

## Be the key to helping families overcome homelessness

By remembering Midlands Simon you are leaving so much more than money, you are leaving hope, dignity and futures.

*"When I came to Midlands Simon I had nothing, no home and no hope. Now I am back on my feet, in my own place, life is one day at a time, but I feel I have a chance, a future".*



It is our belief that by continuing to work closely with all our partners, in the business community, the Local Authorities, the H.S.E., the D.O.E.H.L.G., and all our volunteers and supporters, we can help people overcome homelessness.

We believe that with your support we can achieve our goal to end homelessness in the Midlands and help all our Service Users to rebuild their lives, in a place they can call home.

Your decision to support Midlands Simon, even after you have gone could be the key to ending homelessness in the Midlands.



If you have decided you would like to make a difference to those experiencing homelessness by remembering Midlands Simon Community in your will but are unsure of what to do next please contact Midlands Simon Community on 090 6444641 or [info@midlandssimon.com](mailto:info@midlandssimon.com) or make an appointment with your Solicitor, who will gladly assist you.

### For more information please contact us at;

Midlands Simon Community, Business Development Centre,  
Ball Alley Lane, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
or [info@midlandssimon.com](mailto:info@midlandssimon.com) , 090 6444641, 090 6450280

Midlands Simon Community is a Registered Charity: Number 15508

Snap Athlone 090 644 4779

# MAKING YOUR WILL?

**Choosing to leave a gift or legacy to Midlands Simon Community could be the key to someone's future, and home"**



## About Midlands Simon Community Ending Homelessness. Unlocking Futures.

Midlands Simon Community has been supporting families, couples, and individuals who are at risk of or who are experiencing homelessness throughout Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath and the wider midlands region since 2004.

No one deserves to be forgotten about or left behind simply because they encounter difficulties in their lives; It is our belief that with help and support, and by working together, people can overcome any challenge, even homelessness.

### Each year we assist in the region of 300 people.

While the main priority of our work is to assist all our Service Users to move out of homelessness we also work very closely to help them overcome the many other difficulties faced by those who are homelessness, such as loneliness, isolation, poverty, and health and welfare issues.

We also campaign and advocate and provide a much needed voice for those on the margins of our society.

*" I had to leave my home because of domestic violence, Midlands Simon saved my life, and gave me back hope, and a future". Mary*



In short, it is our aim to help all our Service Users to rebuild their lives, and move out of homelessness into a permanent home. We do this by providing a range of supports and services, including **Emergency Accommodation, Regional Settlement Service**, assisting people with **Life Skills** and providing ongoing support and care through various Volunteer Programmes.

Homelessness can be a very complex issue, and there are many stereotypes associated with it. There are a range of difficulties that can cause people to experience homelessness and to require the support of Midlands Simon Community.

### The main challenges and difficulties we help people to overcome are;

- Poverty and the cycle of disadvantage / lack of opportunities.
- Long term health and mental health difficulties.
- Addiction difficulties.
- People experiencing severe financial difficulties.
- Those affected by domestic violence / abuse.
- Relationship breakdown.
- People living in overcrowded, unsafe, or unsuitable accommodation.

## Making a Will “Change the future, even after your gone”

For many the idea of making a will is a frightening process, but it is a very important one, which has a huge impact on our families, loved ones and causes and issues we care about. By making a will, you can provide stability for the people you love and make things easier for them after you have gone.

While you are drawing up your will and making provision for your loved ones you could also choose to remember those who are homeless right throughout the Midlands. Your decision to remember Midlands Simon Community in your will could be the key to enabling someone to move out of homelessness. Your generosity could be the key to ending homelessness, and unlocking someone’s future.

**Ciaran: Ciaran woke up one morning when he was at his lowest ebb and decided he wanted something different for his life. Taken into care at 14 years old, Ciaran went through a lot before Midlands Simon stepped in to help him. Without Ciaran`s decision and Simon`s support his life path could have gone a different direction. He`s now rediscovered education, is optimistic about the future and has his own house.**

## Types of Bequests

There are different types of bequests you could leave:

**A Pecuniary Bequest** - This is a gift of a specific amount of money.

**Example:** “I give to Midlands Simon Community, of Unit 15, ACT, Ball Alley Lane, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, registered charity no.15508 the sum of .....(in figures) and (amount in words) for the general purposes of the charity and I direct that a receipt of the treasurer of the Treasurer or other duly authorised officer of the charity shall be sufficient discharge for my executors”

**A Residuary Bequest** - This is a gift of the residue of your estate, or share of the residence after other bequests to your family and friends have been made, and any debts, taxes and expenses have been paid.

**Example:** “I give devise and bequeath... (all / share) of the residue of my estate to the Midlands Simon Community, of Unit 15, ACT, Ball Alley Lane, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, registered charity no. 15508 the sum of ... (in figures) and (amount in words) for the general purposes of the charity and I direct that the receipt(s) of the Treasurer or other duly authorised officer of the charity shall be sufficient discharge for my executors”.

**A Specific Request** - This is the gift of a particular item of value; this could include property stocks, shares, proceeds of a life assurance policy, furniture, jewellery etc.

**Example:** “ give devise and bequeath to the Midlands Simon Community, of Unit 15, ACT, Ball Alley, Lane, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, registered charity no. 15508 my ....(description of the item) for the purposes of the charity and I direct that a receipt of the Treasurer or other duly authorised officer of the charity shall be sufficient discharge for my executors”.

Even if you already have a will, it is easy to amend it to include a gift to Midlands Simon Community. All you would need to do is complete a Codicil, which is a supplement which modifies an existing will or allows changes to be made to some existing provisions. It must be witnessed in its own right and must be kept with your will.

### Example:

I (your name): \_\_\_\_\_

Of (your address): \_\_\_\_\_

Declare this to be a (state whether first or second) codicil dated to full date: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Secretary for the time being of the Midlands Simon Community, having its registered office at Unit 15, ACT, Ball Alley Lane, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, I leave (amount in words) \_\_\_\_\_ for the general purposes of the charity. I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer of other duly authorised officer of the charity shall be sufficient discharge for my executors.

In all other respects, I confirm my said will. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ Month of \_\_\_\_\_ year.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by the said Testator and for the first (or second if one codicil already exists) codicil to his / her last will in our presence that as his / her request and his / her presence we have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Witness no. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Witness no. 2 \_\_\_\_\_

