



The Sunflower Fund
Hope begins with you

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 May 2018

REGISTER AS A STEM CELL DONOR, YOU COULD BE THE PERFECT MATCH RAQEEB IS SEARCHING FOR

Raqeeb Palm (4) was diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia in 2016 after his mother Zaida Palm, noticed abnormal bruising on his body. He had to undergo various blood tests and two bone marrow biopsies over a two-month period, before being diagnosed with the rare disease which damages bone marrow and stem cells. Raqeeb, who needs a stem cell transplant, has so far been unable to find a match, both locally and internationally since his search was activated last year.

The Sunflower Fund is the premier organisation in Southern Africa that actively recruits stem cell donors, create awareness about the need for and the process involved in being a stem cell donor and raises funds for the tissue-typing cost of R3000 per individual to register as a donor.

“One of our very critical goals is to ensure that the Sunflower Fund’s stem cell registry is an ethnically diverse source of potential stem cell donors, who are committed to help save lives”, says Alana James CEO at The Sunflower Fund.

The Sunflower Fund will be joining forces with N1 City Mall and Good Hope FM on Saturday 26 May from 9am-2pm for a stem cell donor drive in the Truworthe Court at N1 City Mall.

“Donor drives, such as this one are important for us to have the face to face opportunity to dispel some myths around stem cell donation, raise awareness and recruit donors”, she continued.

“Through the recruitment of blood stem cell donors we provide the hope of life to individuals like Raqeeb who are diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia, Leukaemia and other blood diseases whose only hope of recovery is a stem cell transplant”, she added.

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A blood stem cell transplant can be a potentially life-saving treatment for more than 70 different diseases. More than 50,000 patients worldwide receive transplants every year, and this number continues to rise.

Blood diseases are not partial to race, age or gender. Individuals have a better chance of finding a match within the same ethnic background as themselves. As such people from all backgrounds are encouraged to become donors.

“If you are in general good health, between the ages of 18- 45 years and have a BMI of less than 40, make a decision today to be the hope for someone and come through to the donor drive”, James continued.

Good Hope FM will be doing an outside Broadcast from N1 City Mall, where you will be able to meet Danilo Acquisto - host of the Hit 30 show – in person.

This donor drive is made possible by the fundraising effort of Andrew Patterson from Ubuntu 365 who is climbing Table Mountain every day this year to raise funds for The Sunflower Fund and 2 other charities. You can also help The Fund with financial contributions to assist the fundraising efforts for the tissue-typing test costs and the patient support fund. Visit www.sunflowerfund.org.za to make a quick and easy cash donation. For more information or to register please contact The Sunflower Fund on toll-free number: 0800 12 10 82.

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