There is a common misconception that only the wealthy need a will. The fact is that everyone needs a will, and it is the greatest gift you can give to your family. Because without it, regardless of your personal wishes, state laws will determine the transfer of your estate.

There is an even bigger misconception that only the wealthy leave money to charity. The truth is that most gifts made by will (bequests) are from everyday people who want to have a lasting, positive impact on their community.

Without this type of generosity, many charitable institutions could not continue their missions into the future. They need support to do their good work. Southwestern Vermont Health Care is among them, and we rely on bequests to ensure our mission of providing exceptional care and comfort to the people we serve.

Here are three reasons why you should include a charity in your will:

**A Gift By Will Is Easy To Make**
A bequest is one of the most straightforward charitable gifts to make. It is simple to implement and easy to change, should you ever need to. You can designate a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to SVHC. You can also designate SVHC as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy.

**A Gift By Will Does Not Alter Your Current Lifestyle**
Making a bequest is a way of demonstrating your commitment to the future of the institution you care about without affecting your current asset balance or cash flow.

There are no substantial costs, and the gift can be modified to address your changing needs.

**A Gift by Will Changes Lives and Creates a Lasting Legacy**
A bequest can make a difference for generations to come. It allows you to provide for the future and better yet, give to an institution that you may have always wanted to support but were unable to during your lifetime.

Including the SVHC Foundation in your will is a generous and powerful intention. Whoever you are, whatever your situation, you can help make our regional community a better place by making a bequest to the SVHC Foundation.