



**“We owe everything
to the Great North Air
Ambulance Service”**

Helen Gardiner, Grace's mum.

**Give the gift
of a lifetime
with a gift in
your Will.**



“I wasn’t expected to live.”

Rob’s Story

The introduction of blood and plasma to our kitbag took our care to another level and resulted in lives being saved as a direct consequence, including the life of Rob Hope.

In May 2018 Rob was riding his motorbike when he was involved in a collision with a van.

The father-of-one from Brampton said: **“I had a fractured tibia, smashed knee, femur, and hip, and a completely smashed arm.”**

The GNAAS doctor-led team administered both blood and plasma to Mr Hope on the roadside before airlifting him to the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI) in Newcastle.

He said:

“I remember being taken to the RVI and then stabilised to see if I’d survive the night basically, because I wasn’t expected to live. So luckily enough I got there just in time.”

Mr Hope spent five weeks in hospital and had plastic surgery on his leg to help heal his wounds, however his arm had to be amputated.

He said: **“Leaving a gift in your Will to GNAAS is vital. I’m living proof; I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for the charity. Even the surgeons in the hospital have said I should be dead. I should have died on that tarmac. So I owe my life to the Great North Air Ambulance Service.”**



What can a gift in your Will do?

Sometimes it’s easiest to show supporters the impact of their donations by telling them about what they have enabled us to do.

But it can be even more impactful to show them a glimpse of what the region would be like if we were not available.

In the case of Rob Hope, featured on the opposite page, if the Great North Air Ambulance Service was not around, Rob would not have had the blood transfusion he needed. In all likelihood, as a direct result of this alone, he would have died before reaching hospital. Instead, he is leading a full and active lifestyle.

It’s a stark difference but one we must not forget; death on the roadside, or the rest of his life to look forward to.

This example embodies the precarious nature of being a charity-funded emergency service. Thanks to our legacy donors however, we are able to meet the demand and respond when needed. Not only that, but we have been able to improve the level of care we offer by introducing new treatments and techniques, such as blood transfusions.

We will never take that support for granted.

Thank you for considering leaving a gift to the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

The Great North Air Ambulance Service is constantly exploring the latest techniques, technology and equipment to ensure we can provide the best care possible for our patients.

This often means we pioneer treatments years before they reach other parts of the country.

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What we achieve together

Three helicopters, two rapid response cars, and one team of highly-trained medical professionals cover the 8000 square miles that is the operational area of the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

And behind them are the people who give 100% of the money this takes.

The Great North Air Ambulance Service is called upon an average of five times every day. Thanks to the speed we can get to the scene and the expertise of our on-board critical care team, a patient's outcome is significantly improved when we arrive.

Together, with our doctors, paramedics, pilots and supporters who have pledged to provide urgent care throughout the North East, Cumbria and North Yorkshire, we have saved countless lives and kept families united.

Together, with your pledge and ours, we will be there for the many more people who need us in the future.

By 2023 we want to be available 24/7 for those who need us.

When we are committed, incredible things happen.



The research of our doctor Rachel Hawes OBE led to the introduction of 'live blood' on our helicopters and rapid response cars, and plasma the following year. Pre-hospital blood transfusions had not previously been possible in the North of England.



In 2018, the charity became one of the first emergency services in the UK to utilise the GoodSAM app, which allows our team to see the scene of an incident through a bystander's camera phone. This means they can make more informed decisions before deploying the aircraft.



In 2017, our team performed the first successful roadside open chest surgery (thoracotomy) in the North of England when a man was stabbed and left for dead in Horden, County Durham. Because of body-worn cameras, footage of this surgery is the first time a successful pre-hospital thoracotomy has been recorded in the world and has become a vital training aid for us as well as other organisations.



GNAAS has been working with a team of researchers to see how our air ambulance service can transfer patients suffering a stroke from remote hospitals to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle, where the patient can be helped by using a revolutionary treatment only available at specialist neurological centres.



"It pushed us to our clinical limits."

Grace Gardiner's story



Grace with GNAAS paramedic Lee Salmon and his daughter Lily.

It was a reunion that may not have happened if it wasn't for the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

Twelve years after the charity's critical care team saved Grace Gardiner's life, she finally got the chance to meet them at their base and say hello again to the man she calls "her hero".

Grace was only four months old when she started vomiting severely at her home in Penrith. She was taken to the Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle by her mother, Helen Gardiner.

It was revealed Grace had a blockage in her bowels and needed emergency surgery, but the hospital she was at didn't have the facilities to carry this out.

The GNAAS critical care team offered to airlift her to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle.

Paramedic Lee Salmon, also of Penrith, was on duty that day. "It pushed us to our clinical limits and her to her limitations of life," he said. "Grace is almost the same age as my own

daughter Lily, so it was hugely emotional for me when, after the complications, I went and explained all that had gone on to the parents and grandparents."

Grace has since made a full recovery, and her family have kept in touch with Lee.

This would not have been possible without the generosity of those who choose to leave a gift in their Will.

Mrs Gardiner said:

"We didn't realise gifts in Wills represent a third of the running costs of the entire charity. Thanks to those who have left a gift to GNAAS, they've given Grace the gift of life.

"If it hadn't been for the air ambulance, she just wouldn't be here because nobody else could take her. She would never have survived the journey without them. We owe everything to the Great North Air Ambulance Service."



Four-month-old Grace.

"They've given Grace the gift of life."





We will make you this promise

If you are considering remembering the Great North Air Ambulance Service in your Will, we promise you this:



We're here for you

We will answer any questions openly.



Your loved ones come first

We absolutely respect that and won't try to change it.



We value your gift, large or small

We will put it to use where it will have the greatest impact.



We recognise your right to privacy

We will handle your enquiry with sensitivity and care.



You can always change your mind

This is a big decision, so please decide in your own time.



Why is it important to make a Will?

Your Will is one of the most important documents you'll ever write. It gives you peace of mind that your loved ones will be looked after and that your final wishes are respected.

A Will lets you decide who you would like to give any savings, shares, possessions and property to.

Once your family and friends have been included, a Will can also be a way for you to continue to support a cause that's important to you. More people are choosing to include a gift to a charity in their Will – also known as a 'legacy' – to support the causes that matter most to them.

The Great North Air Ambulance Service depends on this type of gift. Legacies are responsible for more than one-third of our operational costs and even a small sum can go a long way.

What types of gift can you include in your Will?

The three most common types of gifts given in Wills are:



A residuary gift

This is a percentage or share of the balance of your estate once all other payments and gifts have been made. Many people prefer to give a residuary gift because it keeps in line with inflation and does not lose value over time.



A pecuniary gift

A pecuniary gift is a fixed sum of money. It is worth bearing in mind that inflation can nibble at its value over time, so you may wish to review your Will from time-to-time to ensure it still reflects your intentions.



A specific gift

A specific gift is a specific item or asset, such as a property, shares, or jewellery.

What to consider when writing your Will

If you have any questions or concerns about writing a Will, it's a good idea to note them down to ask your solicitor.



How do I include a gift?

We recommend you use a solicitor or professional Will writer to have your Will drafted. This can help reduce the likelihood of your wishes being challenged after you pass away.

You can inform your solicitor or writer that you would like to leave a gift to the Great North Air Ambulance Service and they will help you to include it in your wishes. Once written, a solicitor will hold a copy of the Will for safekeeping.

You should also consider the people you would like to be your executors, who will be responsible for carrying out your wishes. Executors could be family members, friends or your solicitor.

Inheritance tax

Inheritance tax is payable on the value of a person's estate after they die. There are some exemptions and reliefs available from paying inheritance tax, depending on your circumstances.

Gifts in your Will to a charity like the Great North Air Ambulance Service are tax-free, so can help reduce any tax bill. Seeking professional advice is the best way to ensure your Will is written in the most tax-efficient way.

Can I change my Will?

You can update your Will at any time. How to change your Will depends on the nature of the update.

Making a straightforward change to your Will

You can easily update your Will using a document called a codicil. This makes a simple amendment to your current Will.

Making a significant change to your Will

If you would like to make significant changes to your Will, we recommend that you consult your solicitor about the best way to do this.



2005

2015

2019



Call outs
740



Call outs
1058



Call outs
1640



Cost
£1.4 million



Cost
£4.9 million



Cost
£5.3 million



Helicopters
1



Helicopters
3



Helicopters
3



Staff
20
(3 operational)



Staff
50
(10 operational)



Staff
58
(15 operational)

- The Cumbrian helicopter was grounded when funds dried up due to the Cumbria flooding.

- Launch of a trial of MERIT (Medical Emergency Response Incident Team) working from 8pm to 8am two nights a week.

- Introduction of blood on board. GNAAS are also one of the first air ambulances to transfuse plasma.
- Started looking for new base.

- MERIT expanded to Thursdays through Sundays with an appeal launched to fund the service 24/7.

- Upgraded blood warmers introduced to help some of the most critically ill or injured patients by getting warmed blood transfused quicker.

- Moved into new home where the critical care team and fundraising staff can unite under one roof.

Thank you for considering giving the gift of a lifetime with a gift in your Will.

We would love to hear from you if you plan to include the Great North Air Ambulance Service in your Will. Not only would we like the opportunity to thank you personally, but we would also like to keep you informed about the work that your gift will help fund.

There are a few ways to get in touch.

Pledge Card

You may have received a pledge card. If you have, please complete your details and send it back to us at GNAAS, Progress House, Urlay Nook Road, Eaglescliffe, TS16 0QB.

Online

Visit our website and complete our online form. www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk

Phone

Call our legacy team on 01325 487 263. Our office is open Monday to Friday from 9am – 5pm.

Email

Email legacy@gnaas.com. We're always happy to answer any questions you might have.

By completing a form or getting in touch, you are not committing to anything and are under no obligation. We take your privacy seriously and you can update your communication preferences at any time.

Thank you for your support.



If you would like any more information or have any questions about giving a gift in your Will to the Great North Air Ambulance Service, we are always happy to help.

Please call our team on
01325 487 263 or email
legacy@greatnorthairambulance.co.uk

www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk

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