies & Trusts Manager**

**Call** 0300 3045 999

**Email** [Chloe.Bass@theairambulanceservice.org.uk](mailto:Chloe.Bass@theairambulanceservice.org.uk)

**Visit** [wndlrairambulance.org.uk/will](http://wndlrairambulance.org.uk/will)