



# Leaving a lasting legacy

Your gift to the next generation

# 100 years ago 100 years from now

Since Vision Foundation was established in 1921, it's remarkable to think how the world has changed over the last 100 years. And it's impossible to imagine how it will change in another 100 years.

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A century ago, guide dogs were the latest technology for blind people. Today, it's screen readers and smart phones. But sadly, the uncertainty, exclusion and loss that too often comes with becoming blind or partially sighted hasn't changed. Some aspects, such as hate crime and unemployment, have actually increased in the last decade.

But we know that we can build a better, brighter future. And there is no more powerful and lasting way to be part of that future than leaving a gift in your Will.

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# Welcome

A gift in your Will is a wonderful way to always be there for the blind and partially sighted children and adults who need your help. This booklet will tell you about how easy it is to help in this way, and just what a difference it makes.

Thinking about how you will be remembered and what you want to leave behind can be hard, but it can also be the most empowering and significant thing you can do.

A gift in your Will is often the most valuable gift you'll give to a charity, and – because it's not subject to inheritance tax – it can be cost effective too. So, once you have taken care of those closest to you, please consider remembering the Vision Foundation. You will be leaving an incredibly inspiring legacy – ensuring that the next generation of blind and partially sighted people receive the support they need.

Sight loss is not decreasing. In fact, it's increasing, with an estimated two million people in the UK currently living with sight loss – a number set to rise to four million by 2050. We need continued investment so that we can be there

for those facing sight loss but also at the forefront, promoting good eye health and prevention of blindness.

I have seen first-hand the benefits our work can bring. From a visually impaired child being able to play a musical instrument and interact with their peers, to supporting a new graduate into the world of work, to helping someone find their way after sudden sight loss. We can only be there with your support.

All gifts, of any size, will make a huge impact to the lives of blind and partially sighted people. Please consider us when you are writing or redrafting your Will, and we promise your legacy will change lives and save sight.



*Best wishes,*  
**Georgina  
Awoonor-Gordon**  
**Director of Grants  
and Impact**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georgina".

# Why I support Vision Foundation

My name is David, and I was a member of Vision Foundation's Centenary Appeal Board, which focused on employment for blind and partially sighted people. I'd like to share my story of working alongside Vision Foundation and why I support the charity, in the hope that you will consider supporting them too.

My maternal grandparents were wonderful people who had to stand in and take care of my sister and myself for a variety of reasons. They weren't wealthy people and yet they had this incredible sense of generosity. My grandfather lost his sight in his 60s and yet still continued to try and work. But one day, on a journey into Waterloo station, he believed the train was fully on the platform but it wasn't. He fell out of the train and was badly injured. Thankfully that could not happen these days. However, London is still not nearly as safe and accessible as it should be for blind and visually impaired people, particularly around the world of work. My grandmother also started to lose her sight, so Vision Foundation was definitely the right place for me to be able to do something for them and in their name.

My gift to Vision Foundation will directly support projects that are knocking down the barriers facing blind and partially sighted people in securing and retaining paid work. It seems incredible to me that this wonderful group of talented people are denied the opportunity to work



David Gold with his Ride London teammate, Naqiz Rizvi

by unaware and ill-equipped employers. But with Vision Foundation's help, visually impaired young adults taking their first steps into the workplace are supported by a mentor, those re-entering employment following sudden sight loss receive essential training in assistive technology, and employers receive guidance in how to support their visually impaired applicants and colleagues.

Vision Foundation's aim is to prevent avoidable sight loss, and to ensure that those who are blind or partially sighted can live equal and fulfilled lives like anyone else. It is an ambitious and determined charity, and over 100 years since it began, it shows no signs of slowing down. But Vision Foundation can't do it alone.

In recent years the charities that are a lifeline for people with sight loss have faced terrible financial strain. Funding has been cut, projects and services discontinued, leaving many people feeling isolated, hopeless, fearful, and with

“  
...to ensure that those who are blind or partially sighted can live equal and fulfilled lives like anyone else.  
”

nowhere else to turn. The funding that Vision Foundation provides is more important now than ever. And that's where you come in.

By leaving a gift to Vision Foundation in your Will, you will ensure that the projects and services that blind and partially sighted people rely upon will be around now and in the future. No matter the size of your gift, it will make a difference and you will have the profound joy of knowing that what you care deeply about will be in existence for years to come.



*With best wishes,*  
**David Gold**  
**Vision Foundation**  
**supporter**

# Remembering Vision Foundation in your Will

Making a gift to Vision Foundation in your Will is one of the very best ways you can help safeguard services for future generations of blind and partially sighted people.

There are various ways you can make a lasting impact. Here are some of the most popular and effective:

## Residuary legacy

The **whole or a portion** of what remains of your estate once all other legacies, debts and expenses have been paid. Unlike a pecuniary legacy (fixed sum of money), a residuary legacy keeps its value in line with inflation.



## Pecuniary legacy

A **fixed sum of money**. Because the value of a pecuniary legacy doesn't adjust in line with inflation, it could be worth significantly less when it reaches the beneficiary than when the Will was made. However, your Will can state that a pecuniary legacy is to be 'index-linked', which means the sum of money will be linked to the index of retail prices to help it retain its value.



## Specific legacy

A **specified item**. For example – a house, a painting or a piece of jewellery.

**A trust** You can set aside a sum in your Will which is **left in a trust fund** and given to Vision Foundation when the term of the trust fund ends.



If you already have a Will, your solicitor will help you amend this to reflect your wonderful gift to us. You only need our charity name and registered charity number, which is 1074958. If you do not have a Will, turn to page 5 to find out how we can help.

It is for you to decide to tell us if you have left Vision Foundation a gift in your Will. If you do let us know, we will be able to keep you updated on our work and plans for the future.

# Writing your Will for free



Writing your Will can seem like a daunting task but it does not need to be. Vision Foundation has partnered with **FareWill** which enables you to write your Will for free in under 30 minutes and in the comfort of your own home.

FareWill is the largest Will writer in the UK and their specialist team are available to help you over the phone or online. With their expert checking facility you can have peace of mind that your wishes for your loved ones and causes are clear.

You do not have to include a gift in your Will to Vision Foundation to use our Will writing service, but we hope you will consider us once your loved ones are provided for. A gift to Vision Foundation will change the lives of so many blind and partially sighted people for years to come.

## Online

If you would like the convenience of writing your Will online, with live support, visit [www.farewill.com](http://www.farewill.com) to get started and quote **VISIONGIFT**.

## By phone

If you would prefer to speak to one of FareWill's specialists over the phone, you can arrange a call back by visiting their telephone appointment page or call Farewill directly on **020 8050 2686**.

**To receive your free Will, notify the Customer Service team at the start of the call that you are a Vision Foundation supporter.**



*Scan this QR code and go straight to the FareWill website to get started.*

**In just a few clicks you can  have your Will up and running**

**If you want to make changes to your Will, you can update it quickly and easily whenever you want.**

# A poignant and intriguing legacy

In 2018 Vision Foundation found itself at the centre of a powerful story of lost art, Nazi persecution and post war politics, which turned staff into unlikely art detectives...



*The interior of the Löwenstein's Vienna apartment*

In 1938, Irma and Oscar Löwenstein, prominent members of Vienna's Jewish community, escaped from Nazi oppression to London with their lives but not their many valuable artworks. Oscar died soon after they arrived and while Irma spent the rest of her life trying to reclaim her treasures, time and

post war politics meant she never saw them again. Irma left her estate, including her unfound art collection, to the Greater London Fund for the Blind, now Vision Foundation.

In 2018, Vision Foundation learned that three Waldmüller paintings from Irma's collection had come to light in museums in Munich, Dortmund and Berlin. As the beneficiaries of Irma's Will, we had rights of restitution. Following advice from art consultants and legal firms, three of these paintings were sold at auction, raising nearly £500,000.

“ I helped her draft her Will many years ago. It's incredible to think that her legacy continues after all this time and I am sure that she would be really pleased to know that the paintings have been recovered and will be helping people now, so many years later. ”

**David Mills, a friend and former tenant of Irma**



The interior of the Löwenstein's Vienna apartment



The Compassionate Child (The Beggar),  
by Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller

It is very rare for a charity to be the benefactor in a restitution case of this nature. We felt truly humbled. After everything Irma must have gone through in her life, it is truly remarkable that almost 50 years since her death she is still supporting a cause that meant so much to her during her life. Our pledge to Irma is that these paintings will be used for good through our work with blind and partially sighted people.

**Olivia Curno,**  
**Chief Executive**  
**of Vision Foundation**

Legacies are vital to Vision Foundation and this one, which brings with it such a powerful story of loss, is particularly poignant. Irma's generous decision nearly 50 years ago, is making our vital work possible today.

# How gifts in Wills make a difference

The projects that Vision Foundation funds have the power to inspire, inform and transform lives, and bring about positive change. Here is one such project:

## Lunch Club+ 4 The Blind

Run entirely by volunteers, the Club has been around since 1975 to support blind and partially sighted people in the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. In 2010 it was announced that the club would be closing. Bill and Katie, two volunteers at the time, refused to let that happen and took on the organising.

The club runs every Thursday with the start time of 8:30am. The early start is not because that's when lunch is served, but because the club arranges a minibus to collect all the members; an essential opportunity to chat and catch up as there's never enough time during lunch.

The club subsidises both the lunch and transport, with the aim of keeping costs as low as possible for the members, but this club is so much more than a warm meal once per week. It has become a social outing, fostering life-long friendships and improving mental health and wellbeing by combatting isolation. Being in regular contact also means the volunteers can look out for any signs of poor health in members who live alone and may not have loved ones nearby.



Carole, a Lunch Club member

Lunch Club member,  
Carole, said,

“ I am so grateful for the service provided by all the volunteers. The highlights of the lunches for me are meeting up with the many friends I have made since joining and having the chance to eat a lovely meal. I live alone, so to be able to go out and socialise brings real joy to my life. My severe vision problems mean I can't get out much. Sometimes I feel very isolated, especially since my walking difficulties developed. But I feel far less isolated now I have joined the Lunch Club. The best thing of all is the fact that we can, with support, go on excursions to restaurants outside this borough from time to time, so we experience places that we would never be able to go to on our own, this really lifts our spirits. The Lunch Club is the highlight of my week, and I really don't know what I would do without it. ”

Vision Foundation provided Lunch Club+ 4 The Blind with a funding grant of £3,000 for the continuation of their lunch club service for a whole year. It's a wonderful example of just how far a funding grant can go. A gift of £250 in your Will can support a project like Lunch Club+ 4 The Blind for a whole month.

Many people think gifts in Wills have to be large, but all gifts in Wills are significant, no matter the size, and can do so much for so many.



**My severe vision problems mean I can't get out much. Sometimes I feel very isolated...**



# Rose's legacy

You might remember Rose Fyleman from your childhood as the creative genius behind your favourite fairy poems, but that's not the only legacy she left behind.

When Rose passed away in 1957, she left royalties from her books to Vision Foundation. This powerful gift means Rose's work has not

only changed the lives of the people impacted by her writing, but continues to change lives of blind and partially sighted people through our projects every day.

## About Rose

Born in 1877, Rose was best known for her beautiful poetry. At just nine years old, Rose had one of her compositions published in a local newspaper, showcasing her talent for writing from an early age.

After graduating, Rose taught singing and worked as an assistant at her sister's school. At 40 years old, Rose's poem, *Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden* was published in the popular *Punch* magazine. Not long after, Rose's poetry was published across a range of books.

Rose's first collection, *Fairies and Chimneys* (1918) was immensely popular. The demand saw it reprinted more than twenty times over the next decade. The published collections of fairy verse included *The Fairy Green* (1919), *The Fairy Flute* (1921), and *Fairies and Friends* (1925).



After an illustrious publishing career, Rose was hailed as one of the most successful children’s writers of her generation and she saw much of her early poetry become legendary. Rose passed away on 1 August 1957.

Thanks to Rose’s legacy with Vision Foundation, her work is still changing lives, decades after her passing.

### Feeling inspired?

A gift in your Will – whatever the size – will enable Vision Foundation to fund crucial projects and services

that transform the lives of people living with or facing sight loss. Your legacy will be to ensure blind and partially sighted people can maintain their independence and engage with their local community.

These special gifts are vital to ensuring we can continue to empower, inform, and include blind and partially sighted people. In turn, we will create a fairer society for everyone.

To find out more, please contact our team by:

📞 Phone: 020 7620 4994

✉ Email: [hello@visionfoundation.org.uk](mailto:hello@visionfoundation.org.uk)



Vision Foundation staff member, Monica Smith, riding in tandem with our Royal Patron HRH The Countess of Wessex.

# A legacy lives on

Rose Fyleman has been supporting Vision Foundation for many, many years. Here's how the sight loss landscape has changed since she pledged her legacy:

## 1965 .....

Tactile paving is invented to assist pedestrians who are visually impaired.

## 1983 .....

The National Talking Newspaper and Magazine service is launched.

## 1985 .....

Museums and galleries introduce tactile sessions for blind and partially sighted visitors.

## 1994 .....

The government launch 'Access to Work', which provides employment support grants that aim to support disabled people start or stay in work.

## 2000 .....

The digitisation of audiobooks begins.

## 2009 .....

Apple introduces its screen-reading solution for visually impaired iPhone users.

## 2010 .....

The Equality Act is passed, which includes permitting guide dogs and assistance dogs to enter public places with their owners.

## 2013 .....

Transport for London commits to accessible travel for all disabled passengers.

## 2019 .....

The Greater London Fund for the Blind becomes Vision Foundation.

## 2021 .....

Vision Foundation celebrates its centenary year. It has so far distributed more than £31 million to sight loss organisations that work to inform, inspire and empower the visually impaired community.



We wonder what Rose Fyleman envisioned when she committed her legacy to Vision Foundation all those years ago. It's remarkable to think that her legacy is part of the reason why positive change has and will happen. You can be part of this change too.

*What might your legacy achieve decades from now?*



## Get in touch

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift to Vision Foundation in your Will, writing a Will or how gifts in Wills can inspire and transform a generation, we'd love to hear from you.

### You can contact our team by:

Phone: 020 7620 4994

Email: [hello@visionfoundation.org.uk](mailto:hello@visionfoundation.org.uk)

Post: Vision Foundation, Sir John Mills House, 12 Whitehorse Mews, 37 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7QD

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### Some useful resources

**Citizens Advice**, [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)  
advice on creating a Will and why it's important

**GOV.UK**, [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)  
provides an overview of creating a Will

**Farewill.com**, [www.farewill.com](http://www.farewill.com)  
provides a free Will writing service for the Vision Foundation