



A Gift in Your Will to Open  
Support will make a REAL  
difference in the lives of  
those most in need

*addressing unmet social need for future generations*



*Founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1990, Open Support offers compassionate and diverse services committed to supporting people in need throughout our community*

*Relying on the active participation of trained volunteers and staff – as well as benevolent donors and philanthropists – Open Support is committed to being a ‘voice for the voiceless’; those most often ‘forgotten’ in our ever-changing society.*

## About Open Support

Open Support is a not-for-profit, community service organisation committed to addressing unmet social need in the community by providing compassionate support to families and individuals throughout New South Wales.

Open Support has been dedicated to helping the poor and vulnerable in our community since it was originally established by the Sisters of Charity – as Sisters of Charity Outreach – in 1990.

Following our name change to Open Support in 2018, our work continues to be inspired by the charism of the Sisters of Charity, and their foundress, Mary Aikenhead.

Open Support's core services to address unmet social need focus on the following:

- ***Reducing the impact of domestic violence in the community*** – by providing crisis accommodation, care and support for women and families escaping domestic violence.
- ***Enabling improved access to health care services*** – by providing free and affordable transport to health care services, as well as affordable accommodation close to medical treatment facilities.
- ***Reducing the impact of social isolation within the community*** – by providing home visits, companionship and social, patient, carer and court attendee support.

*Open Minds, Open Hearts,  
Open Hands - **Open Support***



## Our History

Open Support has been at the forefront of addressing social need since it was established by Sisters of Charity Australia as part of St Vincent's Clinic in 1990.

Originally called Sisters of Charity Outreach, Open Support had its early conceptual beginnings in 1987, when Sr Mary Maguire, then Superior-General of Sisters of Charity Australia, reviewed the changes that were taking place in society and the Church at the time.

Sr Mary sent this message to her fellow Sisters: "I need my religious women to respond to new needs, to keep time to a different rhythm. I want you to leave the security of what you know and what you have, and go once more where no one else has gone – to the people that today's society doesn't want to know".

Commissioned with the task of setting up the format of the then-named Sisters of Charity Outreach Centre for Women, the organisation's inaugural Executive Director, Sister St Jude Doyle, presented its original position paper in June 1989.

Outreach's inaugural program, which launched in January 1990, was an accommodation program for young people coming to Sydney for work or to find work. It was followed by an 'occasional' childcare centre at Cranebrook near Penrith, in Sydney's west, in March 1990. Soon after, a telephone support and information service began – which was expanded to include telephone counselling that same year – from a temporary office base in Paddington.



On September 25, 1990, the then-named Sisters of Charity Outreach officially moved into its current offices in the newly-built St Vincent's Clinic Darlinghurst, Sydney. This date is recognised as Open Support's foundation.

Today we remain part of the St Vincent's Clinic and hospitals, and are an integral component within the over-arching Mary Aikenhead Ministries. Yet, while the Clinic and hospitals operate within the St Vincent's Campus, we at Open Support reach out beyond the Campus walls and into the community; following in the footsteps of the walking nuns.

Celebrating 30 years in 2020, Open Support continues to provide responsible, flexible, professional services that have responded to – and met – unmet need in the community, as particular needs have arisen.

Through the generosity of our volunteers, donors and those who leave a Gift in their Will to Open Support, we will be able to be there for those that society often forgets for generations to come.

## Our Values

Reflecting the values of the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, Open Support's values are: Love, Hope, Compassion and Justice.

We continue to demonstrate Compassion in Action and our name – together with the maxim 'Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Hands' – aptly explains what we do:

- Open Minds – because we are open to all who are poor and vulnerable, as well as being open to finding new and impactful ways to address unmet social need.
- Open Hearts – because we've always operated from a sense of Compassion in Action, with our staff and volunteers 'opening' their hearts to serve those who most need us – no matter their faith, cultural background, age or circumstance.
- Open Hands – because we continue to reach out with open hands to provide the best support we can to those most in need – the poor and the vulnerable in our community.

love  
hope  
compassion  
justice

*addressing unmet social need for future generations*





# Addressing Unmet Social Need for Future Generations



Including Open Support in your Will is one of the most powerful ways you can ensure that our essential services continue to be there for those that society often forgets – the poor and the vulnerable – well into the future.

In doing so, you will also ensure that your beliefs, values and compassion live on for generations to come.

Just like those visionary Sisters of Charity who first ventured out into the community to assist and provide accessible services for the poor and vulnerable, all those who assist us to provide our services – now, and well into the future – play a big part in ensuring that we have a real, positive impact on the lives of those that society often forgets.

With inequality growing year-on-year, and individuals, couples and families facing more complex challenges than ever before, the demand on Open Support's various services is ever-increasing.

It's why the foresight of benevolent community members, like you, who graciously consider leaving a Gift in your Will to Open Support is so appreciated.

Whether it's supporting traumatised mothers and children fleeing domestic violence; compassionately assisting and being there for those who face exclusion, isolation and loneliness; or, providing improved access to health care through no-cost and affordable transport and accommodation services; your compassionate forward-planning now will allow Open Support to be there for those in need for future generations.

I sincerely thank you for considering leaving a Gift in your Will to Open Support. Your legacy is a special pledge that will help the poor and vulnerable in our community.

**Gary Sillett – General Manager, Open Support**



# A Wonderful Way for Your Beliefs, Values and Compassion to Live On

After taking care of your loved ones first, leaving a Gift in your Will to Open Support is a wonderful way for your beliefs, values and compassion to live on in perpetuity

Importantly, too, your considered forward-planning now will allow Open Support to be there for those in real need for future generations to come.

I understand this is a hugely important decision to make, but it's one that won't cost you right now: no matter the size of the Gift in your Will, it's simply 'donated' from your estate once you've passed on.

Together, we can help bring a sense of achievement, success and strength of character to these people, who all deserve to feel that they belong in our society.

Open Support has a solid track record of caring for those most in need for 30 years. It enjoys a highly positive and strong reputation, and they've long been under the umbrella of St Vincent's Health Care and the Sisters of Charity. It also gives me the peace of mind that – working in such a sensitive area – all funds raised are used appropriately; for the purpose they are granted.

I've seen how many people benefit from what Open Support does for them. It's very powerful the way Open Support makes such a difference for people: they enjoy a very positive outcome in their lives.

It's not just knowing that it's going to be put to good use to make a real difference in the lives of those that society often forgets; it's trusting. I know, through evidence, that the money goes where it should. I trust and have confidence in the people at Open Support that they will continue the mission of the Sisters.

I know that Open Support – and especially those they will be caring for and supporting – will appreciate your charitable decision today.

I sincerely hope you'll join me in supporting future generations of the poor and vulnerable souls that society often forgets. Like me, you'll enjoy peace of mind; knowing that your Gift in your Will is your legacy of kindness that will continue to bloom and help others in need.



**Margot McNiven – Volunteer, Donor and Benefactor, Open Support**



*addressing unmet social need for future generations*



# Including Open Support in Your Will

By leaving a tangible Gift in your Will, you can help to positively transform the lives of those most in need in our community. Doing so will give you peace of mind that your values, love for others and compassionate wishes will live on in perpetuity.

## How to Leave a Gift in Your Will

Leaving a Gift in your Will is relatively easy: anyone can organise to include a gift, or a bequest as it is also known, in their Will.

We recommend, however, that you seek professional advice and discuss your intentions with your family first. It is also important that you ensure your Will is up to date, and thus valid, and that it includes all of your potential estate. Otherwise, it could be classified as intestate, or some of your estate could be deemed to be.

## Types of Gifts in Wills

There are various types of Gifts in Wills from which you can choose to best suit your wishes and circumstances. These include:

- Residual – the remainder of your estate after providing for your loved ones
- Percentage of your estate
- Asset – for example, any specific real estate or jewellery you may own
- Specific cash amount
- Conditional – a provision that, if a specific bequest cannot be carried out (such as, if the beneficiary has passed away), then your asset will be donated to Open Support.

All of the above types of Gifts in Wills can be granted as either Tied or Untied Gifts. Tied Gifts can be directed towards a specific Open Support program. Untied Gifts can be left for general purposes or for our capital fund, which will continue our program of management of existing reserves and investments. While the fund's capital will be protected in perpetuity, income earned will help fund new services and programs. Please talk to our Gifts in Wills Manager (*contact details on Page 13*) to discuss your options.

## Recommended Wording for Leaving a Gift in Your Will:

I give to Open Support, ABN: 95 003 635 498, of 438 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010, for its *(choose either)* general purposes/specific program(s) *(Insert specific program(s) name)*, *(then select and insert the appropriate statement from this list below)*:

- the whole of my estate
- *(insert your chosen number)* percentage of my estate
- the residue of my estate
- the amount of \$ *(insert the value of your gift in cash)*
- my *(insert the name of your chosen asset)*

free of all duties, and the receipt of the Secretary or other authorised officer for the time being shall be a complete and sufficient discharge for the Executor(s).

## Inserting a Codicil

If you already have a current Will and wish to include Open Support, you may not need to rewrite your Will. Speak with your solicitor about drafting a codicil, which acts as an amendment to your existing Will. You can also request your copy of our example of a codicil using the order form on Page 13 of this brochure.

## Thank You

Should you choose to leave a Gift in your Will to Open Support, your benevolent legacy will be invested immediately upon receipt and will live on in perpetuity. In this way, you can be assured that future generations of poor and vulnerable individuals, couples and families will enjoy better opportunities to prosper thanks to your foresighted generosity and compassion.





## Friends of Open Support

Friends of Open Support is a select group of like-minded couples and individuals who have pledged a Gift in their Will to Open Support, or who have made a significant contribution to us in some other way.

Friends of Open Support includes compassionate, future-focussed women and men – people like you, dedicated to serving their community.

As illustrated by its emblem, the forget-me-not flower, Friends of Open Support is a special coterie of kind-hearted people, who are each committed to ensuring the poor and vulnerable in our community – sometimes referred to as ‘the ones society has forgotten’ – are caringly supported in their time of need.

Our Friends of Open Support group allows us to honour our most generous benefactors in a deservingly unique manner.

### **When you become a Friend of Open Support, you’ll receive:**

- Your Certificate of Appreciation
- A unique Friends of Open Support lapel pin, which you can wear with pride
- Personal invitations to special events and functions hosted by Open Support and organised specifically for Friends of Open Support
- Unique opportunities for you to meet with the Open Support leadership team and other staff at various functions, where you’ll hear all our latest news - including updates on our various services and programs and how they’re addressing unmet social need.
- More importantly, when you become a Friend of Open Support, you will know that you’ve made a real difference.

Just as our many volunteers have over the decades, you’ll have the opportunity to develop a sense of community with others who donate or have decided to leave a legacy through their Will.

Following confirmation from you that you have left a Gift in your Will to Open Support you will automatically be sent your invitation to join Friends of Open Support.

# My Gifts in Wills

## Expression of Interest

For obligation-free information about leaving a Gift in Your Will to Open Support please complete this form and return it to our Gifts in Wills Manager (*using the Reply Paid postage details below*). Please Note: We understand that the information you provide is a statement of your present intention. You can change your mind at any time by advising us of your new intentions, and we will act accordingly.

*Please tick the relevant check box(es):*

- Yes, I would like to find out more information about including a Gift in my Will to Open Support.**
- I have already included a Gift in my Will to Open Support and am delighted to become a Friend of Open Support
- I would like to confidentially discuss the possibility of leaving a Gift in my Will to Open Support and the various options available to me
- I intend to write/update my Will to include a Gift to Open Support within the next \_\_\_\_\_ months
- Please send me an example of a codicil to discuss with my solicitor so that I can nominate Open Support as one of my beneficiaries.
- Please send me more information on Open Support's various programs.

Title (*please circle*) Rev / Prof / Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss/ Ms

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Nominal: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Or After Hours Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The best time to contact me is: \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm

**Please mail this completed form to: Gifts in Wills,  
Open Support, Reply Paid 89143, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010**

*/ thank you*



## Find Out More

If you would like to learn more about:

- Wording for a codicil
- Information for Executors
- Information for Solicitors
- Open Support's programs and services

Or, if you have any other questions about leaving a Gift in your Will to Open Support;

Or, if you wish to meet confidentially to discuss how your gift may be specifically used by Open Support.

**Please contact Open Support's Gifts in Wills Manager:**

**Phone: (02) 8382 6430    Email: [mylegacy@opensupport.org.au](mailto:mylegacy@opensupport.org.au)**

**Alternatively, please complete, cut out and return the Gifts in Wills Enquiry Form on page 13 of this brochure, and we will be happy to send you the information you require or arrange a convenient time to meet with you to discuss your wishes.**

## Left a Gift in Your Will to Open Support Already?

If you've already made the generous, future-focussed decision to leave a Gift in Your Will to Open Support, please notify and confirm this with our Gifts in Wills Manager (*contact details above*) so we can show our heartfelt appreciation and invite you to join Friends of Open Support.



*Let us try that charity may  
abound in our hearts. Amen!*

- Mother Mary Aikenhead, Foundress, Sisters of Charity



*addressing unmet  
social need*

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[www.opensupport.org.au](http://www.opensupport.org.au)

A Public Benevolent Institution (ABN 39 967 916 030) of St Vincent's Clinic (ABN 95 003 635 498)

