

Happiness will **always matter**

Create fun, joy & laughter
long into the future



Your guide to leaving ★
a gift in your Will. ★ ★



Happiness matters & it ALWAYS will.

A message from Louise, our CEO



Happiness helps sick kids like Lexi cope
with the pain of illness and treatment

Imagine one day, you're having fun with your friends at school, and playing in the backyard... the next, you're in hospital surrounded by strange smells and people, experiencing painful treatments that make you feel worse, not better.

It all happens in an instant. Being diagnosed with a serious illness, your whole world is turned upside down. It's even worse for a child, as a doctor once told me, *"In treating their illness, we steal their childhood."*

That's why your support is so vital. Through Starlight, you give seriously ill children a chance to step away from their medical diagnosis and experience the happiness that every child deserves.

Today, I'd like to ask if you will create fun, joy and laughter for seriously ill children for generations to come, by leaving a gift in your Will to Starlight.

Because happiness matters. And it ALWAYS will.

Thank you.

Louise Baxter

CEO Starlight Children's Foundation



YOU can give sick kids happiness to last a lifetime

What happens in childhood lasts a lifetime. That's why there's no better gift to give a child than happiness.

Starlight's programs provide seriously ill children with positive distraction from the trauma of serious illness, by creating moments of happiness, fun and joy.

Research shows happiness in childhood is one of the strongest determinants of how a child will perform at school, in their job, and in developing long-term healthy life behaviours.

Thank you for everything you do to give happiness to seriously ill children. Today you have an opportunity to take your support to another level.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Starlight, you'll ensure all sick kids can experience happiness, no matter what life throws their way.

You will create fun, laughter, and joy for generations to come.



With your help Captain Starlight is there to create joy for sick kids like Henry.

“

Starlight's programs are a beacon of hope for children and families navigating the toughest times. Their work is not just about distraction; it's about creating moments of joy that can change a child's outlook on life.”

-Professor Tracey O'Brien AM



Create fun, joy & laughter

for kids like Liam, long into the future



“A huge thank you to all Starlight supporters who make it possible for Starlight to bring happiness and laughter to sick kids like Liam,” says Michelle.

Three-year-old Liam loves his trucks and cars. He is happiest exploring parks and playgrounds and getting messy with play-doh and slime.

However, when Liam went off his food and began to lose weight, his mum Michelle made an appointment with his doctor. He told her, **'Take Liam straight to the ER.'** There little Liam was diagnosed with cancer. Michelle recalls struggling to make sense of this news.

"I was numb," she says. "I bawled my eyes out. At first, I wasn't comprehending it. It just didn't seem right. When it finally sunk in, I started asking questions like, "Is he going to die."

Liam's world changed in an instant. Suddenly life revolved around scary surgeries to remove tumours, stays in the ICU and extensive treatments.

Liam's hospital visits fill him with anxiety. However, thanks to you, Captain Starlight is there to distract Liam with fun and joy at every stage.

“ ***Starlight has been amazing," says Mum Michelle. "Liam looks forward to seeing Captain Starlight and visiting the Starlight Express Room. It's his highlight."***



Liam having fun with Captain Starlight

In the Starlight Express Room, Liam enjoys painting and playing with slime. He loves to follow Captain Starlight around on a little tricycle. Michelle describes it as Liam's "comfort zone" within the hospital.

When Liam isn't well enough to make it to the Starlight Express Room, Captains Starlight visits him in his hospital room bringing laughter and joy, when he needs it most, through his dressing changes which Liam dislikes the most.

**By leaving a gift in your Will to Starlight,
YOU can ensure every sick child experiences
happiness, no matter what.**

With one gift, YOU will make an incredible, **long-term difference** for every member of the family.

When a child is seriously ill, their whole family is affected. Your kindness wraps around each one and offers the lasting gift of happiness.

Below is a heartfelt message from Lola, who is now 18. She sent us this beautiful message about her life-changing experience with Starlight when she was a child.



“My name is Lola. When I was 9, my brother was involved in a freak skydiving accident. He was airlifted to hospital where he remained for nearly a year. My mum lived right by the hospital that year, while my dad and I would drive up to Sydney from Canberra every Friday afternoon, and drive home on Sunday night so I could go back to school.

“I spent every single day of my time at the hospital in the Starlight Room. I would wait outside until the doors open, and stay until the doors closed. Somehow, during the most horrible time in my life that I'll probably ever experience, the memories I hold are so beautiful.

I'm contacting you because of one Captain Starlight in particular. She wore silver shoes that would light up when she walked, and during this time, she was my favourite person to spend time with.

“She gave me a break from worrying about my family and allowed me to actually live my childhood. Captain Starlight was honestly the person who saved me from worse trauma or memories.

“I want to thank her for everything she did for me. I think of her often when I am trying to figure out the type of person I want to be.”

“Thank you so, so much. I will forever be grateful for the Starlight Express Room. You guys are more than captains. You are superheroes.”

★ ★ ★ - Lola ★ ★ ★



By leaving a special gift to Starlight in your Will,
YOU can transform the lives of seriously ill children,
their siblings and their parents creating

happiness for generations to come.

*Isla and her sister enjoying time together in
the Starlight Express Room.*



“If you can help make a small change
in someone's life, you can change
the course of history.”

- Silvio, Starlight Bequestor

Silvio's gift for the future

Recently we spoke with Silvio, a valued supporter who has chosen to leave a gift in his Will to Starlight.

Silvio says:

"I think life is about collecting experiences. But when you're a sick child, you don't get to do that.

"At the end of the day, I'd like to create as many happy experiences for those children, so they can forget that they are in pain, or uncomfortable, or going through a tough time.

“

I want to make things a little bit easier for them, and for the parents as well. I don't think we should forget the parents – heaven forbid. They're going through a tough time too. I can't imagine going through that. Being able to see their child smile and be happy – that can give them the strength and encouragement to continue.”



"You can always do something. Think about the joy you could create, and how that changes someone's outlook on life and their family's outlook on life.

"That's the way I look at things. If you can help make a small difference in someone's life, you can change the course of history. The change is just incredible. And that's quite powerful, I think."

A HUGE thank you to Silvio, and to all of our wonderful supporters who have chosen to bring joy into lives of seriously ill children, and their families, by leaving a gift in their Will to Starlight.

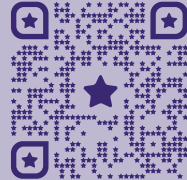
How to leave a gift in your Will

If you don't already have a Will yet, you'll be surprised at how simple it can be. There are several convenient options available – you can work with a solicitor, use a Will kit, or create one online through our friends at Safewill.

Safewill's user friendly platform will guide you through each step of the process. Scan the QR code or visit their website at safewill.com/starlight



**Scan to create
your Will with
Safewill**



If you already have a Will, you can include a gift to Starlight by simply adding a codicil, which is a short legal amendment to your current Will.

Types of gifts you can leave



Percentage

You can leave a percentage or a nominated portion of your estate to a charity. Even a gift of 1% or 2% can make an enormous difference.



Residuary Bequest

After your loved ones have been provided for, you can leave all (or a percentage) of the remainder of your estate to Starlight. This is a great way to protect against inflation, and there's no need for you to identify the precise value of your gift.



Specific bequest

You can choose to nominate a fixed amount or a specific item of value (e.g. shares, artwork, or property) to us in your Will.

Suggested wording

to leave a gift to Starlight in your Will

'I [insert name here] bequeath to Starlight Children's Foundation ABN 80 931 522 157 for its general purposes [Choose and insert the appropriate statement from the list below]'

- 1 The whole of my estate
- 2 [insert number] percent of my estate
- 3 The residue of my estate
- 4 The amount of \$ [insert the value of your gift] in cash
- 5 My [insert name of 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).

What next?

Once you've made your Will online with Safewill it will then be reviewed by a qualified solicitor. If you have a complex situation or prefer to speak with someone directly, you can schedule a consultation with a specialist Wills lawyer from Safewill Legal, their affiliated law firm.

Of course, you're also welcome to take this booklet to your own solicitor if you'd prefer.

Please let us know

Once you have written or amended your Will to include Starlight, we would love to thank you and warmly welcome you into the very special group of Starlight legacy donors. So please, will you let us know that you have left us a gift in your Will?

You can either use the enclosed reply form and post it back to us, or contact us using the details on the back page.

We'd love to hear from you

If have left or are considering leaving a gift to Starlight in your Will, we'd love to hear from you. We'd also be happy to answer any questions you might have:



1300 727 827



mail@starlight.org.au



starlight.org.au/gift-in-will

“Hospital without Starlight would be torture. But with Starlight, suddenly Liam is stress free, there's not a care in the world. If he's happy, I'm happy. We just forget about what's happening around us”.
- Michelle, mum of 3yr old Liam



Your future gift can bring fun, joy and laughter to sick kids like Liam.

Please, will YOU create fun, joy and laughter for sick kids like Liam long into the future, by leaving a gift in your Will to Starlight?

Because happiness matters, and it ALWAYS will.