

THE STORY OF

Woodside's angels

ABOUT WOODSIDE SANCTUARY

Woodside Sanctuary is a registered PBO and NPO in South Africa, which was established in 1955. We provide full-time residential care to children and adults with profound intellectual and physical disabilities. This includes providing for their every need such as feeding and nutrition, providing assistance with everyday tasks such as bathing, dressing, eating etc. We also provide various forms of therapy, as well as rehabilitation and stimulation programmes such as; Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Remedial Teaching, Music and Movement Therapy.

The Sanctuary currently provides shelter for eighty five (85) residents, twenty three (23) of these residents have no means of support and the Sanctuary has to carry the entire cost of their treatment and care. Woodside helps these children and adults to reach their full potential and live fulfilling and personally rewarding lives.

Woodside Sanctuary has a yearly operating budget of R18 880 587 (about \$1 011 368.81), this is to cover all of our operating expenses. The monthly cost of care for a resident to receive full-time residential care at Woodside is R19 490.00 (about \$1044), and allows for access to 24 hour nursing care, doctor's visits, our feeding and nutrition programme, toiletries and various therapy programmes.

Of the 85 full-time residents we currently have at Woodside, 23 are orphaned, abandoned or underprivilaged and we need to fundraise for them in order to be able to cover the total cost of their care. Our expected yearly deficit is about R3.5 million (about \$187 483.09), and this is what needs to be fundraised in order for us to continue to provide our services to those most in need.

The Story Of Woodside's Angels...

A beautiful series of stories from the angels in our care. Woodside Sanctuary has been a door of hope, a ray of sunshine and a safe haven For vulnerable profoundly intellectually and physically disabled children and adults who have 🖊 been abandoned, abused, neglected and those seeking a place where all their special needs will be taken care of.

Read all about them...

Let's whisk you away to a land not so far, far away...

Nestled in the heart of Johannesburg, lies a home for the most unique people in the world. A special place some call home...

Where they are loved, taken care of and where they are able to reach their full potential. Bridging a better worldfor them...

Come and take a sneak peek into the magical world of Woodside Sanctuary, where a team tasked with the most precious job in the world (to look after the most special angels with extraordinary needs), our certified Angel Carers, who have big hearts full of undying love for all who reside at the Sanctuary.

Woven like a gigantic beautiful blanket, are the souls of the angels at Woodside... Those who have passed and those who are still around... A community of love and everlasting joy, filled with renewed hope for humanity and togetherness.

Get ready to indulge and get personal with our earthly angels. Let us take you through each angel's journey to this special home and their endless adventures...





* Woodside's most memorable resident... *

HELLO MY DARLING, I'M HEIDI!

I WAS BORN ON THE 13TH OF JULY 1962, AND I BECAME PART OF THE WOODSIDE FAMILY WHEN I WAS ONLY A MONTH AND 14 DAYS OLD.

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

EVERYONE WHO HAS COME THROUGH THE DOORS
AT WOODSIDE HAS AT SOME POINT PROBABLY
SEEN ME. I'M KIND OF THE BOSS HERE, AND I LOVE
KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND
THE SANCTUARY, AT ALL TIMES!

I'VE BEEN LIVING AT WOODSIDE MY ENTIRE LIFE,
I'M NOW 61 YEARS OLD.





I have ...

DOWN SYNDROME, AS WELL AS RARE DWARFISM CALLED RUSSELL-SILVER SYNDROME.

RUSSELL-SILVER SYNDROME IS
A GROWTH DISORDER CHARACTERISED
BY SLOW GROWTH BEFORE AND AFTER BIRTH.

HAVING THIS SYNDROME HASN'T LIMITED ME
MUCH HERE AT HOME AND MY FAMILY TREATS ME
WITH UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND CARE...
I SOMETIMES DON'T EVEN THINK THAT THEY KNOW
I MIGHT BE DIFFERENT...

DESPITE MY "LIMITATIONS" I LIVE A PRETTY

'LIMITLESS' LIFE... I TAKE MY MORNING

WALKS (WITH THE AID OF MY WALKER),

I ENJOY DRINKING TEA ALL DAY, I ALSO LOVE

GETTING MY NAILS DONE, AND I HAVE FUN

DURING MY WEEKLY GYM VISITS.

WHAT I ADORE THE MOST IS CREATING

MASTERPIECES DURING MY

ARTS AND CRAFTS SESSIONS.

So urique...

I HAVE A SMALL, TRIANGULAR FACE WITH DISTINCTIVE FACIAL FEATURES AND A PROMINENT FOREHEAD,

IF YOU TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, YOU'LL SEE MY NARROW CHIN, YOU'LL PROBABLY EVEN NOTICE THAT I HAVE A SMALL JAW AND DOWN-TURNED CORNERS OF THE MOUTH.

I'M ONE OF A KIND, ONE IN A BILLION AND MY WOODSIDE FAMILY HAS EMBRACED ME FOR WHO I AM AND WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING.

WON'T YOU PLEASE PAY ME A VISIT?
WE'LL HAVE A NICE CUP OF TEA AND SHARE
A FEW HUGS AND LAUGHS!



* Woodside gained an angel... *

HOW ARE YOU?

I'M BELINDA ANN FITCHETT...
MY MOM AND DAD TOOK A TRIP TO HEAVEN AND
THEY HAVE BEEN THERE FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
I WAS THEIR ONLY ANGEL.

BEFORE MY PARENTS DEPARTED TO THE OTHER SIDE, THEY FOUND ME A HOME AWAY FROM HOME AS THEY ALSO STRUGGLED WITH TAKING CARE OF ALL MY NEEDS.

ON THE 2ND OF AUGUST 2010
I HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE WOODSIDE
SANCTUARY FAMILY FOR 13 YEARS NOW.

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH EPILEPSY AND HEMI PARESIS.

EPILEPSY REFERS TO A NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER
IN WHICH THE BRAIN ACTIVITY BECOMES
ABNORMAL, CAUSING SEIZURES OR PERIODS OF
UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR, SENSATIONS,
AND SOMETIMES LOSS OF AWARENESS.

HEMI PARESIS REFERS TO A PARTIAL WEAKNESS
ON ONE SIDE OF THE BODY WHICH CAN AFFECT
EITHER THE LEFT OR RIGHT SIDE OF THE BODY.
THE WEAKNESS MAY INVOLVE THE ARMS, HANDS,
LEGS, FACE OR A COMBINATION.

WITH THESE TWO DIAGNOSES, I'M PROFOUNDLY INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED IN A SENSE THAT I NEED ASSISTANCE FOR MY DAILY FUNCTIONING.

How we you?

I CAN'T REALLY TALK PROPERLY,
I CAN SAY A FEW WORDS BUT CANNOT CLEARLY
COMMUNICATE MY NEEDS...

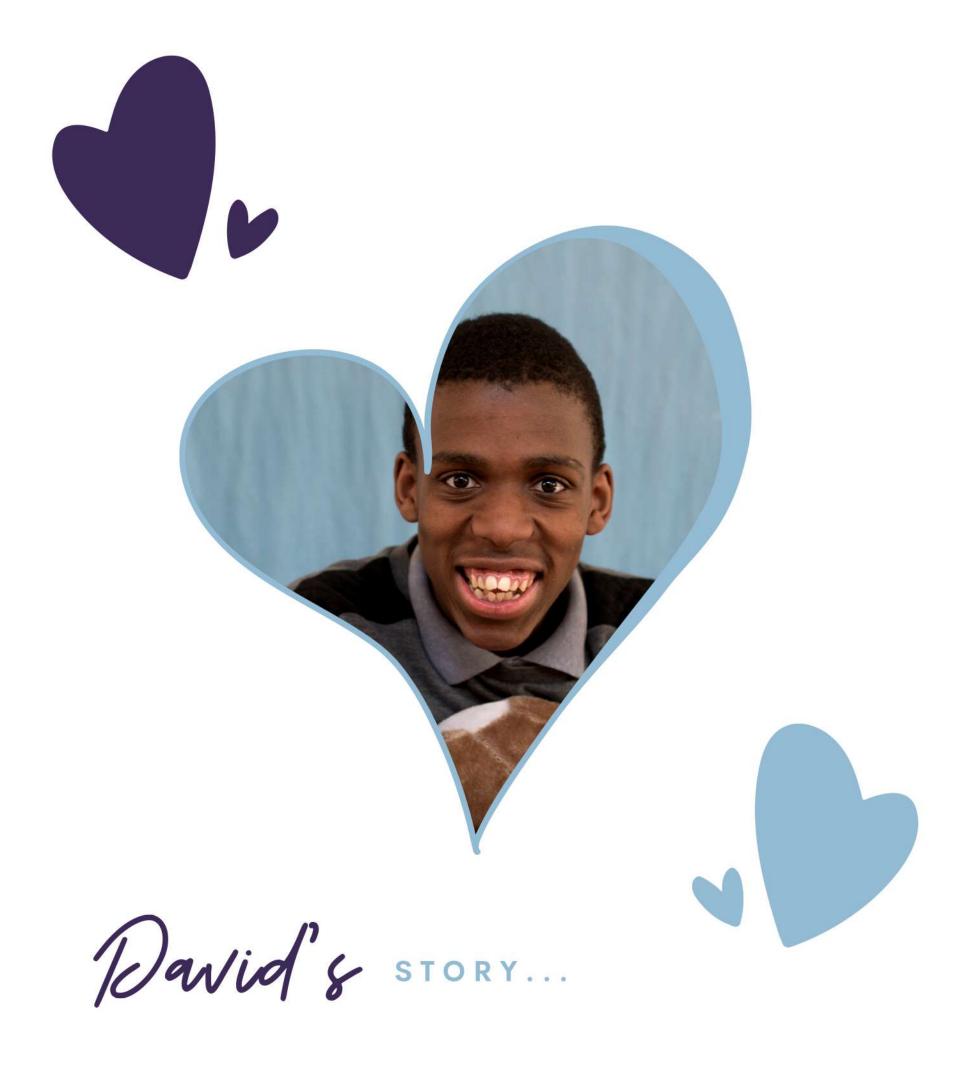
I ENJOY SPENDING TIME IN JB (THIS IS WHERE ME AND ALL MY SISTERS RELAX, SOMETIMES PLAY AND SLEEP), I JUST WALK AROUND AND DO MY OWN THING. OH, AND I ALWAYS HAVE A HANDBAG ON ME, I'M A LADY AND A LADY ALWAYS CARRIES A HANDBAG. ALWAYS!

YOU WOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT I SAID "HOW ARE YOU?" AT THE BEGINNING OF MY STORY... WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S MY FAVOURITE PHRASE, I SAY "HOW ARE YOU?"

ALL DAY, EVERY SINGLE DAY!

I LOVE SEEING NEW FACES! PLEASE COME BY TO SAY "HOW ARE YOU BELINDA?"...





* The perfect addition to the family... *

HI, I'M DAVID DLAMINI!

I WAS ABANDONED BY MY PARENTS,
AND BECAUSE OF THIS, I DON'T REALLY KNOW
WHEN MY BIRTHDAY IS...

WHEN I WAS FOUND AND JOINED MY NEW FAMILY AT WOODSIDE, THEY BELIEVE I WAS BORN IN EARLY 1999 AND SO, WE CELEBRATE MY "BIRTHDAY" ON THE 16TH OF MARCH.



I BECAME PART OF THE WOODSIDE FAMILY
IN JANUARY 2011.

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH SEVERE INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITY, AND I SADLY COULD NOT VERBALLY
COMMUNICATE AT ALL, THIS MADE ME SAD
AND ANGRY ON SOME DAYS, I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH ME,
SO, I WAS VERY NAUGHTY.

I'VE BEEN WITH MY WOODSIDE FAMILY FOR 9 YEARS, AND THEY SAY THAT THEY HAVE SEEN MANY POSITIVE CHANGES IN ME. I AM AT PEACE AND MUCH MORE CALM...

BECAUSE OF THE CARE AND ATTENTION GIVEN TO ME BY MY MOMMIES AND DADDIES HERE AT WOODSIDE, I'VE STARTED LEARNING HOW TO COMMUNICATE VERBALLY,

MY VOCABULARY IS STILL VERY LIMITED,
BUT I AM NOW ABLE TO SAY A FEW WORDS,
WHERE PREVIOUSLY I WAS
UNABLE TO TALK AT ALL.

MY FAVOURITE WORD IS "SHARP"!

Forever, a joy...

MY WOODSIDE FAMILY THINKS I AM
A BIG BOY NOW, AND I'VE BEEN GIVEN MORE
RESPONSIBILITIES. I DON'T EVEN NEED ANYONE TO
'BABY ME', I CAN TAKE THINGS FROM ONE OF MY
MOMMIES TO ONE OF MY DADDIES. I ALSO HELP
SOME OF MY SIBLINGS WALK TO THE DINING
ROOM AND EVEN TO THE GYM.

BEING AT WOODSIDE HAS MADE ME
EXTREMELY HAPPY!
I ALWAYS HAVE A SMILE ON MY FACE,
AND I LOVE LAUGHING!

PLEASE COME AND VISIT ME SOMETIME, WE'LL EVEN PLAY BALL OR I'LL SHOW YOU SOME OF MY DANCING MOVES...



* Family, matters... *

H1...

I WAS BORN JOHN HENRY WEICH.

I WAS THE YOUNGEST CHILD AMONG MY SIBLINGS.

I HAD 2 SISTERS AND I BROTHER,

THEY ARE ALL IN HEAVEN NOW,

MY MOM AND DAD TOO.

THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE IS MY WOODSIDE SANCTURY FAMILY. I 'VE BEEN LOVED AND TAKEN CARE OF BY MY MOMMIES AND DADDIES AT THE SANCTUARY SINCE THE 3RD OF DECEMBER 1966, I WAS JUST THREE MONTHS OLD.

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH DOWN SYNDROME.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS, BUT I'M JUST LIKE A FEW OF MY SIBLINGS HERE AT WOODSIDE.

I GUESS, HAVING DOWN SYNDROME IS LIKE
BEING BORN NORMAL. I AM JUST LIKE YOU AND
YOU ARE JUST LIKE ME. WE ARE ALL BORN IN
DIFFERENT WAYS, THAT IS THE BEST WAY
I CAN DESCRIBE IT...







I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, I'M ALSO BLIND.
YOU MIGHT THINK I SEE VAST BLACKNESS BUT
I SEE A DIFFERENT WORLD. I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'M MISSING, MY IMAGINATION CREATES
MY WORLD, THIS IS ASSISTED BY ALL MY OTHER
SENSES; TOUCHING, FEELING AND HEARING...



I CAN'T TALK BUT I FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN
TO ME, SUCH AS BEING ASKED TO PLACE MY
HANDS ON SOMEONE'S SHOULDERS AND
FOLLOW THEIR LEAD.

I'M GOOD WITH BUILDING BLOCKS AND
I ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO KNIT,
I COULD KNIT ENDLESSLY...

LET'S SCHEDULE A PLAY DATE? MAYBE WE COULD
BUILD BLOCKS OR TAKE A STROLL
TO THE GARDEN...





HELLO... I'M CHRISTA!

I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY...
I BECAME A WOODSDIE ANGEL ON THE
2ND OF NOVEMBER 1993!

MY MOMMY ALWAYS CAME TO SEE ME,
SHE WAS VERY INVOLVED IN MY LIFE.
SHE WAS THE ONLY PERSON I HAD ON EARTH
AND MOMMY LOVED ME DEARLY.

I THINK SHE STILL LOVES ME EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOW IN HEAVEN WITH REAL ANGELS.

I'M HAPPY THAT MY MOMMY CHOSE WOODSIDE SANCTUARY TO TAKE CARE OF ME. I LOVE MY NEW FAMILY, THEY ARE THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE.

I was ...

DIAGNOSED WITH MICROCEPHALY.

THIS IS A MEDICAL CONDITION WHERE
THE BRAIN DOES NOT DEVELOP PROPERLY,
RESULTING IN A SMALLER THAN NORMAL HEAD.

CHILDREN WITH MICROCEPHALY OFTEN HAVE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND NEUROLOGICAL ISSUES LIKE SEIZURES, PROBLEMS WITH MUSCLE STIFFNESS AND CONTROL, OR PROBLEMS WITH BALANCE.

Heavenly smile ...

I AM PROFOUNDLY INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED.
I CAN'T REALLY TALK, I CAN SAY A FEW WORDS.

I NEED SUPERVISION WITH MY DAILY FUNCTIONING SUCH AS BATHING AND GOING TO THE BATHROOM.

I LOVE THURSDAY'S BECAUSE WE HAVE A THERAPUTIC MUSIC SESSION, I DANCE THE WHOLE TIME!

SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME IS THAT I HAVE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SMILE, I ALWAYS HAVE A SMILE ON MY FACE... AND I GIVE THE BEST HUGS IN THE WORLD!

PLEASE COME AND VISIT ME, I PROMISE TO GIVE YOU THE BEST HUG YOU'LL EVER RECIEVE!



* A place to call home ...

HELLO....

I'M RELEBOHILE TLADI! EVERYONE CALLS ME LEBO!

MY MOM, GRANDMOTHER, SISTER AND AUNT WERE A PART OF MY LIFE, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN A WHILE... OH, AND I DON'T KNOW MY DADDY.

I'M PROFOUNDLY ITELLECTUALLY DISABLE AND I ALSO HAVE PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AS A RESULT OF MY BIRTH DEFECTS. MY FAMILY COULD NOT CATER FOR MY NEEDS AT HOME, SO MY GRANDMOTHER STARTED LOOKING FOR THE PERFEC HOME, A PLACE THAT WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME...

I BECAME PART OF THE WOODSIDE SANCUARY FAMILY ON THE 12TH OF FEBRUARY 2012.

I was ...

DIAGNOSED WITH MICROCEPHALY ...

IT'S A CONDITION WHERE THE HEAD
CIRCUMFERENCE IS SMALLER TAHN NORMAL.
MICROCEPHALY MAY BE CAUSED GENETIC
ABNORMALITIES OR BY DRUGS, ALCOHOL, CERTAIN
VIRUSE, AND TOXINS

IT IS USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH
PHYSICAL GROWTH DELAYS, MILD TO MODERATE
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY, ANDTHAT ARE EXPOSED
TO THE FEYUS DURING PREGNANCY AND DAMAGE
THE DEVELOPING BRAIN TISSUE.

The Dancing Queen...

MMMM.... WHAT MORE CAN I TELL YOU ABOUT ME

I CAN FEED MYSELF, I CAN COMMUNICATE A FEW SENTANCES AND TAKE SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS.

BUT I CAN'T EXECUTE CERTAIN TASKS. MY
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES DON'T ALLOW ME TO DO
THINGS SUCH AS BATHING AND SRESSING MYSELF.
I CAN'T FUNCTION IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD
INDEPENDENTLY: I NEED TOTAL CARE AND
SUPERVISION TO ENSURE THAT ALL MY BASIC
NEEDS ARE MET.

I LOVE DANCING AND LISTENING TO MUSIC!

I MAY BE CONFINED TO MY WHEELCHAIR BUT I SURE CAN MOVE... I'M FAMOUS FOR MY DANCE MOVES.

PLEASE VISIT ME SOMETIME WE CAN DANCE TO MY FAVOURITE SONGS





HI THERE! I'M GARETH,
BUT EVERYONE HERE AT HOME CALLS ME GARY!

I CAME FROM A VERY SMALL FAMILY,
WHERE MY SISTER AND I WERE THE ONLY KIDS
OUR PARENTS HAD.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE MY SISTER IS AND SHE'S NEVER TRIED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ME. MY MOM AND DAD ON THE OTHER HAND ARE OVER THE CLOUDS, ALL THE WAY IN HEAVEN.

WHEN I TURNED 11 YEARS OLD, I BECAME PART OF
THE WOODSIDE FAMILY, I HAVE OVER
80 SIBLINGS AND A LOT OF MOMMIES AND
DADDIES WHO TAKE CARE OF ALL OF US.IMAGINE!
THEY LOVE US AND KEEP US SAFE.



I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME.

THIS MEANS THAT MY MOMMY WAS DRINKING ALCOHOL WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH ME AND THIS RESULTED IN MY PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DAMAGE.

IN THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF MY LIFE, I WAS TAKEN CARE OF BY BOTH MY PARENTS. I WAS EVEN ATTENDING SCHOOL AT HAMLET. MY PARENTS THEN SEPERTED WHICH MADE THINGS DIFFICULT FOR MY MOM AND SHE WAS NOT ABLE TO CATER FOR ALL MY NEEDS. MY FATHER WAS STILL INVOLVED, BUT LIFE WAS JUST NOT THE SAME ANYMORE.

SO THAT'S WHY WHEN I TURNED 11 YEARS OLD, I WAS PLACED AT WOODSIDE WITH THE HELP OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

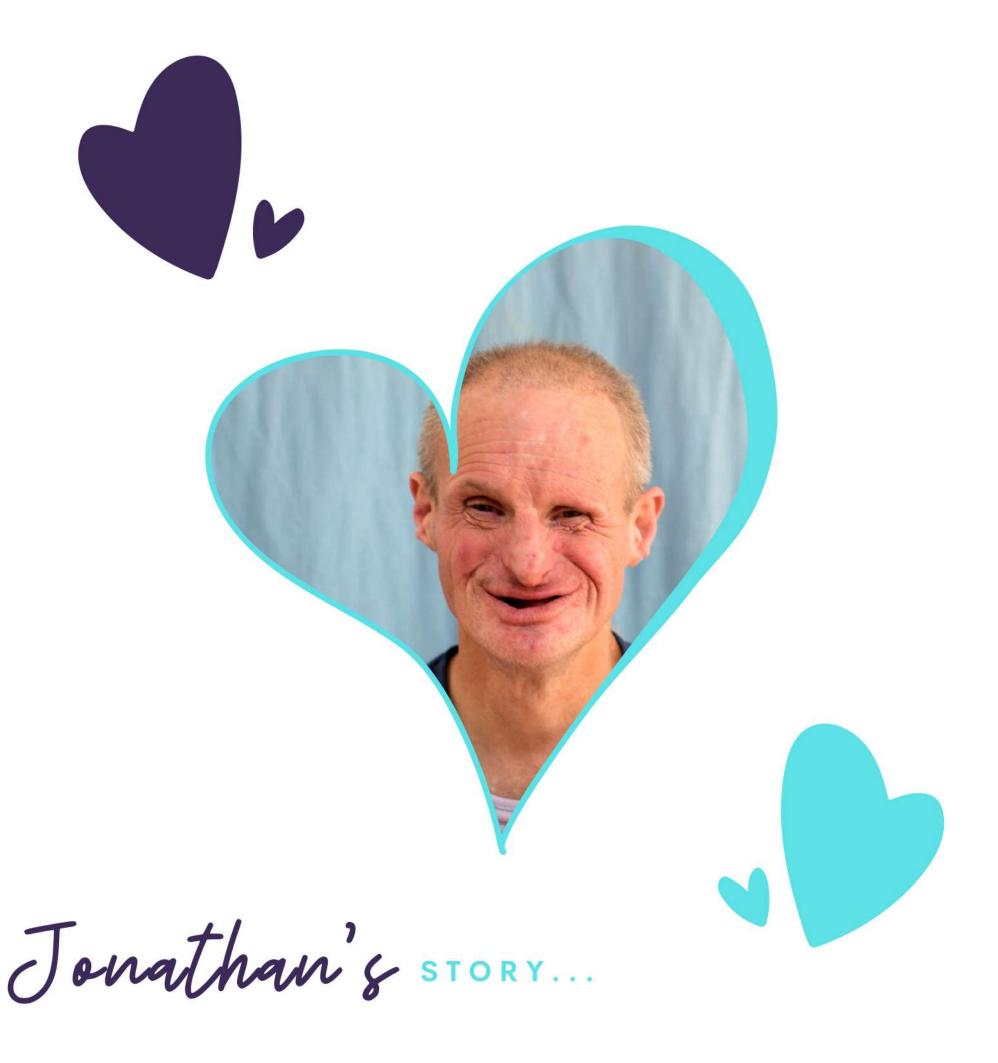
Independently different.

I'M REGARDED AS HIGH FUNCTIONING, IN THE SENSE THAT I AM TOILET TRINED, I CAN FEED MYSELF, I CAN COMMUNICATE IN A MORE OR LESS MEANINGFUL WAY.

I KNOW HOW TO READ AND WRITE CERTAIN THINGS (THIS IS DUE TO MY BACKGROUND OF HAVING ATTENDED SCHOOL UP UNTIL I WAS 18 YEARS OLD). WITH THAT SAID, I STILL NEED SUPERVISION ON THINGS SUCH AS BATHING AND SELF CARE.

I ENJOY DIFFERENT STIMULATION
ACTIVITIES, LISTENING TO MY RADIO,
WATCHING TV, WALKING AROUND AND
CHECKING UP ON EVERYTHING AT
WOODSIDE.

PLEASE PAY ME A VISIT, I PROMISE TO TAKE YOU ON A TOUR OF MY HOME.





HELLO! JONATHAN HERE...

I WAS THE YOUNGEST OF THREE CHILDREN
IN MY FAMILY... BEFORE MY MOM PASSED ON,
SHE USED TO VISIT ME DURING MY FIRST
FEW YEARS AT WOODSIDE SANCTUARY.

I THINK MY MOM WAS GOING THOUGH A LOT...
SHE STRUGGLED TO INTERACT WITH ME,
SO SHE WITHDREW FROM ME.

MY DAD PASSED ON TOO AND THERE HASN'T BEEN ANYONE FROM MY FAMILY THAT HAS TRIED TO CONTACT ME.

I ARRIVED AT WOODSIDE SANCTUARY ON THE 15TH OF JANUARY 1965 AND THIS HAS BEEN MY HOME EVER SINCE...

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH DOWN SYNDROME

THIS MEANS THAT I WAS BORN WITH AN EXTRA CHROMOSOME. CHROMOSOMES ARE BUNDLES OF GENES, AND YOUR BODY RELIES ON HAVING JUST THE RIGHT NUMBER OF THEM.

WITH DOWN SYNDROME, THIS EXTRA
CHROMOSOME LEADS TO A RANGE OF ISSUES
THAT AFFECT YOU BOTH MENTALLY
AND PHYSICALLY.

DOWN SYNDROME IS A LIFELONG CONDITION
AND IT CAN HAVE MANY EFFECTS...
IT'S VERY DIFFERENT FOR EACH PERSON.
SOME WILL GROW UP TO LIVE ALMOST ENTIRELY
ON THEIR OWN, WHILE OTHERS LIKE MYSELF,
WILL NEED MORE HELP TAKING CARE
OF THEMSELVES.

Jonathan is...

VERY HELPFUL

LOVES FOOD

ENJOYS WALKING AROUND

LOVES LISTENING TO MUSIC

LIKES GROUP ACTIVITIES

LOVES BEING THE LIFE OF THE PARTY







* Siblings - together forever ... *

HELLO ... *GIGGLES*

I'M MELINDA AND
I COME FROM A FAMILY OF THREE CHILDREN. I
HAVE A BROTHER WHO IS JUST LIKE MEAND GUESS
WHAT? HE IS ALSO AT WOODSIDE SANCTUARY
WITH ME. HOW LUCKY ARE WE?

WE HAVE A SISTER BUT, SHE IS NOT LIKE US AND SHE LEADS A DIFFERENT LIFE. OUR FATHER WENT TO HEAVEN, BUT WE STILL HAVE A MOM. SHE IS A PENSIONER AND HAS NO STABLE INCOME.

MY FAMILY COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF ME AS I CANNOT TAKE CARE OF MY DAILY NEEDS AND I REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE. SO THEY FOUND ME A NEW HOME THAT WOULD BE ABLE TO LOVE AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME.

ON THE 6TH OF DECEMBER 1977 THE WOODSIDE SANCTUARY FAMILY TOOK ME IN AND I HAVE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE...

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH PROFOUND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY...

A DEVELOPMENT DISABILITY THAT FIRST APPEARS IN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

IT IS AN INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONING LEVEL THAT IS WELL BELOW AVERAGE AND PRESENTS SIGNIFICANT LIMITATIONS IN DAILY LIVING SKILLS.

THIS INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY INVOLVES PROBLEMS
WITH GENERAL MENTAL ABILITIES THAT AFFECT
FUNCTIONING IN TWO AREAS:

- 1. INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONING SUCH AS LEARNING PROBLEM SOLVING AND JUDGEMENT.
- ADAPTIVE FUNCTIONING ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIFE SUCH AS COMMUNICATION AND INDEPENDENT LIVING.

A list of things I love...



COLOURING IN

LAUGHING









MAKING SOUNDS



WALKING ON

THE TREADMILL





IT WOULD BE SO MUCH FUN IF YOU CAME TO VISIT ME ... WE CAN LISTEN TO MUSIC OR I CAN SHOW YOU SOME OF MY ARTWORK! I HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON



* Blessed little sister... *

HI, I'M NATASHA MOYO!

I'M A LITTLE SISTER... I ONLY HAVE ONE BIOLOGICAL SIBLING, A BIG SISTER... MY DAD IS THE ONLY PARENT I HAVE, MY MOM WENT TO HEAVEN WHEN I WAS STILL VERY LITTLE.

MY DAD DID HIS BEST TO TAKE CARE OF MY SISTER AND I, BUT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT. HE WAS A SECURITY GUARD AND WORKED LONG HOURS, SO HE REALLY STRUGGLED TO GIVE ME THE TIME AND ATTENTION HE KNEW I NEEDED. I WAS PLACED IN A HOME, BUT THEY ALSO COULD NOT TAKE CARE OF MY SPECIAL NEEDS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INTERVENED AND THEY HELPED PLACE ME WITH MY WOODSIDE FAMILY ON THE 13TH OF DECEMBER 2011.

THIS WAS SUCH A BLESSING, MY WOODSIDE MOMMIES AND DADDIES LOVE ME, AND THEY ALSO TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME. PLUS, I AM NOW A LITTLE SISTER TO MANY OF MY SIBLINGS AT THE SANCTUARY.

I was ...

DIAGNOSED WITH CEREBRAL PALSY ...

THIS REFERS TO A GROUP OF PERMANENT MOVEMENT DISORDERS THAT APPEAR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD. SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS VARY AMONG PEOPLE AND OVER TIME.

OFTEN, SYMPTOMS INCLUDE POOR COORDINATION, STIFF MUSCLES, WEAK MUSCLES, AND TREMORS.

THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS WITH SENSATION, VISION, HEARING, SWALLOWING, AND SPEAKING.

I AM ALSO WHEELCHAIR BOUND AS A RESULT OF THE DIAGNOSIS.



I REQUIRE 24/7 CARE AND SUPERVISION.

I CAN'T TALK TO COMMUNICATE MY NEEDS BUT
I ALWAYS HAVE A SMILE ON MY FACE,
I'M JUST A HAPPY CHILD...

I LOVE BEING HERE AT HOME, I ENJOY
THE MASSAGES I GET FROM MY MOMMIES
IN THE PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT,

I ALSO LOVE ROLLING ON THE MAT AND I LOVE ALL THE PROGRAMMES SET FOR ME IN THE STIMULATION DEPARTMENT, THESE PROGRAMMES HELP DEVELOP ME TO MY FULL PORTENTIAL.

BEFORE I FORGET TO TELL YOU, I HAVE A BIT OF
A SWEET TOOTH, I REALLY LOVE FOOD
BUT THE TYPE OF FOOD I ENJOY THE MOST
ARE THOSE ON THE SWEET SIDE!

PLEASE POP IN SOMETIME
AND COME SEE MY BEAUTIFUL SMILE...





HI, I'M PAUL BOTHA.

I COME FROM A FAMILY OF THREE CHILDREN, AND WE ARE ALL STEPBROTHERS TO EACH OTHER. WHEN MY PARENTS PASSED ON, EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS TOOK ME IN, BUT THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO GIVE ME THE CARE I NEEDED.

MY BROTHER, JOHAN, TOOK ME IN BUT SADLY HE COULDN'T SUPPORT ME FINANCIALLY AND HE DID EVERYTHING THAT HE COULD TO FIND ME A HOME THAT WOULD BEST TAKE CARE OF ME.

I WAS THEN PLACED AT WOODSIDE SANCTUARY.
IT HAS SINCE BEEN MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME.
MY BROTHER HAS STAYED IN CONTACT WITH ME
AND VISITS ONCE IN A WHILE.

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH HEMIPLEGIA...

IT'S A CONDITION CAUSED BY A BRAIN INJURY,
THAT RESULTS IN A VARYING DEGREE OF
WEAKNESS, STIFFNESS (SPASTICITY),
PARALYSIS AND LACK OF CONTROL
IN ONE SIDE OF THE BODY.

AS A RESULT OF THIS DIAGNOSIS,

I AM PROFOUNDLY INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED AND
I WALK WITH DIFFICULTY. I ALSO CAN'T TAKE
CARE OF MY DAILY NEEDS WHICH MEANS THAT
I REQUIRE TOTAL CARE.

Caps and socks for Palony...

I WAS GIVEN A REALLY COOL NICKNAME HERE AT HOME... THEY CALL ME PALONY!

I ENJOY TAKING WALKS WITH MY MOMMIES FROM THE STIMULATION DEPARTMENT. I LOVE BUS RIDES, MUSIC AND DANCING! I ALSO ENJOY WALKING ON THE TREADMILL.

I LOVE CHANGING SOCKS. I USUALLY ALWAYS
HAVE A SOCK IN ONE HAND.
WEARING A CAP IS TOTALLY MY THING AND
PAGING THROUGH A MAGAZINE IS FUN FOR ME.

WON'T YOU PLEASE PAY ME AND MY SIBLINGS A VISIT SOMETIME? WE CAN HAVE A PARTY AND DANCE TO SOME GOOD MUSIC IN THE HALL...



* Siblings - together, forever... *

HI, I'M RICHARD!

I'M MELINDA'S BROTHER. MELIDA IS ALSO ONE OF WOODSIDE'S ANGELS. WE COME FROM A FAMILY OF THREE CHILDREN. WE HAVE A SISTER, BUT SHE'S NOT LIKE US AND SHE LEADS A DIFFERENT LIFE. OUR DAD WENT TO HEAVEN, BUT WE STILL HAVE A MOM.

OUR FAMILY COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF MY SISTER AND I. SO THEY FOUND US A HOME THAT WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF US. WE JOINED THE WOODSIDE SANCTUARY FAMILY BUT LATER ON I GOT DISCHARGED BECAUSE MY MOM COULDN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR BOTH OF US AT THE SAME TIME.

I WAS TRANSFERRED TO A DIFFERNT HOME UNTIL MY MOM TOOK ME IN, BUT SHE COULD NOT COPE WITH ME AT HOME.

IN DECEMBER 2007
THE WOODSIDE SANCTUARY FAMILY TOOK ME IN AGAIN, AND I HAVE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE...

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH PROFOUND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY...

A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY THAT FIRST APPEARS IN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

IT IS AN INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONING LEVEL THAT IS WELL BELOW AVERAGE AND SIGNIFICANT LIMITATIONS IN DAILY LIVING SKILLS,

THIS INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY INVOLVES
PROBLEMS WITH GENERAL MENTAL ABILITIES THAT
AFFECT FUNCTIONING IN TWO AREAS:

- 1. INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONING SUCH AS LEARNING, PROBLEM SOLVING, JUDGEMENT,
- 2. ADAPTIVE FUNCTIONING ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIFE SUCH AS COMMUNICATION AND INDEPENDENT LIVING.

I'm pretty simple...







I LOVE GROUP ACTIVITIES, EVEN JUST BEING A SPECTATOR... SEEING OTHERS PLAY IS ENTERTAINING FOR ME.

PLEASE CONSIDER VISITING MY SIBLINGS AND I, WE LOVE HAVING GUESTS OVER...





* The perfect fit... *

HELLO.

I AM NICOLE WALKER, THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER
OF TWO IN MY FAMILY. I HAVE A MOM BUT
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY DAD WHO HE IS OR WHERE HE IS...

MY FAMILY TRIED TAKING CARE OF ME, BUT REALISED THAT THEY COULDN'T GIVE ME THE SPECIAL CARE THAT I NEEDED.

THEY LOOKED FOR A NEW HOME FOR ME...
I WAS MOVED BETWEEN PLACES UNTIL THEY
FOUND THE PERFECT ONE FOR ME.

I BECAME PART OF THE WOODSIDE SANCTUARY FAMILY ON THE 18TH OF SEPTEMBER 1990.

My morning...

CONTRACTED RUBELLA
DURING HER PREGNANCY....

THIS IS A CONTAGIOUS VIRAL INFECTION BEST KNOWN BY ITS DISTINCTIVE RED RASH.

IT'S ALSO CALLED GERMAN MEASLES OR THREE-DAY MEASLES. WHILE THIS INFECTION MAY CAUSE MILD SYMPTOMS OR EVEN NO SYMPTOMS IN MOST PEOPLE...

IT CAN CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR UNBORN BABIES WHOSE MOTHERS BECOME INFECTED DURING PREGNANCY.

SO, I WAS BORN
PROFOUNDLY INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED.

I don't like much but I like...



- WALKING - TEARING PAPERS - MUSIC

AND MY FAVOURITE IS - BUM SHUFFLING DURING MY PHYSIOTHERAPY SESSIONS!

IT'S SO MUCH FUN!

PLEASE COME AND VISIT ME, YOU'LL GET TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH FUN I HAVE DURING ALL MY STIMULATION CLASSES...





HELLO, MY NAME IS TEBOGO.

I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHERE TO START...

I WAS BORN PREMATURE AT JUST SIX MONTHS.

I SPENT THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF MY LIFE WITH

MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER UNTIL SHE

SADLY PASSED ON...

I WAS LATER MOVED TO A CARE CENTRE WHERE MY FATHER WOULD VISIT AND SOMETIMES TAKE ME FOR HOME VISITS. ALL OF THIS STOPPED WHEN HE DIED. BOTH MY PARENTS ARE NOW IN HEAVEN.

THERE WASN'T ANYONE TO LOOK AFTER ME ANYMORE. SO, MY AUNT TOOK ME TO A PLACE WHERE I WOULD BE LOVED LIKE NEVER BEFORE...

WOODSIDE SANCTUARY BECAME MY FAMILY ON THE 18TH OF MAY 2009.

I am...

PROFOUNDLY INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED... BUT THAT HASN'T LIMITED ME MUCH.

CAN I TELL YOU WHAT I CAN DO?

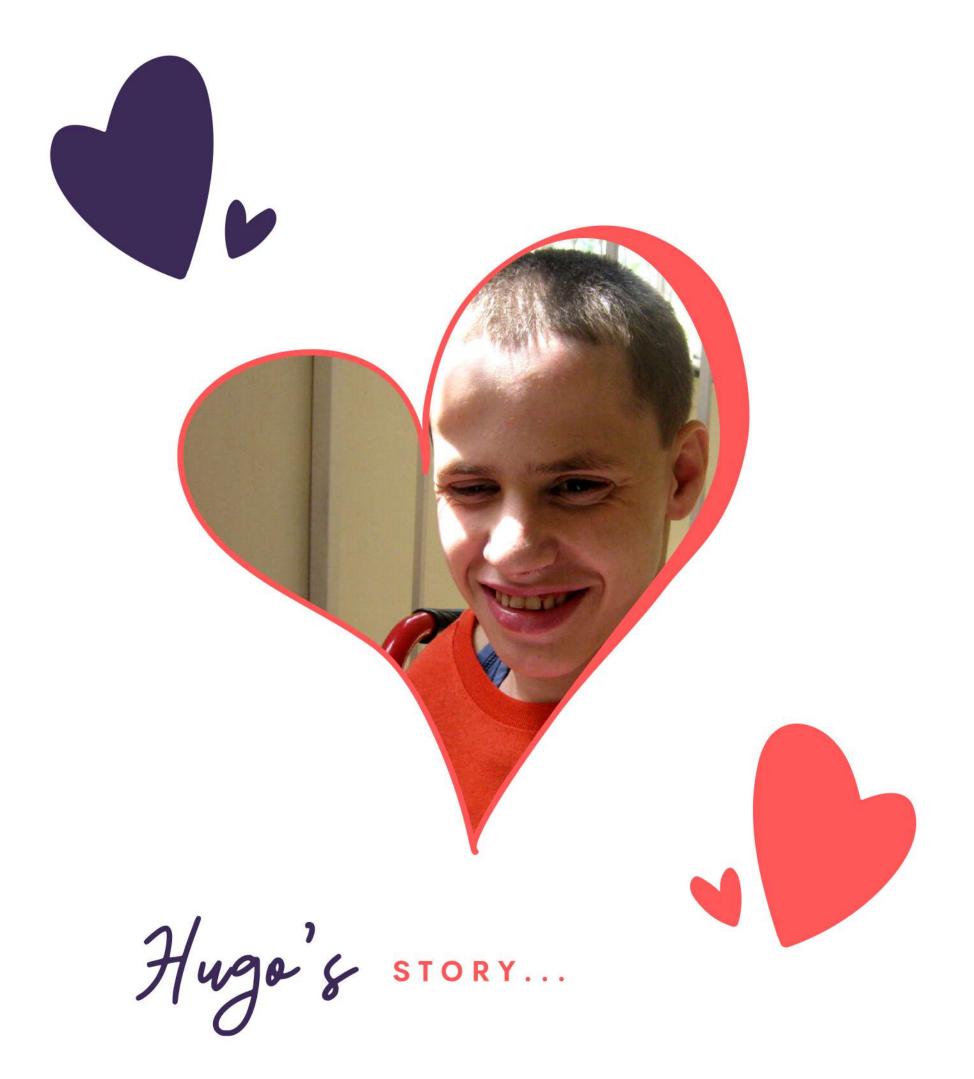
I CAN FEED AND DRESS MYSELF, I AM ABLE TO PARTICIPATE DURING MY STIMULATION CLASSES.
I DON'T LIKE PLAYING MUCH BUT I ENJOY THE WEEKLY BUS RIDES WE TAKE WITH MY SIBLINGS.

I love...



YOU GUESSED IT ... TEA!

THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE THAT I CAN SHARE RIGHT NOW, BUT I DO HOPE WE CAN MEET SOME DAY...



* Golden love ... *

HI.. I'M HUGO

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY ABOUT MY LIFE...
I WAS BORN PREMATURELY AT ONLY 24 WEEKS.
I'M THE YOUNGEST CHILD IN MY FAMILY. I HAVE
AN OLDER BROTHER. MY DAD WENT TO HEAVEN
A FEW YEARS AGO... MY MOM IS STILL AROUND
AND SHE TRIES TO HELP WHERE SHE CAN...

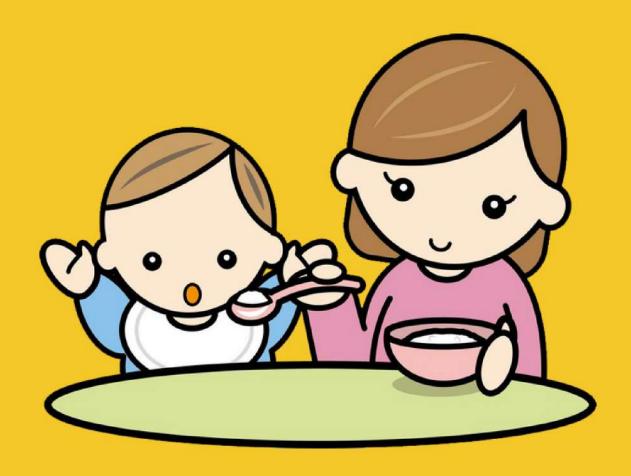
I WENT THROUGH A LOT BEFORE EVEN TURNING 2 YEARS OLD... MY FAMILY TRIED TAKING CARE OF ME AT HOME, BUT THAT PROVED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE... THEY COULDN'T COPE WITH PROVIDING FOR MY SPECIAL NEEDS.

THEY SEARCHED FOR A HOME WHERE ALL MY
NEEDS WOULD BE CATERED TO, AND FINALLY THEY
STRUCK GOLD... THEY FOUND WOODSIDE!

I BECAME ONE OF WOODSIDE'S ANGELS ON THE 30TH OF APRIL 2004.

Being born premature...

LED TO COMPLICATIONS AFTER I WAS BORN
WHICH RESULTED IN ME RELYING ON A TUBE TO BE
FED FOR A YEAR. AT THE AGE OF I YEAR AND 2
MONTHS, I HAD MY FIRST SEIZURE.
I GREW UP WITH NO SPEECH AND
I COULDN'T WALK OR EVEN FEED MYSELF.



A special hold...

I LOVE PLAYING ALONE MOST OF THE TIME, I'M ALWAYS HOLDING A BELT, I HAVE TO HOLD SOMETHING OR ELSE I GET A BIT UPSET...
I ENJOY PLAYING WITH TOYS.

I HAVE A FAVOURITE SIBLING, HER NAME IS LINDO... I LOVE PLAYING WITH HER. SHE HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART.

WHEN YOU DO DECIDE TO VISIT, PLEASE ASK TO SEE HUGO... IF IT WON'T BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE, PLEASE BRING A SPECIAL TOY WE CAN PLAY WITH!









HELLO ..

MY NAME IS BLESSING, I'M A BIG SISTER...
I HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER, HE'S NOT LIKE ME.
HE LIVES A 'NORMAL LIFE'.

MY PARENTS ARE BOTH STILL ALIVE AND THEY HAVE KEPT CONSTANT CONTACT WITH WOODSIDE.
THEY VISIT ME WHEN THEY ARE ABLE TO.

I HAVE ALWAYS NEEDED SPECIAL CARE,
ACCESS TO OCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND
PHYSIOTHARAPY... UNFORTUNATELY, MY PARENTS
WERE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY AND COULD NOT
HELP FULFILL MY NEEDS.

THEY MANAGED TO FIND ME A WONDERFUL HOME, WHERE ALL MY SPECIALISED NEEDS WOULD BE MET. I JOINED THE WOODSIDE SANCTUARY FAMILY ON THE 9TH OF AUGUST 2000 AND IT HAS BEEN MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME...

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH MICROCEPHALY ...

THIS IS A CONDITION WHERE THE HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE IS SMALLER THAN NORMAL. THE CONDITION MAY BE CAUSED BY GENETIC ABNORMALITIES OR BY DRUGS, ALCOHOL, CERTAIN VIRUSES, AND TOXINS THAT ARE EXPOSED TO THE FETUS DURING PREGNANCY AND DAMAGE THE DEVELOPING BRAIN TISSUE.

I WAS ALSO DIAGNOSED WITH AND EPILEPSY...

THIS IS A DISORDER IN WHICH NERVE CELL ACTIVITY IN THE BRAIN IS DISTURBED, CAUSING SEIZURES.

Smiling angel...

I REQUIRE 24/7, 365 TOTAL CARE AND SUPERVISION. MY WOODSIDE FAMILY HAS TRAINED ME TO FEED MYSELF OVER THE YEARS...

I CAN'T COMMUNICATE MY NEEDS VERBALLY,
I USE GESTURES AND EYE MOVEMENT
TO COMMUNICATE WHAT I NEED.

THESE ABILITIES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED THROUGH THE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES THAT ARE SET OUT BY THE STIMULATION DEPARTMENT WHERE I CONTINUE TO BENEFIT A LOT FROM.

I LOVE MUSIC, EXCERSISE AND DANCING...
PLEASE ORGANISE A PLAY DATE WITH ME?
I'M VERY FRIENDLY, I ALWAYS HAVE
A SMILE ON MY FACE...





HELLO! MANGALISO HERE...

THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO READ MY STORY.
MY LIFE HASN'T BEEN EASY... I GUESS I'VE BEEN
DEALT WITH A DIFFERENT CARD FROM THE REST.

I'M THE ONLY CHILD BETWEEN MY PARENTS.

MY FATHER HAS NEVER BEEN PART OF MY LIFE,
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM. MY MOM TRIED

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH ME FOR A WHILE BUT
SHE COULDN'T KEEP IT UP AND THE DISTANCE
MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR HER TO VISIT ME.

SHE IS NOW IN HEAVEN.

BEFORE SHE PASSED ON, SHE DID EVERYTHING
SHE COULD TO FIND ME A SPECIAL PLACE TO CALL
HOME. SHE FOUND ME DIFFERENT CARE HOMES
AND SHE WOULD ALWAYS FIND ME IN A
DISTURBING STATE, AND THINGS GOT WORSE!

UNTIL ONE DAY... SHE FOUND WOODSIDE SANCTUARY, AND ON THE 27TH OF MAY 2011, MY MOTHER'S PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED... I BECAME PART OF THE WOODSIDE FAMILY!

I am...

PROFOUNDLY INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED AND I AM QUADRIPLEGIC. I RELY ON A WHEELCHAIR FOR MOVEMENT AND I CANNOT SPEAK. I CAN UNDERSTAND SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS AT TIMES.

I CAN FEED MYSELF, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

SOMETHING COOL I CAN DO IS CRAWL WHEN I'M PLACED ON A LEVEL SURFACE...
FOR SHORT DISTANCES THOUGH.

I CONTINUE TO BENEFIT QUITE A LOT FROM THE PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT, ESPECIALLY IN MAINTAINING MY COOL ABILITY TO CRAWL!

I LOVE IT!

I love...

MUSIC

GETTING MASSAGES

PLAYING WITH A BALL

SPORTS (WITH ASSISTANCE)

ALL FUN STIMULATION ACTIVITIES



LET'S HANG SOMETIME? WE'LL PLAY SOME AWESOME GAMES TOGETHER...



Love and cave... ★

HELLO!!!

I'M JACQUELINE!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME? I KNOW YOU DO... I HAVE A SISTER AND WE ARE OUR PARENTS ONLY CHILDREN. MY MOM AND DAD ARE STILL AROUND AND THEY ARE QUITE INVOLVED IN MY LIFE, ESPECIALLY MY MOM.

I WAS INVOLVED IN A CAR ACCIDENT WHEN I WAS ONLY 5 MONTHS. I AM PROFOUNDLY INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED AND I AM ALSO PHYSICALLY DISABLED (I AM WHEELCHAIR BOUND). I'VE SPENT ALL MY LIFE IN MY WHEELCHAIR.

MY FAMILY FOUND ME A HOME WHERE I WOULD BE LOVED AND WELL TAKEN CARE OF.

ON THE 24TH OF SEPTEMBER 1984.
THE SANCTUARY HAS BEEN MY HOME SINCE,
AND I LOVE IT HERE!

Following the ...

CAR ACCIDENT, I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CEREBRAL PALSY...

THIS REFERS TO A GROUP OF PERMANENT
MOVEMENT DISORDERS THAT APPEAR IN
CHILDHOOD CAUSED BY DAMAGE THAT OCCURS
TO THE IMMATURE OR DEVELOPING BRAIN

I WAS ALSO DIAGNOSED WITH EPILEPSY...

THIS IS NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER IN WHICH BRAIN ACTIVITY BECOMES ABNORMAL, CAUSING SEIZURES OR PERIODS OF UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR, SENSATIONS, AND SOMETIMES LOSS OF AWARENESS.



I LOVE GETTING MASSAGESS, GETTING MY NAILS PAINTED, AND BEING DOLLED UP WITH MAKE UP.

I ENJOY LISTENING TO MUSIC, AND THERE'S NOTHING MORE I LOVE THAN RECIEVING AFFECTION... I LOVE IT WHEN I AM LOVED AND FEEL LOVED!

I'M ALWAYS HAPPY AND I USUALLY SMILE WHEN SOMEONE PLAYS WITH ME OR CALLS MY NAME...

YOU WON'T REGRET VISITING ME, I'LL GIVE YOU THE BIGGEST SMILE YOU HAVE EVER SEEN...



* Best family in the world ... *

HELLO! I'M TREVOR!

I'M THE LITTLE BABY IN MY FAMILY...
I HAVE TWO OLDER SISTERS, THEY AREN'T
LIKE ME, THEY ARE PROBABLY MORE LIKE YOU...

MY DAD LEFT MY FAMILY A LONG TIME AGO, AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS. MY MOM WAS ALWAYS VERY INVOLVED IN MY LIFE, BUT SHE SADLY PASSED AWAY DUE TO COVID.

I'VE REQUIRED SPECIAL CARE AND ATTENTION
ALL MY LIFE, MY MOM DID A GREAT JOB TRYING
TO TAKE CARE OF ME, BUT BEING A SINGLE
PARENT, THIS WAS DIFFICULT FOR HER...
SHE TRIED HER BEST TO MEET ALL MY NEEDS
BUT ENDED UP UNEMPLOYED AND STILL HAD TO
TAKE CARE OF THE FAMILY BY HERSELF.

SHE NEEDED TO FIND ME A NEW HOME SO I COULD BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF WHILE SHE TRIED TO FIND A JOB. ON THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER 1997, I JOINED THE BEST FAMILY IN THE WORLD, I BECAME PART OF:

THE WOODSIDE SANCTUARY FAMILY.

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH PROFOUND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY...

THIS IS A COGNITIVE LIMITATION. IT REFERS TO A BELOW AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT (IQ) MEASURE AND A SET OF LIFE SKILLS PRESENT BEFORE AGE 18, SUCH AS A LIMITATION OF ADAPTIVE FUNCTION IN COMMUNICATION, SELF-CARE, DAILY LIVING SKILLS AT HOME OR IN THE COMMUNITY, AND SOCIAL SKILLS.

I AM REGARDED AS HIGH FUNCTIONAL IN A SENSE
THAT I CAN COMMUNICATE MY NEEDS,
I AM TOILET TRAINED, AND I CAN ALSO FEED
MYSELF BUT I STILL NEED SUPERVISION
WITH SELF-CARE, WOODSIDE SANCTUARY
PROVIDES THAT FOR ME AS I CANNOT FUNCTION
ALONE IN THE WORLD WITHOUT SUPERVISION.

My love list...

Ne

I LOVE TEA
I LOVE MUSIC
I LOVE THE GYM
I LOVE WALKING AROUND
I LOVE BEING RESPONSIBLE
I LOVE READING THE BIBLE
I LOVE SHOWING OFF
I LOVE AFFECTION

AND...

I ABSOLUTELY LOVE MAKING SURPRISES FOR OTHERS!

PLEASE COME VISIT ME,
I'LL MAKE A SURPRISE FOR YOU TOO...



Love, compasssion € cave... ★

HI! I'M THEUNIS HARTMAN!

MY STORY IS REALLY SHORT BUT THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS AND GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME...

I'M FROM A VERY SMALL FAMILY. I HAVE A SISTER WHO HAS SPECIAL NEEDS JUST LIKE ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS, AND BOTH MY PARENTS HAVE GONE TO HEAVEN.

WHEN MY PARENTS WERE STILL ALIVE, THEY WERE GETTING OLD AND COULDN'T TAKE CAKE OF ME ANYMORE, SO THEY FOUND ME A HOME AWAY FROM HOME WHERE ALL MY NEEDS WOULD BE MET.

ON THE 2ND OF MAY 1994, I JOINED THE WOODSIDE SANCTUARY FAMILY.
I LOVE IT HERE, EVERYONE IS FULL OF LOVE, COMPASSION AND CARE.

I was...

DIAGNOSED WITH TWO CONDITIONS FROM BIRTH,

PROFOUND INTELLECTUALLY DISABILITY AND CEREBRAL PALSY.

PROFOUND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY IS
A COGNITIVE LIMITATION, IT REFERS TO A BELOW
AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT (IQ) MEASURE
AND A SET OF LIFE SKILLS PRESENT BEFORE THE
AGE OF 18. SUCH AS LIMITATION OF ADAPTIVE
FUNCTION IN COMMUNICATION, SELF-CARE, DAILY
LIVING SKILLS AT HOME OR IN THE COMMUNITY,
OR SOCIAL SKILLS.

CEREBRAL PALSY (CP) IS A GROUP OF PERMANENT MOVEMENT DISORDERS THAT APPEAR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD WHICH AFFECT A PERSON'S ABILITY TO MOVE AND MAINTAIN BALANCE AND POSTURE. THERE MAY ALSO BE PROBLEMS WITH SENSATION, VISION, HEARING, SWALLOWING AND SPEAKING.



I'M VERY TALKATIVE, I LIKE ATTENTION AND I ENJOY LISTENING TO MUSIC AND GETTING A MASSAGE FROM MY MOMMIES IN THE PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT.

I LOVE HAVING WATCHES ON MY WRISTS!
I ALWAYS HAVE A WATCH ON, ALWAYS!
I USUALLY HAVE TWO OR MORE ON AT A TIME...
YES, I'M OBSESSED ABOUT WATCHES!

WHEN YOU HAVE A BIT OF TIME TO SPARE,
PLEASE COME BY, I'LL SHOW YOU
MY WATCH COLLECTION... I PROMISE.





* Grandparents know best ... *

HI THERE! I'M CHARLIE!

I WAS BORN A PREMATURE BABY AT ONLY SIX MONTHS! I AM THE MIDDLE CHILD IN MY FAMILY. I HAVE TWO SIBLINGS, I WISH I KNEW THEM... I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY MOMMY AND DADDY. THEY USED TO CALL MY WOODSIDE FAMILY AND PROMISED TO VISIT ME, BUT THEY NEVER DID...

MY GRANDPARENTS WERE THE ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE PART OF MY LIFE AND CARED ABOUT MY WELL-BEING. THEY MADE THE BEST DECISION EVER, WHEN THEY DECIDED TO FIND ME A NEW HOME.



ON THE 6TH OF DECEMBER 1991, I BECAME A WOODSIDE ANGEL!



As I grew up...

I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CEREBRAL PALSY ...

TI IS CONSIDERED A NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER CAUSED BY A NON-PROGRESSIVE BRAIN INJURY OR MALFORMATION THAT OCCURS WHILE THE CHILD'S BRAIN IS UNDER DEVELOPMENT. CEREBRAL PALSY PRIMARILY AFFECTS BODY MOVEMENT AND MUSCLE COORDINATION.

ABNORMAL BUILD-UP OF CEREBROSPINAL FLUID

(CSF) IN THE VENTRICLES OF THE BRAIN.

THE FLUID IS OFTEN UNDER INCREASED PRESSURE

AND CAN COMPRESS AND DAMAGE THE BRAIN.

IN ADDITION TO ALL OF THIS, I AM
SPASTIC QUADRIPLEGIC... THIS IS A SUB-SET
OF CEREBRAL PALSY WHERE ALL FOUR LIMBS
OF MY BODY ARE AFFECTED.

Understood in a special way...

I LOVE WATCHING TELEVISION, LISTENING
TO MUSIC AND SPENDING TIME IN THE
PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT WHERE I ENJOY
ROLLING ON THE MAT AND PARTICIPATING IN
SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT I CAN BE PART OF!

I CAN'T TALK BUT I POINT OUT WHAT I WANT AND MY MOMMIES AND DADDIES HERE AT WOODSIDE UNDERSTAND ME IN THEIR OWN SPECIAL WAY.

I'D LOVE TO MEET SOME NEW PEOPLE AND SEE
DIFFERENT FACES, I'M TIRED OF SEEING THE SAME
PEOPLE EVERYDAY... JUST JOKING, I APPRECIATE
MY FAMILY AND LOVE SEEING EVERYONE BUT
IT WOULD BE GREAT TO MEET A NEW FACE...

PLEASE VISIT WHEN YOU GET A CHANCE.

I'D LOVE TO MEET YOU,,,

