By leaving a gift in your will, you are helping us to continue the work of our foundress, The Venerable Mary Aikenhead.

Mary Aikenhead (1787-1858) founded the Religious Sisters of Charity in 1815 to provide services “to the suffering poor”. In 1830, she opened her first school for poor children in Gardiner Street, Dublin. All around her Mary Aikenhead had seen the plight of the impoversihed and suffering. Her great faith and trust in Divine Providence enabled her and the first Religious Sisters of Charity to provide education for poor children, establish medical facilities for those in need of health care and to visit the sick and poor in their homes.

Mary Aikenhead's life teaches and inspires us to have compassion for human pain, to work with others to solve problems and to remain resolute in the face of hardship. In 2015, she was declared Venerable by Pope Francis, reaching the second of four steps in the Catholic Church’s canonisation process. The Religious Sisters of Charity work in Ireland, England, Scotland, Zambia, USA, Nigeria, Malawi and Australia, helping people who are impoverished in the areas of healthcare, education and pastoral and social work.
Our Hospice: A Legacy Worth Funding

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice is the oldest hospice in Scotland.

We were founded in 1950 when a man with advanced throat cancer approached a nun from the Sisters of Charity for help, and have been serving the communities of Greater Glasgow and Dunbartonshire ever since.

First and foremost, we provide the very best of care to our patients. When people are affected by serious illness, it is an unimaginably difficult time.

Our commitment to our patients and those who matter to them is that we will always afford them the highest levels of care, comfort and dignity. We don’t do adequate – we strive for perfection in the standard of service we provide.

Why Leave a Gift to St Margaret of Scotland Hospice in your Will?

By making a gift in your Will to the Hospice, would be supporting a local Charitable organisation with a reputation for standing at the very forefront of care services in Scotland. In unannounced inspections by industry watchdog Healthcare Improvement Scotland in 2012, 2014 and 2016, we scored the maximum ‘excellent’ rating in every category assessed – an unprecedented achievement for a Scottish Hospice.

The history of this Hospice is one of hard work and innovation. The next chapter of this community-led success story can be enhanced by your generosity, by leaving a gift in your Will.

We are driven by our Core Values to uphold a culture of excellence and philosophy of care by placing the greatest importance on Dignity, Quality, Compassion, Justice and Advocacy. Our approach to care takes into account the uniqueness of each individual and the spiritual, physical, psychological and social needs of both patients and their carers.

In addition to our in-patient facilities, we provide a comprehensive range of other services, including a Community Specialist Palliative Care Team, Psychological and Bereavement Services, Outreach Services including Symptom Control Outpatient Clinics, the Edwina Bradley Day Hospice and a full Education Programme for Health and Social Care Professionals and members of the general public.
Making a Will is the best way to ensure your family is cared for after you die. It is the only way of ensuring your wishes are implemented in consideration of your family and loved ones. A Will with your clearly signposted intentions will give you peace of mind and puts your family’s minds at rest in their hour of need.

**Remembering the Hospice in your Will**

You can donate a specific sum (however large or small), property or a percentage of your estate to help us continue the work of our Foundress, the Venerable Mary Aikenhead.

A gift is a demonstrable way of showing that you support the work of St Margaret of Scotland in providing specialist care and support to those who need it within your community.

After making provision for your family and friends in your Will, we would like to ask you to consider leaving a gift to St Margaret of Scotland Hospice. Everybody at the Hospice – the patients, their families, and all the staff and volunteers – greatly appreciates the contribution you would make by leaving a gift.

**A personal testimony**

“Mum has been in St Margaret of Scotland Hospice for three months. When she was first diagnosed with terminal cancer I was afraid I wouldn’t be able to look after her. The Hospice has given mum the kind of close personal care and attention that families provided in the old days, as well as treating her condition.

“I have no doubt this has kept her alive for this long. I feel that I owe the Hospice so much for caring for both of us in this way. In recognition of this I made the decision to leave the Hospice a gift in my will – so that people like my mum and me can get the same care.”
How to Make a Will or Change an Existing Will

To make a Will or to change your Will, you must take legal advice. St Margaret of Scotland Hospice can book an appointment on your behalf with our participating legal firms. You can discuss the process of making a Will independently.

The most important steps in preparing a will are to:
- Discuss implications of Will with immediate family
- Prepare a document listing your assets (what you own and the value if possible) and liabilities (what you owe) – this will help you and your family understand what your estate (what you own minus what you owe) will be worth

The Benefits of Leaving a Will

Making a valid Will lessens the administration burden and will reduce costs during a difficult time. If you die intestate without making a valid Will, the state will impose intestacy rules which may conflict with your wishes. If you are not married or in a civil partnership, your partner may not inherit your estate if you haven’t made a legal and valid Will stating your wishes. A valid Will should reflect your up-to-date circumstances and wishes.

Types of Legacy

There are three types of gift available to those looking to leave a legacy with the Hospice.

- Residuary – this is the kind of gift that relates to the residential value of your estate after deductions. It is permissible to leave the whole estate or a percentage to St Margaret of Scotland Hospice. An example of the wording is below: “I give free of inheritance Tax (xx% or total in monies) of the residue of my estate to St Margaret of Scotland Hospice”
- Pecuniary – leaving a specified amount. “I give free of inheritance tax the sum of £xx to St Margaret of Scotland Hospice”
- Specific non-monetary gift – leaving a particular item

If you would like more information about making a Will or remembering St Margaret of Scotland Hospice in your Will, please contact the Fundraising Department on 0141 435 7018 or email legacy@smh.org.uk.

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice is a Company Limited by Guarantee – Company No. 280689. Scottish Registered Charity Number SC005623 For more information on leaving a gift you can visit the following independent websites: Directgov, Scottish Legal Aid Board, and Good Life Good Death Good Grief Website, www.rememberacharity.org.uk