

The Royal Free Charity



At the heart of everything we do is a **desire to improve** the patient experience.

We know how challenging and traumatic it can be to be admitted to hospital. It can turn your world upside down and have a big impact on everyone around you; from friends and family to all those other obligations we all have.

What that means for us is that whoever the patients are, regardless of age, or circumstance, our mission is to make their experience as relaxing and comforting as possible.

It's easy to think of the big ways our investments can help improve the patient experience – and if you've had the chance to look at our 60 year history at all, you'll see plenty of examples of major projects we've spearheaded, such as revolutionary new equipment and our ongoing investment in training and teaching; a program which has attracted many of the brightest and best scientists from all over the world. In the last five years alone we have rebuilt the front of the hospital and upgraded millions of pounds worth of medical equipment.

But it's not just the big things that **matter**.

We also provide clothing for newborns, games to encourage kids, slippers for elderly patients to help them stay mobile, massages to help speed along healing, and a lot more.

As you can appreciate, this is a need that is never truly fulfilled – we will always be looking to improve the care patients receive. With the constant medical innovations which make that real difference in care, plus other factors such as the growing and diverse population the hospital is servicing, we need your support more than ever.

The investments we make can be truly life changing for whole generations. Please take a minute to look at this case study overleaf, which deals with one of the most important medical challenges facing women today...



Case Study – Breast Cancer

What would be the best way to try and make something as scary as breast cancer easier to deal with? Our answer is to offer some patients the chance to avoid the trauma of losing a breast and dramatically reducing the need to visit the hospital for post-operative radiotherapy. This breakthrough was achieved in 2010 by sourcing and investing in a fantastic new treatment that not only helps the patient, it saves the NHS money and reduces waiting lists.

Maggie Shaw, 68, had 'one-shot' radiotherapy at the Royal Free. The technique involves giving targeted radiotherapy to selected breast cancer patients while in theatre as soon as the cancerous tumour has been removed.



Mr Keshtgar and Maggie Shaw

"Being diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year was a huge blow, especially as Parkinson's was already affecting my daily life," said Maggie.

"It was a shock for my partner, John, and me."

"I was devastated when the doctor at my local hospital said that a mastectomy was the only option. I was very persistent and kept asking whether there was any possibility of saving my breast. Eventually, I was told about a pioneering procedure at the Royal Free which was suitable for certain patients with breast cancer and that I may be eligible.

"The doctor said the technique, called intra-operative radiotherapy, involved giving radiotherapy in one shot during surgery to remove the cancerous lump. It sounded perfect for me as it would mean I could keep my breast and have a significantly less extensive operation.

"During the surgery, Mr Keshtgar also performed a sentinel lymph node biopsy. The results were all clear showing that the cancer had not spread. Now I just have to take a daily tablet for five years to prevent the cancer returning.

"My surgery scar has healed very well and I feel well in myself.

Only a month after surgery, I was back at aqua aerobics and loving it.

"Everyone is terrified when they hear that they have cancer but I was treated incredibly quickly:

just three months from diagnosis to having surgery and radiotherapy and getting the all clear."

Leaving your Legacy

Thinking about your own mortality is not at all easy, but it really is all of our responsibility to make sure we write a Will. This protects our legacy and is the only sure way to control what happens to any money or possessions we have when we pass on.

Of course many of us already have a Will, but you might be surprised how many people haven't looked at it yet. Nearly one third of all people never make a Will! Imagine the confusion and possible family problems that lack of foresight can create.

As someone who cares about people, might we suggest that you make a gift to us in your Will. It's easy to do, and you can be comforted by the fact that you are really living on through the wonderful help you will be giving people into the future.

To make a Will, you might find it easiest to contact a solicitor. We have a list of them on our website if you need help on www.xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Making a change to an existing Will

If you have already made your Will and would like to add a gift to the Royal Free Charity, you can do this by using a codicil, which is effectively an additional clause. (CAN THIS BE DONE ONLINE?? IF SO ADD IN A WEB ADDRESS) Again, this is a simple legal procedure, and if it's easiest for you, why not chat it through with your solicitor.

What type of gift should I leave?

Two main ways that you choose from to leave a gift to the Royal Free Charity in your Will:

- *a cash gift*: you can choose to give a fixed amount of money
- *a percentage of your estate*: you can choose to leave a share of what is left in your estate, in total or after you have provided for others.

Leaving a percentage is the option most people prefer, because it means that you won't have to change your Will later if your circumstances change.



You can also **make suggestions** as to how your money is spent.

Do you have a passion to follow, or have you had experience of treatment you would like to support? We're listening! Here's an example of a lady who did exactly that...

Case Study - Legacy Art

Joan Roberts worked at the Royal Free as a secretary, then later as a senior manager. Joan loved the hospital, and very generously left money in her will for the hospital. One of her real loves in life was art, as she knew how calming and therapeutic it can be to have art around a hospital – it really lightens the mood. She commissioned a sculpture, something special that reflected her positive and happy character. If you are visiting us for any reason, just ask where it is and come and see Joan's legacy for yourself.

Doo Wah Diddy,
a sculpture by Helen Sinclair

Understanding **Inheritance Tax**

Inheritance Tax is paid if the value of your estate exceeds the threshold set by the government. The threshold is currently £325,000 which means that Inheritance Tax of 40% is paid on the any of your estate that is valued above this amount. This means that your beneficiaries will keep 60p out of every £1 over the threshold, the other 40p goes to the government.

Many people think that's a lot to send to the taxman! However, here's some good news. A gift to us will not be taxed, and if you do make a gift totalling 10% or more of your estate to us, the remaining estate will only be taxed at 36%, meaning your beneficiaries keep an additional 4p in every £1 in everything over that tax threshold of £325,000.

Our **commitment** to you

As we mentioned earlier, we will do whatever we can to honour any wishes you have as to how the gift you leave us is spent. However, as things do change, if you can be general that helps us... after all, we hope that there will be many years yet before your legacy with us comes into effect!

RFC details – my details to discuss further

If you have any queries or would like further information or guidance, please contact us on **020 7472 6677** or email **rff.fundraising@nhs.net**.



Please note that we are unable to give legal advice. For legal advice on leaving a legacy or making a Will you should contact your solicitor.

Pledge Feedback

Thank you for considering leaving a gift to the Royal Free Charity (Registered Charity Number 1060924) **in your Will.**

We are grateful that you have chosen to let us know about your kind intentions. If you would like it, we can keep you in touch with the Charity by sending you our newsletter. However, we will only contact you as you request in the tick boxes on the next page.

Please note that a pledge is not legally binding and there is no need to tell us anything about your arrangements that you would rather keep private. We appreciate that the terms of a Will are a very personal matter.



Please complete and return this form in the enclosed pre-paid envelope (no stamp required).

- ☐ I have left/intend to leave a gift to the Royal Free Charity in my Will
- ☐ If you would like to indicate the value of your gift, please do so here (optional)
- ☐ I would like more information about leaving a gift to the Royal Free Charity in my Will
- ☐ I would like someone to contact me to discuss leaving a gift to the Royal Free Charity in my Will (Please note that we are unable to give legal advice)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title Forename

Surname

Date of Birth (optional)

Address

Postcode

Tel: Email:

My preferred method of contact (if applicable) is: ☐ Post ☐ Telephone ☐ Email

☐ I would like to receive your newsletter

Thank you for supporting the Royal Free Charity.

Data Protection: The information provided will be held by the Royal Free Charity for processing and administrative purposes in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

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Royal Free Charity

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