

Footprints 4 Sam is about dignity & hope



Changing lives

one footprint at a time



Super Sam



Samuel's Story



Samuel John Frederick Platt was born on 9 April 2015. He spent all 15.5 months of his short life in hospital and endured countless medical interventions.

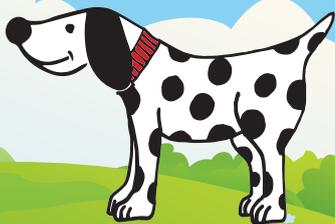
Sam's condition was endlessly misdiagnosed and it was only at about 15.5 months old, that Sam was confirmed as having Central Core Disease a rare muscle myopathy.

Following a successful tracheostomy at 13.5 months old, an operation that would allow Sam to breathe on and off a ventilator, without being hospitalised, Sam's parents, Melissa and Fred, finally saw their little boy's face without tubes and bandages. Sam started learning how to roll over, sit, taste and eat.

Tragically, 2 weeks away from finally coming home, Sam developed sepsis and died on 22 July 2016. Sam died having never left hospital, having never gone outside (except when transferring between hospitals) and having never gone home.

As Sam's parents, Melissa and Fred's commitment to their son is to ensure that his bravery and loving spirit lives on through others and that his life and life lessons save other lives...

A trail of footprints touching hearts and lives, bringing change and hope wherever they go.



Footprints
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6 Key Initiatives

Our key initiatives are about how we make a difference in 6 simple ways and how you can help. We encourage donors and suppliers to choose a project that speaks to their hearts and to consider financial contribution or volunteering time to a selected initiative.

The Super Sam Hero Vehicles



Chronically ill underprivileged children and their families are chauffeured to the hospital and their clinic appointments in Cape Town. The vehicles are operated by Paedspal – a local NGO in Cape Town that is focused on the paediatric palliative care sector.

Our vehicles are not taxis or ambulances, but serve to transport stable children and their families to their necessary medical commitments, so that they can meet their rehabilitation and clinical follow-ups.

The purpose of this initiative is also to try and ensure no child is ill alone or dies alone, and if a child passes away, that their families can be taken home in dignity and with some comfort. The aim is to take this initiative nationwide. Our current vehicles are sponsored by two primary donors, Hertz and Firefly Car Rental and The Efficient Group with insurance sponsored by GIB.



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The Super Sam Hero Buckets

Comprising of **The Food Bucket**, **The Care Bucket** and **The Love Bucket**. These buckets are delivered to families in hospital or when they are going home to ensure that they have some provisions available when they reach home after months in hospital.

Can you imagine the trauma of taking a chronically ill child home and then still having to worry about how you are going to feed them and take care of their basic hygiene requirements?

The Food Bucket consists of non-perishable food staples. The Care Bucket consists of toiletry items for mum and child. The Love Bucket consists of a few beautiful items, such as a blanket, a beautiful soft toy, and a Footprints 4 Sam bracelet. The buckets are delivered nationwide by Triton Express free of charge.



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The Beautiful Memory Project



This project looks at making beautiful memories for families at the hardest time in their lives.

Holding fun events at government hospitals at special times of year, such as Christmas, to celebrate life with fun experiences, such as animal petting zoos and pony rides.

The refurbishing of counselling, bereavement and breastfeeding rooms.

Making moulds and prints of hands and feet so that families have something to hold on to if their child passes away.

Providing "Beautiful Memory" boxes and providing African Angel dresses made by The Conor James Foundation.



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The Super Sam Hero WiFi Project

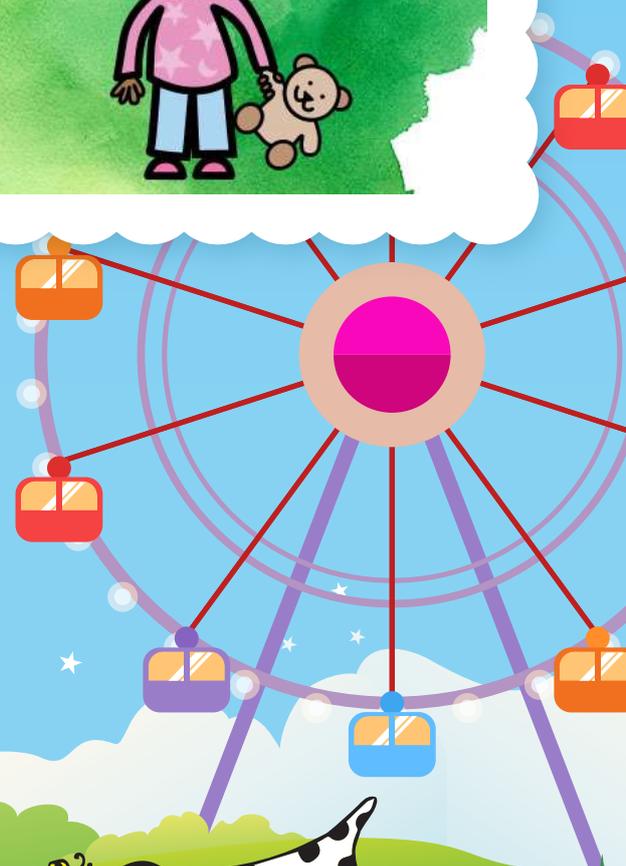
This is one of our key new focus areas. Here we are raising funds so that we can promote connectedness between families when children are stuck in hospital and are unable to see their families regularly or communicate without using expensive data.

The idea is to start installing Wi-Fi in paediatric government wards and to create 'smart rooms' where children can play and have fun, despite their various restrictions and chronic conditions.

Our aim is to put Wi-Fi and tablets into certain wards in government hospitals which will work in conjunction with the smart rooms.



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Changing Lives

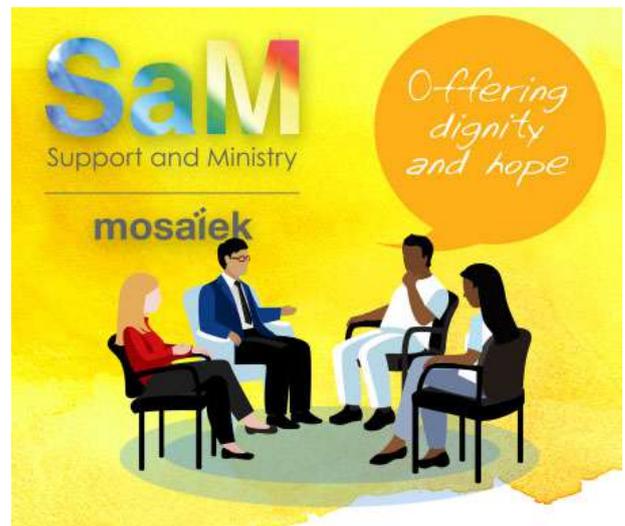
The SaM Support Group

This is a support and ministry group for parents who have lost a child or who support a chronically ill child.

The **SaM Support Group** is currently only available in Gauteng and we would like to take this initiative nationwide. Attendance is free of charge. Our current support group in Gauteng meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm at Mosaïek Church in Fairlands. All faiths are welcome.

The SaM support group is overseen by Dr Johan Ferreira, a psychologist and Melissa Platt, a palliative coach. Please contact us for more details should you wish to attend.

Equine Therapy is also provided to public health professionals with a focus on self-care. These afternoon sessions at Shumbashaba farm create a beautiful space for health professionals to recharge and reconnect with themselves and others.



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Advocacy

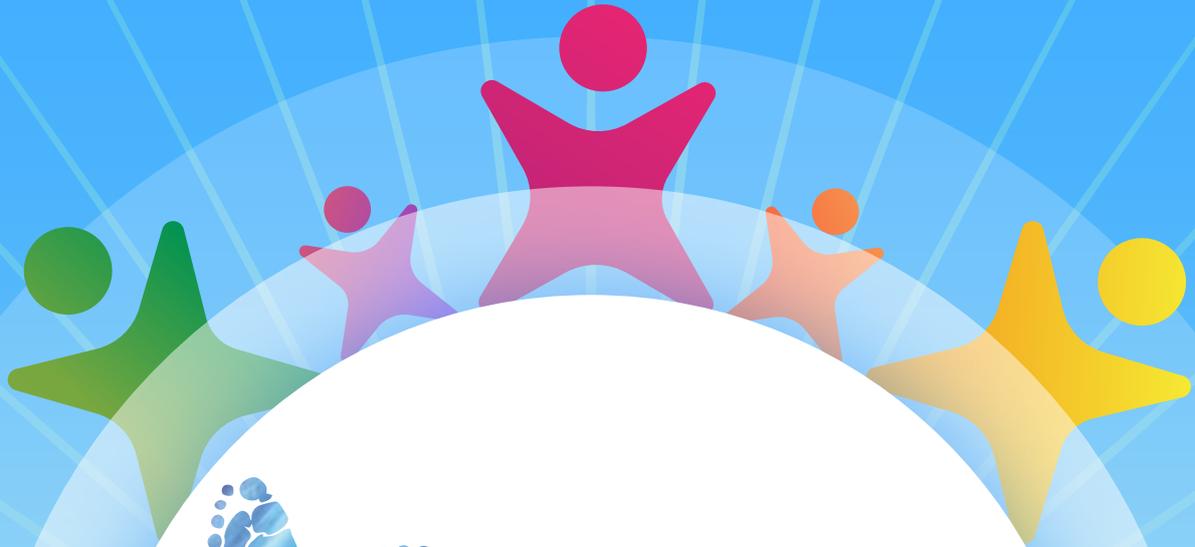
This initiative involves presenting to health-care professionals and students during conferences and continuing medical information (CME) forums to build the **Samuel Generation of Healthcare** (a patient and family-centered approach to healthcare), as well as social media marketing campaigns to drive this extremely important value system.

That is above all remembering our humanity, and offering hope, kindness, dignity, empathy and respect to all those we engage with.

We are passionate about building the Samuel Generation of Healthcare, so that Sam's life lessons permeate ALL medical corridors and wards.



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