PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Cardiac arrest survivor urges local people to leave a lifesaving gift in their Will

Ann from Gloucestershire never expected to need urgent medical care. But when she had a cardiac arrest at home, Great Western Air Ambulance Charity's (GWAAC) lifesaving support encouraged her to give back to her local air ambulance.

"It started as a normal day at home. A walk with the dogs, a cup of tea, some messages sent to family members. It ended in hospital.

I was lucky that day – a chain of events came together that saved my life. My daughter arrived just as I went into cardiac arrest; she and the postman gave me CPR; NHS paramedics were nearby to help; and GWAAC put me on life support and got me to the right hospital quickly, where I had emergency surgery to unblock my coronary artery. I was in an induced coma for three days, but against the odds I came out the other side fighting fit. I was still here, with my children and grandchildren around me – we felt like the luckiest family in the world.

After my cardiac arrest, I realised I needed to write a will. I didn't want to die intestate - I had another chance at life, and I wanted to do it right this time. And as I'm only here because of GWAAC, I wanted to repay them in some way. I didn't know much about how the charity worked at this point, I just knew I was so thankful they existed.

Including the charity in my Will was a perfect way to say thank you – and, perhaps, it would save another person's life one day."

It's simple to add a charitable gift to your Will

A gift in your Will costs nothing now but can make a lifesaving difference in the future.

Ann says, "It's so simple and it's a wonderful feeling to know that a small part of your legacy could have an impact on so many people. I hope that my simple bequest will start a ripple effect and encourage others to follow – because your gift could save a life, and nothing beats that!"

A gift in your Will can save local lives - today, tomorrow and always. To find out more about leaving a gift in your will and to learn about GWAAC's free will writing partners, visit: Leave a Gift in your Will - Great Western Air Ambulance Charity

To find out more about GWAAC, visit gwaac.com

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Notes for editors

1. GWAAC provides the critical care and air ambulance service for 2.1 million people across Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, and parts of Wiltshire.
2. The GWAAC Critical Care Team consists of highly trained and experienced Critical Care Doctors, Advanced Practitioners and Specialist Paramedics in Critical Care, who bring the skill and expertise of a hospital emergency department to the patient.
3. 2025 was GWAAC's busiest year on record with 2,344 people in urgent need of medical care. GWAAC's Critical Care Team is needed by more than six patients a day on average and rushes to treat them by helicopter or critical care car. On average each mission costs around £2,200 to attend.
4. The charity needs to raise over £4 million a year in order to remain operational yet receives no day-to-day funding from the Government or National Lottery.

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