



# GIFTS IN WILLS GUIDE

*A better tomorrow where  
all people can belong.*

# Why give to the Y?

If you've ever had swimming lessons, been on a school camp, or visited a local gym then chances are you know about the Y. As one of Australia's oldest charities, the Y – also known as YMCA Victoria – has been supporting young people and local communities since 1853.

We're proud to be continuing to make positive impacts on the lives of countless Victorians today through our life-changing community programs, health and wellbeing services, education facilities and social impact initiatives. From our early childhood education to our active seniors programs, we're committed to building active and healthy communities across all stages of life.

As a purpose-led organisation, we take action on issues bigger than our products and services on our mission to create a better tomorrow where all people can belong. Our programs and centres focus on fostering community and empowering young people - giving them the skills and confidence to lead positive and independent lives. We want young people to have more agency, improve their mental health, increase employability skills, and shape their future through the Y.

By including a gift in your Will to YMCA Victoria you are helping make a difference to the future of disadvantaged Victorians. You can help us provide equal access to our programs for those in need, and ensure generations of young Victorians will continue to be inspired and empowered through the Y.

**Whatever your gift to us, we will ensure it does the greatest good in the area where it is most needed.**

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# How gifts in Wills enables equal access for those in need

Our programs change lives. However, unfortunately not all people can afford to participate. The **YMCA Open Doors** programs helps people experiencing disadvantage by subsidising access to our programs and services. In this way we can provide - equal access to health and wellness services to all members of the community, help everyone lead healthier and happier lives and open doors to opportunities.

## *Shelley's story*

Shelley Dieke has seen the benefits swimming lessons can have as her son Oliver, who is deaf in his left ear, would not be in swimming lessons if it wasn't for YMCA Open Doors. Oliver is unable to play any contact sport, yet he has built confidence with his weekly lessons.

Shelley is thrilled with his progress, "Over the last six months, I've seen Oliver become a stronger swimmer and love his swimming."

The benefits of attending swimming lessons are not only the skills in the water and the peace of mind it

brings to parents. Young swimmers typically reach physical milestones faster and also perform better than children who don't take part in swimming lessons.



## Life-changing programs

Our programs and services are about connecting people, supporting them to thrive and feel like they belong, no matter what walk of life they come from. We deliver this purpose at more than 150 locations every day in settings including camps, community recreation and sporting facilities, swimming pools, childcare and early education, schools and kindergartens, youth services and youth justice facilities.

## *Matt's story*

Struggling to find his place in society after he left prison for drug charges, Matt has turned his life around thanks to the Y and Reclink. The partnership allows Matt access to gym facilities, as well as a pool, which has helped him to reclaim his life mentally, emotionally and physically.

Matt now regularly attends the gym at least four times a week, doesn't drink alcohol or do drugs, has a healthy diet and sleep routine, has connected with old friends and practices spirituality.

If not for this support, Matt is convinced that he would have relapsed back into an unhealthy lifestyle, and not have made the physical and mental progress he has.



## A better tomorrow where all people can belong

Our recreation centres are more than just places to work out. They are places for the community to come together and form meaningful connections through our programs of social sports, group fitness, skill development and special events.

### *Disco Dave's story*

Y Streetball, a volunteer-run basketball program helping locals facing hardship, has established itself as an important piece of social infrastructure in inner city Melbourne.

Meeting weekly for a casual game of pick-up basketball, Y Victoria volunteer Dave (Disco) Gunstone sees the program as a way of connecting adults experiencing homelessness or disadvantage. Identifying social connectedness as vital for overcoming some of life's challenges. Y Streetball provides a welcoming place for those most in need.

"We got people off the streets into housing, from doing nothing to enrolling in TAFE. Streetball is a stepping stone to building your confidence, communication and social skills to hopefully lead to a better overall quality of life," Dave said.

After rebounding from homelessness, Disco Dave started Y Streetball in 2017 with a handful of people showing up. Now every Tuesday and Sunday, a community has formed to watch or play basketball, socialise and share a meal. No commitments, uniforms, or skills are required - just a willingness to have fun and make new connections.



## Meeting people where they are

Meeting people where they are is how we live our purpose. We operate sport and recreation programs at Ravenhall Correctional Centre, and provide rehabilitation support for young offenders through our **YMCA Bridge Project** and **ReBuild** social enterprise. These programs provide the essential skills for reintegrating young people into the community and providing them access to skilled employment to break the cycle of reoffending.

### *Majok's story*

Ten per cent of Victoria's adult male prison population are aged between 18 and 24. Just over half return to prison within two years of being released. But for the young men who end up in Ravenhall Correctional Centre and commit to the six-week YMCA ReBuild program – learning work, life and woodworking skills – and a post-release transition program less than 5% end up returning to prison.

Majok Aneet is one of the more than 350 young, former Ravenhall inmates who have been employed by ReBuild since it was established in 2010. He “got caught up in the wrong crowd”, which eventually led to a 285-day jail sentence imposed by the County Court in late 2018. He had faced the threat of deportation to South Sudan if sentenced for longer than 12 months but a slightly shorter term was imposed after YMCA ReBuild assured the court they would employ Majok on his release.

In Ravenhall, Majok was assigned a ReBuild case manager and support continued after his release. YMCA ReBuild's manager Damien Carmody, said that staff help people break all their “post-jail anxieties down into small steps”. There's help with housing and mental health care and an opportunity to work with ReBuild.

Two days after leaving prison Majok contacted his ReBuild case manager; two weeks later he started work on landscaping jobs at Roxborough Park shopping centre and the Harpley Estate near Werribee. He is now one of about 20 young men working on one of ReBuild's major project crews. Some participants go on to become crew leaders, while some get jobs with the construction companies that ReBuild works for.



# How to leave a gift in your Will to the Y

Thinking about your Will can be uncomfortable, but talking with loved ones about your intentions and expressing this in a legal Will is your way of leaving an intentional legacy.

We can't always give as generously to our favourite charities in life as we might like. Leaving a gift in your Will to charity is therefore a wonderful way of supporting the vital work we do.

Gifts to charities can take the following forms:

## **Specific/Pecuniary**

A specific personal asset such as property, shares, or artwork. Or a specified amount of money.

## **Percentage**

A nominated percentage of the value of your whole Estate.

## **Residual**

The remainder of your Estate once all specific gifts have been disbursed to your beneficiaries and after any debts.

## **Important information**

**No gift is too small.** We are grateful that you are considering leaving us a gift and want you to know that even a small gift goes a long way to supporting disadvantaged young people access our programs and services.

## **Example wording** to include the Y in your Will:

"I [insert your name] bequeath to VICTORIAN YMCA YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES INC, ABN 42 858 439 742

[insert the percentage or residue of your Estate, the amount of money, or the details of assets you wish to bequeath]. My bequest is to be used for the general purposes of Victorian YMCA Youth & Community Services Inc. I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors."



# 5 Easy steps to making a Will

1. Choose your beneficiaries – Beneficiaries are those who you intend to leave your Estate to, and generally include loved ones first, followed by important people and charities you wish to include. We recommend talking to loved ones about your decision to include the Y in your Will.
2. Decide the types of gifts you intend to bequeath – Types of gifts include pecuniary, residual, and percentage.
3. Writing a Will – There are two main ways to write a Will. Online or with a solicitor. We recommend talking with a [legal professional](#) about making or updating your Will. At the Y we have also partnered with GatheredHere to help you access affordable online Will writing services.
4. Sign and keep safe
5. Notify the Y – We would love you to notify us that the Y is a beneficiary so that we can thank you personally and keep you up to date with the charitable work donations like yours are supporting. You or your solicitor can contact our bequests team at: [yvicbequests@ymca.org.au](mailto:yvicbequests@ymca.org.au)

## Will Writing Information

### Online Will writing platforms

If you are considering writing a Will, the Y has partnered with online Will provider, [Gathered Here](#) to cut out the time and cost of preparing a Will.

The following link will take you to the Y's unique landing page on the Gathered Here site where you can [write your Will online](#).

If you have any questions please reach out to Regina Said at [yvicbequests@ymca.org.au](mailto:yvicbequests@ymca.org.au).

### Information for Will writing

Example wording to include the Y in your Will:

"I [insert your name] bequeath to VICTORIAN YMCA YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES INC, ABN 42 858 439 742 [insert the percentage or residue of your Estate, the amount of money, or the details of assets you wish to bequeath]. My bequest is to be used for the general purposes of Victorian YMCA Youth & Community Services Inc. I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors."

# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***Why do I need a Will?***

Leaving a Will is your way of ensuring your Estate is distributed in line with your more recent wishes.

## ***Can I specify how my gift is used?***

Leaving a gift for 'general purposes' is the best way to ensure you are supporting the most vital work we do.

## ***Do I have to tell you about a gift I intend to leave?***

No, you don't have to tell us anything but we would love the opportunity to thank you personally and show you how gifts like yours support the valuable work we do with disadvantaged Victorians.

## ***I already have a Will***

Updating your Will ensures your most recent wishes are recorded. We recommend contacting your solicitor to discuss how you can update your Will to include a gift to the Y.



# Legacy Club

When you leave a gift in your Will to the Y you are helping make a difference to the future of disadvantaged Victorians. As a thank you, we would like to welcome you into our Legacy Club.

Legacy Club was born out of the story of Mr Ken Edwards – beloved Philip Island community member and donor to the Y. A committed fitness enthusiast, Ken was a frequent visitor to Philip Island Leisure Centre, trying out pilates and body balance for the first time in his early nineties!

Sadly, Ken died in late 2019, but his passion for fitness and community engagement will live on forever. Ken donated money to the Y with the intention that it be used to support people who were in a similar situation to him. Specifically, older people who may not be able to afford to use the facilities.

Ken also wanted to make sure the staff were able to help older community members participate in activities and try new things, just like he was able to.

As a memorial to Ken and a tribute to his community spirit, the Y commissioned local craftsman and PILC team member, Cameron Wyatt to build a chair where we can continue to remember Ken and his legacy to the Philip Island community. Inscribed with the words 'Ken Edwards: always young at heart', the memorial chair sits in front of PILC for the Y community to enjoy as they enter and leave the centre, in loving memory of Ken.



## *Join Our Legacy Club*

With Ken and his community spirit in mind, the Y now has a Legacy Club which is our way of thanking you for leaving us a gift in your Will. As a thank you, you will receive a Legacy Club Introductory pack when you notify us of your bequest, and will be invited to special launches and VIP events, as well as receive updates on the Y's valuable charity work.

Significant donations will be honoured in consultation with your chosen executor in line with your wishes.

*Thank You*

Thank you for considering leaving the Y a gift in your Will.  
If you would like more information please contact our bequests team:

Email: [yvicbequests@ymca.org.au](mailto:yvicbequests@ymca.org.au)

Phone number: 03 9450 5000



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