

Your will...

their future

*Your life's work building a future
for Victoria's most vulnerable children
and young people*





Why Berry Street is different

We never give up

We will always be there for the children, young people and families of Victoria with the most complex and challenging needs.

We care for children and young people who have suffered great distress and significant harm growing up in families where violence, chronic neglect, substance abuse, mental illness and poverty have prevented them from having a good childhood.

Dedicated teams of well trained carers and professional staff work together on programs that have been designed to ensure that these children get the best chance of becoming balanced and responsible adults.

You can help a child to turn from a life with pain and no meaning, to become an adult who feels valued, has a dream for the future and contributes to society.

Children and young people are our future.

As long as they are in need, Berry Street will be there, doing its best to help them.

A caring legacy for the children of the future

After returning to Victoria in the early seventies, I was fortunate to obtain a position, as a trained social worker, at Berry Street. After retirement I received an invitation to join the governing board at Berry Street, upon which I served for nine years.

My earlier association lead me to make a bequest (from limited resources) in my will to Berry Street. Over the years I have been delighted (as so many others) to see the growth in the organisation and to witness it become the largest child-caring agency in Victoria.

I wish it continuing success in the future, with the monetary assistance of community individuals and organisations. It needs continuity to grow every year, as the population in Victoria grows.

My sincere congratulations go to the management team for their wonderful efforts.

Lois Pitman

Ex Board Member and bequest supporter

Our Vision

All children have a good childhood, growing up in families and communities where they feel safe, nurtured and have hope for the future.

Berry Street We never give up

Leave behind



How you can help to turn children's lives around

Berry Street needs to have financial resilience and access to skills so that we can continue to:

- sustain our programs that are healing damaged lives
- design new programs to meet changing societal needs
- implement sustainable programs

Meaningful long term effective programs are needed to help the increasing number of children who are struggling really terribly, often in silence, right here in our own backyard.

By including Berry Street in your will:

- You can help to fix children's damaged lives
- You can help them feel valued and loved
- You can give them hope and a vision for the future
- You can give them opportunities that they never would have had
- You can allow them the chance to dream

By including Berry Street in your will, you can help to give children with damaged lives the chance to have a good childhood and a happy productive adulthood.

First Steps

Looking after a child is one of life's most challenging and important tasks.

If, as mature adults, many of us find child rearing complex, can you imagine how difficult it must be for young parents whose own parenting experience was so poor? First Steps is designed to provide young parents with an awareness of the needs of children, as well as the knowledge and skills to care properly for their own children.

Leave behind



Your will is a means of showing how much you care

The main priority for your will is to provide for the members of your family and their future. However, your will is also your most enduring embodiment of your life values and represents your life work.

It is probably one of the most useful tools to ensure that those services you have supported whilst you are alive, are able to continue once you have passed away. It may also present an opportunity to make a larger gift than was possible during your lifetime.

Berry Street would never have achieved the success it has without the vision of those who have left us gifts in their wills.

One of our loyal donors left us a bequest in her will that enabled Berry Street to expand its services in the Gippsland region, resulting in more children and young people being able to reap the benefits of the programs that Berry Street offers.

Berry Street's challenge has always been to plan for the future – for the children of tomorrow.

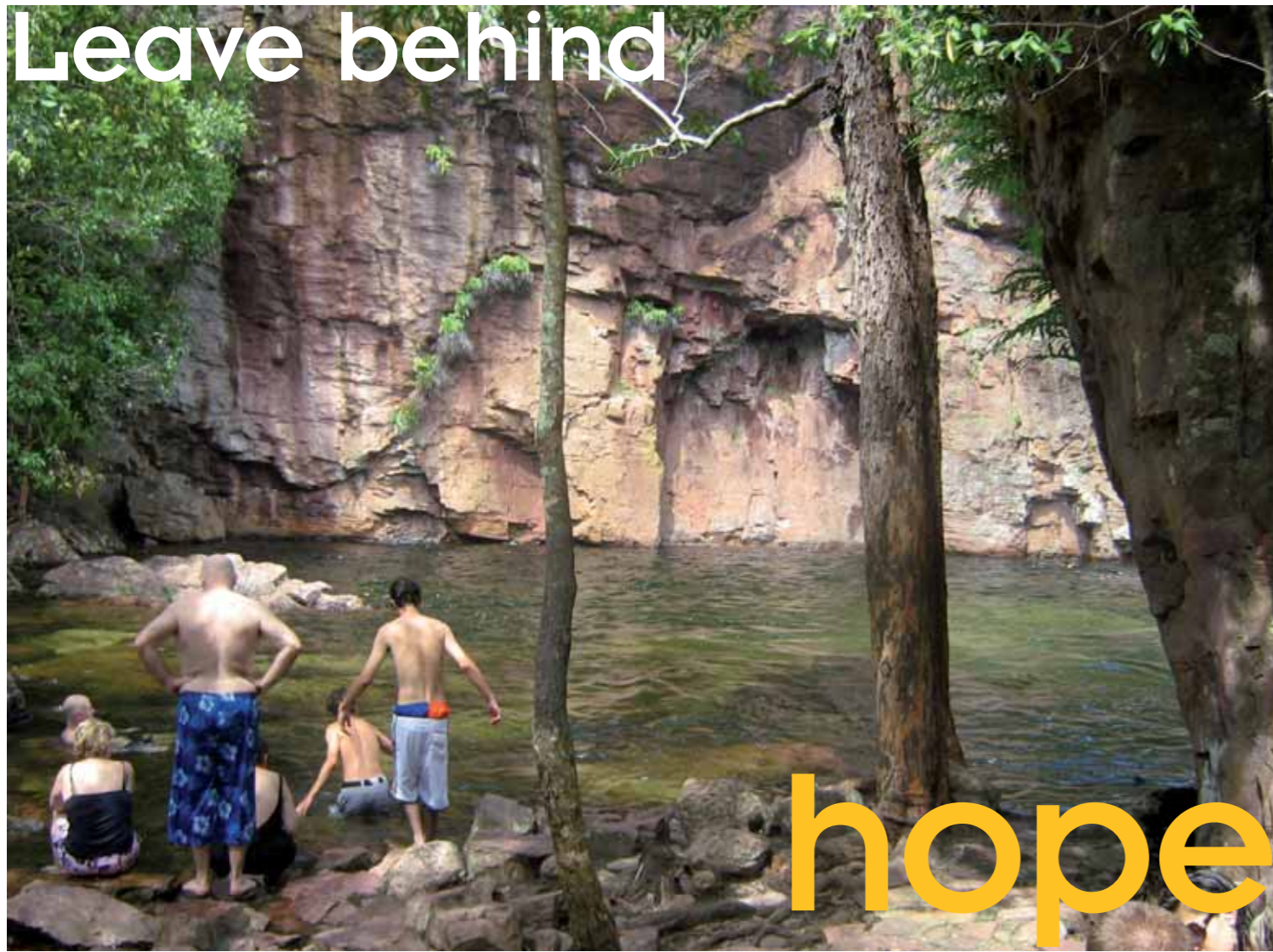
Your generous gift will help us to ensure that we can help Victoria's most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, young people and families well into the future.

Take Two

Providing a lifeline for young victims of abuse.

We do this through providing a developmental mental health program, including counselling and therapy to children who have suffered trauma and disrupted attachment.

Leave behind



Gippsland Wilderness Experience

Children at risk of dropping out of school are taken on an adventure program which challenges them to rethink what they want out of life.

The success of this program is evidenced by 84% of the young people continuing at school or finding work. It very importantly teaches them resilience, whilst rebuilding their sense of trust and self-esteem.

How do I leave a bequest to Berry Street?

There are several ways to do this:

- You could leave a percentage of your assets
- A lump sum
- Or the residue of your estate

Remember though that the value of a lump sum will diminish in time, whereas your assets will increase.

How do I include Berry Street in my will?

Below is some wording you can use when making or updating your will to include Berry Street:

I(*insert name*)..... give to Berry Street, of 1 Salisbury Street Richmond in the State of Victoria, for its general purposes(*share/residue/special gift*)..... of my estate free from all debts (secured or unsecured) or the sum of \$.....(*insert value*)..... and I declare that the receipt or acknowledgement of its Chief Executive Officer or other authorised officer will be sufficient to discharge the responsibility of my Executors or Trustees in respect of this bequest.

Leave behind



dreams

Kids in the Kitchen

Our Kids' Kitchen program was developed to teach young people in our care how to cook nutritious meals on a tight budget, and in turn assist them to care for themselves in a healthy and safe way. It has also provided dreams and pathways to future careers in hospitality.

A life without direction goes nowhere – Nathaniel Summers

Your generosity changing children's lives

Jody is 15 years old and in 2007 had been in Berry Street's care for two years.

Jody grew up in an unstable and violent family environment and had been sexually abused by a family member until the age of seven. This resulted in her having low self-esteem, fear of failure and anxiety about unfamiliar environments.

She had a history of minimal school attendance and had only passed two Year Seven subjects. She became engaged in criminal activities and substance abuse. Jody felt that she was unable to return to mainstream schooling.

Jody had lost hope and direction!

She came to live in one of Berry Street's residential units in Dandenong, where her case worker encouraged her to enrol in Berry Street's school, the BEST Centre. An individualised program was developed to rebuild her self-esteem and confidence, and to reignite her interest in gaining an education.

Jody now has hope and a vision for the future.

"I now do cooking classes and want to be a chef when I leave here," she explains.

Your bequest will be used to give more of Victoria's children and young people a chance to turn their lives around, so that they can become happier, contributing members of our society.

Leave behind

opportunities

Education

Berry Street believes that all young people have a right to education.

The mainstream education system has failed too many of our young people. They become disengaged and lose confidence. Through our various education programs, young people can rebuild their confidence, skills and knowledge and have opportunities for a better future.

Sometimes we receive bequests when it is too late to thank the benefactor.

We don't want that to happen to you.

If you are considering including Berry Street in your will, or if you have already done so, we are most grateful.

It would be a great help if you could let us know by completing and returning the form below. This will assist us to plan ahead with confidence and also to ensure that we follow your wishes. Of course, completing the form does not commit you in any way.

If you would like more information about how you can help through your will, or how your gift may be recognised appropriately, please indicate on the form and return it to the address listed:

- I have already included Berry Street in my will
- I intend to include Berry Street in my will
- I am considering including Berry Street in my will
- I would like more information regarding where to direct my gift

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form (marked Private and Confidential) to:

Berry Street
Attention: The Chief Executive Officer
1 Salisbury Street
Richmond, VIC 3121
Phone: 03 9429 9266
Fax: 03 9429 5160

Please tear here



Leave behind

security

Foster Care

A place called love

Ideally, all children should live with their parents. Sadly this is not possible for many of the children who turn to Berry Street. We need to find, accredit and support foster carers to provide this necessity.

Ways of Giving Now

Helping to ensure that all children have a good childhood

Established in 1877 as the Victorian Infant Asylum, Berry Street has always focussed on protecting children. Sadly, family violence, abuse and neglect mean too many children do not experience their birthright - a good childhood.

In the early days, the wonderful people who supported the children had to manage without any government support.

This tradition of individuals recognising the critical importance of our work continues today.

While we are always immensely grateful to receive a bequest, wherever possible, we like to get to know our prospective donors, so that we can ensure we carry out their wishes.

If you are considering leaving a bequest to Berry Street, or have any other questions, we would love to hear from you.

Warm regards,



Sandie de Wolf
Chief Executive Officer

Leave behind



a future

Central Office

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