

Give a gift that lasts beyond a lifetime

Remember us in your will

Help our work live on



**The Haven
Wolverhampton**

Supporting people affected by
domestic abuse and homelessness
www.havenrefuge.org.uk

 **The Haven**
WOLVERHAMPTON

Who we are and what we do

A quarter of all women in the UK experience domestic abuse over their lifetime, so this problem is not on the fringes of society. In fact, although less than half of all incidents are reported to the police they still receive one domestic abuse call every minute.

“I won’t ever forget what The Haven Wolverhampton has done for me and it’s hard to express just how grateful I am”
Former service user

The Haven Wolverhampton was founded in 1973, set up to provide emergency accommodation to women and children

made homeless when escaping domestic abuse.

Starting life with a grant of just £5, we have grown from our humble beginnings and now provide accommodation to up to 63 women and 100 children at any time.

Emotional and financial abuse over time means people become increasingly dependent on their abuser, making it difficult to see a way out. The Haven’s refuges are a safe place to go, where women can get a roof over their head and keep their children safe

Feeling like there is nowhere else to go can be a significant barrier to leaving an abusive relationship, this is why our refuges are so vital.

Here is an idea of the difference our services make - during 2015-16:

- Our helpline received 2,288 calls
- 329 women and 217 children were accommodated in our 6 refuges
- We supported 591 women in the community

“I truly believe The Haven Wolverhampton saved my life”
Former service user

We understand that this information may have come to you at a time that is inappropriate or insensitive. Please accept our sincere apologies if this is the case, we do not wish to cause any distress.

Leaving a gift to The Haven

When people arrive at our emergency accommodation we give them more than a roof over their heads, we give them a home and a fresh start.

“The Haven has changed my life completely. I now feel like I am where I want to be in life...I make my own decisions and I feel I’ve got more control in my life”
Former service user

Every donation we receive helps us to continue our lifesaving work. A gift in your will is one of the best ways to support The Haven because these donations mean we can plan ahead and ensure

we continue to be here for many other women and children in crisis for many years to come.

A gift to us in your will means more than giving money, it would make a life-changing difference to women and children at The Haven and have a real impact on our services. Here is an idea of what a gift could do:

£10,000 could pay for secure garden fencing to prevent perpetrators from being able to gain access to refuge, and so keep residents safe

£5000 could pay for adjustments to make our refuges more energy efficiency, saving us money in the future

£1000 could give one of our refuges a revamp so they are comfortable to live in and all furniture and appliances are good quality.

£500 could cover the cost of 250 crisis calls to our helpline or buy clothing for 25 women and their children who have left their homes with nothing

If you would like to know more about leaving a gift to The Haven get in touch, using the details on the back of this leaflet.

There are two main ways that you can leave a gift to The Haven in your will:

- A set amount (known as pecuniary) – you can specify an amount that you wish to go

to The Haven, but pecuniary legacies can decrease in value over time unless the gift is index-linked.

- A proportion (known as residuary) – you can chose to give a percentage of your remaining estate after gifts to friends and family have been distributed.

Your solicitor will be able to advise you further.

With your help we will continue to support people for whom our services are vital. **A gift in your will to The Haven gives more than money, it gives safety and independence to women and children affected by domestic abuse.**

Rachel's story*

I met Paul when I was 13. He seemed very charming and showed me lots of attention. He made me feel safe and secure.

Things were great – I never would have predicted what was to come.

A number of years into the relationship Paul started drinking heavily and developed a serious gambling addiction. We argued a lot about money. It was during these arguments he'd call me names – stupid, thick, fat, ugly! It made me feel horrible. **When you hear it day in-day out, you start to believe that you are stupid, thick, fat and ugly.**

We had our first child. Then one night, after he

came home from a particularly heavy drinking session, he hit me! It seemed to come out of nowhere. **He was very apologetic and promised he would never do anything again to hurt me. He begged me to stay because of the baby.** I decided to forgive him and gave him a second chance.

We had 4 more children together. During that time there were no more physical attacks, however the name calling got worse, it became a daily occurrence. Then one evening he just flipped! The kids were playing up and he wanted them to be quiet. I took them upstairs to bed. As soon as I came back down he lashed out. He beat me so badly, literally all

over. Like the first time he was very apologetic, but he also said it was my fault, if I'd kept the kids in line he wouldn't of had to do this.

Things steadily became worse. Two of my children started mimicking their dad's behaviour. They would call me names and on occasions hit me. **It all became too much and I took an overdose, I just didn't want to be here any longer.** I woke up in hospital where I stayed for 3 weeks. Whilst in hospital the abuse didn't stop, I would receive hurtful text messages.

At this point I still didn't know that what I was experiencing was domestic abuse. Domestic abuse isn't

something you hear about really, nobody talks about it. **I do believe that if I had known more about domestic abuse then I would have gotten out much sooner.**

I moved into one of The Haven refuges. The support I received was fantastic. They helped me find my own place and they also accompanied me to court when obtaining restraining orders and going through divorce proceedings. It felt amazing to be working with someone who believed in me and had confidence that I could come through the other side.

I truly believe that if it hadn't been for The Haven I would be dead.

**To receive more information about making a gift to
The Haven in your will please get in touch:**

Phone

01902 904 677

Email

give@havenrefuge.org.uk

Or, write to us at
Fundraising Team
The Haven Wolverhampton
18 Waterloo Road
WV1 4BL

Thank you

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic
abuse call our free 24 hour helpline on

08000 194 400

In an emergency call 999