

A Legacy of Hope: How one mother's gift offers comfort to others

In loving memory of Dorothy.

When someone we love goes through a life-threatening health crisis, it can affect the whole family. For one loving mum, watching her son go through the fear and trauma of two major brain surgeries, and then rebuild his life afterwards, was an experience that stayed with her.

Thirty-one years ago, Dorothy's son Andrew underwent successful corrective surgery for a sub-arachnoid aneurysm at the National Hospital.

Many years later, Andrew faced another serious health challenge when he was rushed to hospital with a subdural haematoma, a critical internal bleed on the brain that can affect neurological function.

Physically, Andrew was incredibly fortunate to make a full recovery without complications or lasting effects. But, as anyone who has been through something similar, or watched someone close to them go through such an experience knows, recovery isn't always just about the physical effects.

"I do remember feeling very anxious post-first op... worrying that it may re-occur over the next couple of years."

Andrew's mother Dorothy was with him through it all; from the utter relief of successful surgery to the very real and often crippling anxiety that followed in the months afterwards. Those experiences stayed with her and inspired her to help other people facing a serious neurological event, injury or diagnosis.

Dorothy selflessly chose to leave a gift in her Will to support the work of the Brain and Spine Foundation, for which we are hugely grateful. Gifts like Dorothy's can help us continue to provide information, support and guidance to people affected by neurological conditions and injuries.

As Andrew shared: *"It is in support of those with similar anxieties and post-op complications that we hope this donation goes some way to helping. My mother would be very pleased to see the help delivered."*

Leaving a gift in your Will, whatever the amount, is one way to help make sure that people affected by neurological conditions and their families can access support in the future.

Whether inspired by your own experience or that of someone you love, leaving a gift in your Will after looking after your own family, can help us continue to be there for people when they need information, support and reassurance when they need it most.

Please visit [Accord](#) to see how you can get your will set up for free this October. [link to be added]