# MyllifeLEAVING A GIFTMychoiceIN YOUR WILL

Leaving a gift in your Will won't cost you anything during your lifetime, but it will mean that people with learning disabilities can continue to speak up for themselves and make change for the better after you are gone.

## **ABOUT MY LIFE MY CHOICE**

For over 25 years, My Life My Choice (MLMC) has worked hard to raise the selfesteem, confidence, and quality of life for people with learning disabilities by providing training, employment, volunteering, and social opportunities for our members. Help us to continue to create a world where people with learning disabilities are empowered to live the life they want to live.



## **LEAVING A GIFT**

The projects we run provide our members with the increased ability to speak up for themselves, improve economic, mental, and physical well-being, and reduce loneliness and isolation. Your generous donation will help to ensure that MLMC can continue to lead the way in transformative user-led campaign and project work.

# £500

would allow us to buy six tablets for our members, supporting them to build up their digital skills!

# £5,000

would be used to train three of our members to learn how to travel independently with our Travel Buddy Project!

# £10,000

would fund our monthly nightclub, Stingray, for a further year, with over 100 monthly attendees!

# £20,000

To cover the cost of running five of our self-advocacy groups, supporting our members to campaign, use their voice, and make change!



## PAUL'S STORY

Paul became a MLMC member in 2008 and joined a self-advocacy group. The groups provide a space for advocacy, campaigning and making friends. Before joining, Paul said, "I thought I was the only person with a learning disability. MLMC means a lot to me. It helps me to get out more and connect with others". Paul has grown in confidence and now feels able to speak up for himself and his community. Campaigns that Paul has been involved in have led to important national policy changes: "I feel like I can make a difference." Paul has accepted the Queen's



#### "BEFORE MY LIFE MY CHOICE, PEOPLE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME. NOW I'M STRONGER, I KNOW MY OWN SELF."

Award at Buckingham Palace and met the Prime Minister, yet his proudest accomplishment is supporting the set up of Stingray, an exclusive nightclub for people with a learning disability. "*Stingray is one of my favourite things*", he says, "*I like that the members run the project ourselves, it's important that we have a safe space where we aren't discriminated against*". Paul also works as a trainer on the Travel Buddy Project: I "*support people to learn to get to new places. It feels good to be helping other people and learn new skills*".

Paul supported MLMC member, Matthew, to learn the bus route from his home to college. This had transformative benefits for Paul, Matthew, and Matthew's family:

"HE FEELS A PART OF THE WORLD, AND NOT KEPT AT A DISTANCE FROM IT. THIS TRAINING HAS MADE ME REALISE HOW MUCH HE CAN DO BY HIMSELF AND HOW MUCH HAPPIER HE IS WITH INDEPENDENCE."

- Jane, Matthew's Mum



As a result of the impact MLMC has had on Paul, Paul's Mother Audrey, and Nan Mabel, kindly left a monetary gift to MLMC in her Will. This generous donation has allowed MLMC to continue to lead the way in empowering our members to learn new skills, become more independent, and get their voices heard!



# **LEAVING YOUR LEGACY**

Making a Will is an important decision. It ensures that your loved ones are looked after when you are gone and that your final wishes are respected. It is also a way for you to support a cause close to your heart.

There are three different types of gifts that you could leave:

- A pecuniary gift this is a fixed sum of money.
- A residuary gift this is a percentage of the value of your estate.
- A specific gift this is when you leave a particular item of value such as personal possessions, property, or shares.

A gift of just 1% of your estate can make a real difference to people like Paul and Matthew. We hope you will consider leaving us a gift in your Will. Your kindness is greatly appreciated, and we thank you for your consideration.

## **GET SUPPORT WRITING YOUR WILL**

As a MLMC supporter, you're eligible for a free Will writing service. With Free Wills award-winning online service, you can make a free, legally-binding Will in just fifteen minutes. Each Will is checked by legal experts and your Will can be updated quickly and easily for free, forever. There's no obligation to leave a gift to us, but we do hope you do so to enable us to continue our important work.

### **CLICK HERE TO VISIT FREE WILLS**

Or visit www.freewills.co.uk/charity/mlmc





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **DO I NEED TO WRITE A WILL?**

You do not have to write a Will, but having one is the best way of ensuring that your wishes are carried out, and is a way of providing for the people and causes you care about.

#### **DO I NEED A SOLICITOR?**

If you are not using the Free Wills service, we strongly recommend your will is drafted by a solicitor to make sure that what you want happens in the right way.

#### DO I NEED TO TELL MLMC IF I LEAVE THEM A GIFT IN MY WILL?

Your Will is private. It is your choice as to whether you choose to tell us that you have left us a gift in your Will. However, if you do let us know then we can do more to keep you up to date on what your gift could achieve.

#### WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND?

You can amend your Will at any time through our free Will service or with your own solicitor.







## **GET IN TOUCH:**



www.mylifemychoice.org.uk



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The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



