

## Leaving a legacy to the Village Service Trust can change lives. For good.

Everything that the **Village Service Trust** does as an organisation originated with an English woman, Dora Scarlett. Dora went to India in 1959 and founded Seva Nilayam in 1962, barely leaving India for the rest of her life. At first it was extremely simple: some everyday medicines handed out at the door of a mud hut. But over the years it developed; volunteer nurses came and funding was secured from agencies and individuals from around the world. Sister organisations Arogya Agam and Vasandham were launched based on the work at Seva Nilayam, and the work grew from the original clinic to embrace tuberculosis, community health campaigns, women's development and AIDS. This work has been replicated throughout Theni District, south India and beyond.



**“What a wonderful woman Dora Scarlett was and wonderful in that even after death she leaves such a remarkable legacy behind her.”**

Claire Cox, Supporter, 2001

None of this would have begun without Dora's forceful personality, tenacity and inspiration. People who worked with, met or corresponded with Dora will have special memories of her, and the way she touched our lives.

### Legacies and Inheritance Tax

Bequests to charities such as the **Village Service Trust** are exempt from inheritance tax and this could reduce or eliminate completely any potential tax which might otherwise be payable out of your estate. It is always advisable to have your will made by a solicitor who will be able to give you all the legal and tax advice you require.

### What types of legacies are there?

**A residuary legacy** – a percentage of what is left of your estate, eg. 10%, once all the expenses, debts, and specific gifts have been taken out.

This is the most preferred type of legacy for charities. It means that however much your financial circumstances change, the share of the estate each person or charity receives will stay the same and so there is no need to keep changing your will. It is also a more inflation proof way of leaving a gift compared to a set sum of money. A gift of £250 today may will be worth a lot less in 20 or 30 years time.

**A pecuniary legacy** – a set sum of money, e.g. £1000.

This is a simple and straightforward type of legacy, but makes no allowances for inflation.

**A specific legacy/gift** – this enables you to leave something of value to the charity e.g. a painting, jewellery, a house.

### Wording to use in a will

As a will is a legal document, if it is not prepared properly it may make it invalid. The **Village Service Trust** recommends using a solicitor to make or change a will. Please make sure your solicitor refers to the wording provided when leaving a legacy to the **Village Service Trust**, so that there will be no misunderstandings.

### **To leave a share of your estate (a residuary legacy)**

I give \_\_\_\_\_ (please state the percentage or fraction) of the residue of my estate absolutely to Village Service Trust of Room 408, Bon Marche Centre, Ferndale Road, London SW9 8BJ, Registered Charity 277111, to be applied to the Village Service Trust for its charitable purposes. I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or any other proper officer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

### **To leave a specific sum (a pecuniary gift)**

I give to the Village Service Trust of Room 408, Bon Marche Centre, Ferndale Road, London SW9 8BJ, Registered Charity 277111, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ (please state sum in figures and in words) to be applied to the Village Service Trust for its charitable purposes. I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or any other proper officer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

### **To leave a specific item**

I give to the Village Service Trust of Room 408, Bon Marche Centre, Ferndale Road, London SW9 8BJ, Registered Charity 277111, \_\_\_\_\_ (please state what you wish to leave) to be applied to the Village Service Trust for its charitable purposes. I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or any other proper officer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

## **Changing your existing will**

There are many occasions in life when it may be necessary to alter your will. This can be done by adding a codicil.

**A Codicil** – a legal document, witnessed in its own right – which changes or adds an instruction to an existing will.

Each time you wish to make a change to your will you can simply prepare a further codicil. You may have as many codicils as you like as long as they clearly refer to your original will. You should keep them in the same place as your will.

## **Can I leave a specific legacy to fund a specific project?**

The nature of our projects and programmes can change over time and the **Village Service Trust** requests that legacy contributions go to general funds so that Trustees and staff on the ground can best decide how to spend the donation.

## **Donations in Memory**

In the past, supporters have let their family and friends know that, although flowers and tributes are most welcome, they would prefer that they are remembered in a more lasting way with 'donations in lieu of flowers' and 'donations in Memoriam' to the **Village Service Trust**.

## **Informing the Village Service Trust of your bequest**

If you do decide to make a bequest, please consider informing the **Village Service Trust**. The pledge is not legally binding and there is no obligation to do so. However, you will help us look to the future with confidence and security, assisting us with planning our long term programmes.