



New BeginningZ

Incorporating.....

The Zameer Hassim Foundation

To Whom A May Concern;

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you a little more about one of my project and what it is we do with regards to this very special foundation.

History:

The whole reason for me starting New BeginningZ was the loss of my little baby boy.

Zameer Hassim was born on the 20th of December 2000. He was a healthy, happy baby with no complications. Well, medical ones at least... He did however have "genetic" complications in the sense that, as little as he was, he was headstrong, stubborn and knew exactly what he wanted and when. We were now blessed with two wonderful children, a boy and a girl (then 2yrs old). Little did we know that 9 weeks later our lives would change forever...

On the 5th of March 2001 a maniac decided to run a red robot and take us along in the process. This fatal car crash left my little boy fighting for his life in Unitas Hospital's ICU, brain damaged and hooked up to countless pipes and machines that kept him alive. It also left me paralyzed from the waist down. In a few hours Zameer had undergone two major brain surgeries that were unsuccessful. The prognosis was devastating & just when we thought it could not get any worse the doctors told us that we had to make a decision as to when to switch the machines off. No parent should ever be placed in this position or forced to make a life altering decision like this. The burden of the consequences of our decision was too much to bear. What if we kept the machines going for another day, another week, another month, even another year for that matter? Other people have pulled through situations like this right? There is hope isn't there? With a lot of hard work and therapy our son will be a normal, happy little boy again, right?

Unfortunately or Fortunately, depending on your personal outlook, our son made that decision for us. As I cradled by baby boy's limp little body in my left arm I reached up to remove more dry blood and embedded glass pieces from my head, his little hands reached up to his face and on his own he pulled out all the drips, pipes and drainage tubes that were connected on his face and in his head.

This was the most terrifying moment of my entire life. I was screaming for the doctors and nurses to re-connect everything but they said that it wouldn't help. I was furious, how could they not even try, they were all just standing around while my son was lay motionless in my arms. It was so surreal, how was this possible? How could a baby that had no brain function, no body function do this on his own? My argument was that the doctors were wrong, if he could pull out all the equipment, on his own, how could they tell me that there was no chance for him! My family said that this was meant to be and that God has a reason for everything, at least we didn't have to flip the switch, Zameer decided for us.

I have very little recollection of the events after that and the funeral but what I do remember clearly is pressing his cold little face against my cheek and telling him how sorry Mommy was, that I shouldn't have gone out that day, that I shouldn't have taken that road, and that I should have seen the speeding car coming at us, I knew that his death was my burden to bear and that I was the cause of my entire family's grief and heartache.

How it all started:

About two weeks after the funeral, I was still not on "speaking terms" with God but I dreamt of Zameer one night and woke up the next morning with a new mission in life. I knew I had to do something, I had to make a difference! I told God that my son was not going to die in vain and that I need guidance and direction to change disadvantaged children's lives in His name but also in memory of my baby boy.

This is how it all started. At that time I occasionally met 7 small children who were living on the streets in Laudium at that time, the youngest was 3 years old and had to stand on his tippy toes to be able to see over the cars window pane. I made some hot dogs and went out in search of them. We sat down in front of one of the shops and while eating, they began telling me their stories. The first step was to get the older ones into school and after I phoned every imaginable school I could find with no one willing to take in "street children" I found a school that catered specifically for this group of children. So, still in a lot of pain and with neck brace still on, I went to meet the principal of this remarkable school and enrolled the children. Doors just opened from there. I found space for these children to stay, contacted all my family and friends and their friends who of course all thought I was insane to get involved with this type of children, and started collecting money on a monthly basis to get this project off the ground.

One thing led to another, and here we are, 11 years later.....

New BeginningZ is an umbrella organisation in the sense that it deals with various groups of OVC's (Orphans and Vulnerable Children), not just focusing on one group in particular.

On the day our little Zameer would've been 8 years old, my husband registered a new domain for me and named it the "Zameer Hassim Foundation".

We decided, as a family, that although NBZ was already dedicated to Zameer, we would use the Foundation named after him to do extra special projects under this part of NBZ.

These Programs Include: (for now)

a. RAT BITE VICTIMS

Through this initiative we donate our extra camp cots through the Johannesburg Department of Environmental Health and the City of Jhb to Rat Bite Victims! Small babies and children are bitten and often literally eaten alive by rats and sometimes whole packs of rats. These children are from various informal settlements such as Ivory park and others. On the 31st of December 2009 we handed the first 10 cots over to the City of Jhb to distribute to these victims.

b. SCHOOL GOING MOMS

A few schools have approached us in need of assistance with teenage moms who attend school again. Some of these children don't have support systems which mean that they stay absent from school, stop going to school, their grades drop etc due to the fact that there is no one to help them with their babies. We find sponsors to then pay for an approved and registered nursery school or day care mother near the scholar's home in order for her to go to school, come home do home work, house work and cook before she fetches her child then. This program has very strict criteria.

c. ENTREPRENEURIAL MOMS

We also have two unnamed projects.... with the one we assist mothers who sell sweets or have the portable phone stalls etc on the side of the road if they have small babies by providing them with a pram, clothes, warm blanket etc for her child. I feel that these mothers are at least trying to provide themselves with an income instead of standing with a "please help, no food for children" board at a robot.

d. BABIES BEHIND BARS

This is still in the initial stages and we are still planning and coordinating with the Prisons as to what exactly it is they need and what form of assistance they require from us. We are hoping to start in earnest in June this year.

Our Appeal:

Where I see a need, I try to make a difference. The problem however is that the need out there is growing at such a rapid rate, that it is impossible to save the world, but try we must. Nothing is possible without the support of various sponsors and donors. Each program area requires certain material, financial and personal assistance and this is where we want to appeal to you. We have detailed Needs Analysis of each program area and if you or anyone you know might be willing to assist in any way, shape or form, we will greatly appreciate it.

This profile only serves as an outline of what we do and does not include the details of individual programs that we run. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you request any additional information.

Kind Regards.

Mrs. Fahiyya Hassim

Founder / Director