

Best Will in the World Week

21st October 2013:

ALONE welcomes MyLegacy's 'Best Will in the World Week 2013 which begins on Monday October 21st. During this week members of the public can avail of a will consultation to discuss a new or existing will for a flat fee of €50.

Sean Moynihan, CEO of ALONE said that 'Best Will in the World Week is an opportunity for ordinary people to do extraordinary things. ALONE receives no Government funding for our day-to-day services and nearly 40% of our income comes directly from people leaving donations to us in their wills, so we find this incentive by MyLegacy incredibly important. We generally do not know the people who have making the legacy donation," Sean continued. 'However we believe that people choose to leave a gift to ALONE as they have been inspired by the work we do, and want to ensure that other older people are not left vulnerable or isolated in their old age.

Speaking at the launch of Best Will in the World Week, **Susan O'Dwyer, Chairperson, MyLegacy CEO** said, "The culture of leaving a gift in your will to a favourite charity is in its infancy in Ireland. Many people just don't realise that they can give money to charities in this way. However, the reality is that after looking after friends and family, a small share of whatever is left can make a long lasting difference to charities and the invaluable work they do. During Best Will in the World Week solicitors will help increase the likelihood of a gift being left to charity by simply asking the question at the will consultations. The Week helps to create that life changing moment, reminding us all how we can help the work of our favourite causes to live on." For more information on participating solicitors visit www.bestwill.ie

Recent research shows that:

- Ireland was ranked as the second most charitable country in the world in the 2011 World Giving Index
- The Index showed that 75% of the Irish population gives money to charity every month (while 38% volunteer time and 65% help strangers)
- **However only 34% of adults in Ireland have made a will and of those who have a will, it is estimated that only 10-12% have included a gift to charity**
- Only 51% of those aged 45 – 64 years of age and 26% of those aged 35 – 44 years have a will
- Of those who don't yet have a will, 30% would like to leave a gift to a charity in their will and this desire is highest among 18 – 24 year old respondents
- Charitable donations in wills are the foundation of many Irish charities generating nearly €26 million per year.

Also speaking at the launch was **Leo Mangan, Solicitor, Mangan O'Beirne Solicitors, Dublin 4** said "The time for making a will is now. It is easier and cheaper than most people

believe. Without a will, problems, both legal and personal, can be expensive and endless. A will allows a person to decide who they wish to benefit. If possible, as well as benefiting family, it can be good to provide a bequest to charity. Everyone has a charity close to their experience of life and close to their heart. Best Will in the World Week encourages such help.”

Established in 1977, ALONE provides a vital supports to the one in ten older people who are most at risk. The charity provides a volunteer befriending service, campaigning services, a community response service and provides 100 age-friendly homes with lifetime tenancies in a supportive environment for older people at risk of homelessness. ALONE receives no on-going state funding for their day to day activities, it is through the donations from members of the public that the organisation can carry out its essential activities.

ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032 for those who have concerns about their own wellbeing, or the wellbeing of a vulnerable older person in the community.