

**Your legacy will change
the lives of Australian
children in need.**

*"I feel so lonely at school.
I feel like I can't keep up.
All the kids know I'm poor."*

– Jenny, aged 8.*

GIFTS IN WILLS

A gift for the future



everyone's family

The reality of poverty in Australia





**One in six
Australian children and
young people living in poverty
need our support to make
the most of their education.¹**

**For children like Jenny*,
disadvantage at home leads to
difficulties at school.** They start
their education without the early
literacy and numeracy skills of their
classmates. They are behind before
they even begin.

Since 1922, The Smith Family has
been dedicated to improving the
lives of disadvantaged Australian
children. In the last 30 years we've
focused on educational programs to
help children make the most of their
school years.

Research proves that supporting a
disadvantaged child's education is a
powerful way to make lasting change.

Last year we supported more than
206,000 Australian children in
need and their families through our
programs. Sadly, for every child we
can help, there are thousands more
who need our help.

**With your help, more children like
Jenny will get the skills they need
to catch up, keep up, do well at
school and create a better future
for themselves.**

* Jenny's name and associated image have been changed to protect her identity.

¹ Poverty in Australia, 2020, ACOSS/UNSW Report.

A gift for the future

Australia's future is in your hands. By leaving a gift in your Will, you can change the lives of Australian children in need.

Too many Australian children are trapped in a cycle of poverty. Their financial disadvantage at home turns into disadvantage at school as they struggle to catch up with their classmates and fall further and further behind. Often, such children become disenchanted – losing their drive and resigning themselves to a life of failure. The hardship they are born into continues into adulthood.

The Smith Family is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty for

disadvantaged children and helping them onto the path of achievement. Through our *Learning for Life* programs we provide educational support to the children who need it most.

Children like Jenny have proven that with extra reading support, homework help and a guiding hand, they can thrive. That's what *Learning for Life* provides.


But you can also help. Please give disadvantaged Australian students the out-of-school support they need to make the most of their education.

Today, you can change their future.



84.2% of *Learning for Life* students, who left school in Years 10–12 were engaged in work and/or study, 12 months after leaving the program. Of the remaining 18%, four in five were actively seeking employment, and one in six were volunteering.

The difference you can make



“Jenny’s confidence is growing each day. Her future is changing with every week she spends doing Learning for Life.”

– Jenny’s mother

Year after year we see our learning support programs change lives, helping young Australians to break the cycle of disadvantage.

Your legacy will ensure that future generations of Australian children have access to the support they need to get the most out of their education.

Whether this means staying in school until Year 12, taking up an apprenticeship, attending TAFE or university, you’re helping young Australians to make the most of

their education – so they can create a better economic future for themselves and their families.

You’re not just helping one child today, you’re joining with The Smith Family and other like-minded individuals to make a difference to a whole generation of Australian children who need a hand up not a handout.

With your help, we can reach more young Australians in need – child by child, family by family, generation by generation.

Life-changing learning

by Kimberley, *Learning for Life* Coordinator



“Working one-on-one with disadvantaged kids gives them the extra support they need.”

– Kimberley, Learning for Life Coordinator

“When I first met Jenny, she was eight years old, it was clear she was desperate to learn.

She wanted to answer the questions her teacher asked her. She wanted to fit in.

The problem was simple: she couldn't.

In class, she couldn't read very well and often she wasn't even sure if she understood what she was supposed to do. She'd just sit in class silently, trying to avoid being asked questions. Jenny built a wall around herself, retreating from classmates and falling further and further behind at school.

Unfortunately, Jenny's story isn't unique; I work with children just like her every day.

Approximately 1 in 10 Australian children are living in disadvantage. They start their education without the early literacy and numeracy skills of their classmates. They are behind before they even begin.

For children like Jenny, school simply gets harder and harder. They feel embarrassed because they can't read well, they struggle to complete their homework for the same reasons. Disappointment turns into disillusionment. Without the out-of-

school support which The Smith Family provides, these students will never dare to dream big, and never strive to overcome the educational obstacles in their path.

When Jenny started in our *Learning for Life* program, I was able to give Jenny and her family the extra support they needed. She was dedicated and keen.

With each hurdle she overcame, her confidence grew, and now, she may not be top of the class, but she's right up there – answering questions and feeling confident in her abilities. This is where real change begins.

I see her beginning to enjoy school and I know she will reach her full potential.”

– Kimberley

Giving the next generation a go

Heather and Rod Hawkins, supporters of The Smith Family



“I’m a school teacher and I’ve worked with children from all kinds of backgrounds.

When I became a teacher at our local school I started to become aware of the need for further help in education for disadvantaged students. The need for focused attention is especially evident when you have children who’ve had setbacks and struggles in their life – whether through immigration or growing up in poor families.

These kids don’t have the confidence in their own abilities, that they’re in the right place and that people will help them.

Coming from behind, feeling different and out of place – to feeling empowered, is a very difficult leap to make.

Education has enabled us to emigrate (twice) and to create successful lives in different countries. We want that for all Australian kids. That’s why Rod and I have left a gift in our Will for The Smith Family. I’m completely confident in The Smith Family’s commitment to education. We’ve had experience with lots of charities, and we really feel the money is well accounted for and will be well spent with The Smith Family – they’re a really efficient organisation.

School is where children can build their future. We want to give the next generation a go. We want to help the ones who just don’t have the economic and social support to cope with the demands of education on their own.”

– Heather

A family commitment

Geoff and Julie Winders speak about their parents' legacy



“Our mum, Joan (pictured above with our dad John), trained as a nurse at RPA (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney) and spent much of her working life in the palliative care ward at Greenwich Hospital.

She met dad, John, on a boat to Australia in 1951 when he was emigrating as a ‘10 pound Pom’. Dad worked as an engineer and always felt that Australia provided him and his family, with so many opportunities. Mum and dad decided early on that they would like to make an ongoing contribution to The Smith Family.

When mum and dad told us, about 10 years ago, that they were including The Smith Family in their Will, it wasn’t a shock at all. It actually felt good to know that they were

backing up their passion for helping others. They had been donating to The Smith Family for as long as we could remember and it seemed like a natural progression of their giving.

It’s wonderful to think that their gift is now helping so many deserving students to get the most out of their education.

Whether it’s helping to pay for school outings or text books, football boots or even school uniforms, it’s so good for us to know that mum and dad’s legacy is living on and they are continuing to provide disadvantaged Australian children with the opportunities they need to help them thrive at school and into the future.

In fact, knowing that mum and dad had left a gift in their Will to charity has been a really good lesson for our families and we have decided that we would like to do the same.”

– Geoff and Julie

How to leave a gift in your Will

When you think about leaving a gift to The Smith Family in your Will, you are making a decision which will help future generations of Australian children. Your gift will give them the support they need to get the most out of their education and change their lives.

Step 1: Decide what kind of gift to leave

There are different kinds of gifts you can leave in your Will, however many of our supporters choose to leave a monetary gift in the form of a residuary bequest.

Other options include a specified amount of money or an asset, for example real estate, shares, bonds or an item of value.

Step 2: Speak to family and loved ones

Let them know of your intentions to leave a gift to The Smith Family and ensure they support your decision.

Step 3: Seek professional advice

Your Will is an important legal document that must be properly prepared. Ask your solicitor or Trustee Company about the best way to do this and the most appropriate gift for your circumstances.

Step 4: Making a Will

To include your chosen gift to The Smith Family when you write your Will, provide your solicitor with the following wording:

"I (insert name here) bequeath to The Smith Family ABN 28 000 030 179 (insert the percentage or residue of your estate, the amount of money, or the details of your property, shares, bonds or item of value).

My bequest is to be used for the general purposes of The Smith Family.

I declare that the receipt of the Secretary or other proper officer shall be a complete discharge of my bequest."

Step 5: Amending a Will

If you have already written your Will, the easiest way to make a gift to The Smith Family is by adding a codicil – a short legal amendment – to your Will. This can be organised with a phone call or email to your solicitor, followed by a visit to their office to sign the amendment and complete the codicil.

Planning ahead

If you would like to leave a gift in your Will, but need more information, we're here to help. Please call me, Jakki Travers on 02 9085 7118 or toll free 1800 024 069, and I can answer any questions you might have, or send you a copy of our Gifts in Wills Planning Pack.

The Smith Family Gifts in Wills Charter:

- 1.** We realise that your family and loved ones will always come first. We are very grateful for any gift you may choose to leave The Smith Family after you have looked after them.
- 2.** A gift in your Will is an important commitment. If you do leave a gift to The Smith Family, we would love to hear from you. We want to say thank you properly. That said – if you wish your decision to remain private, we will respect that and have no further contact.
- 3.** We will always respect your privacy. We recognise and appreciate that your Will is completely personal to you.
- 4.** We will give you, your family and loved ones the opportunity to engage with The Smith Family, and see firsthand the work made possible through Gifts in Wills.
- 5.** We will use your gift carefully and cost effectively to help disadvantaged young Australians to succeed at school so they can create better futures for themselves.
- 6.** We will show your family and loved ones compassion, integrity and honesty in administering your gift, and handle all Gifts in Wills with the utmost respect and gratitude.

**With your help, we can reach
more young Australians in need
— child by child, family by family,
generation by generation.**

**For more information,
or to order your Gifts in Wills
Planning Pack please contact:**

Jakki Travers,
Gifts in Wills Manager
02 9085 7118
or toll free 1800 024 069
or visit thesmithfamily.com.au



everyone's family