



Tydlose Nuus

# THE VESSEL DIE ERDEKRUIK

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## GRANrock Brits

*"Die werke van jou hande vertel  
die storie van jou hart."*

GRAFSTENE TEEN  
FABRIEKSPRYSE

Sonette Coetzee:

082 820 2830



Phia Lindeque, Vallerie Müller, Timo Graumann, Kate van den Berg, Daniel Kröll, Margarete Korwin, Christina Garcia and Francis Jim (front)

### PRETORIA

## POPUP pools together for new wheelchair

Nerésá Vogel

This is a story of incredible passion and dedication. At the end of 2012, POPUP CEO, Marlene Freislich, answered a call for help when a friend called her from the USA and informed her that he had 29 American missionaries (called the I-Squad) stuck in South Africa with no place to go. So it happened that the I-Squad team camped out in tents for a four week period on the POPUP Salvokop Centre grounds. Soon it became evident that their stay at POPUP was no coincidence.

The I-Squad got directly involved with all the various programmes and services within POPUP. One of their members, Lauren Lee, helped at POPUP's daily soup kitchen when she saw a man in a wheelchair queueing up daily waiting for his only meal

for the day.

The man in the wheelchair's name is Francis Jim, as Lauren started engaging with him the following story unfolded. Francis has cerebral palsy, a condition which causes physical disability; therefore he is dependent on others for survival. His parents passed away and he lives in the Baghdad informal settlement in Salvokop, Pretoria.

At that moment Francis had an old worn out wheelchair and struggled his way across a rock-strewn gravel road to get from point A to B. A couple of I-Squad team members decided to help Francis to go to Bosman station and push his wheelchair for him. When they got there they were sweating and exhausted. They realised Francis had to do this every single day all by himself.

There and then the I-Squad team decided to pool money together to get Francis a new off-road wheelchair. They got a third of the money together before they had to leave. Then POPUP's German volunteers raised another third and the outstanding amount came together with other individual donations. POPMed's nurse Kate van den Berg ordered a wheelchair from Riaan Fourie and his company; he agreed to give a further discount and so everything came together. On 15 March, Francis received his new wheelchair.

POPUP (The People Upliftment Programme), is a non-profit organisation based in the Salvokop community in Pretoria. It is primarily a training facility providing skills development and training for unemployed and disempowered individuals.