

FRANCISKA (8) serious accident

(For photographs, please refer to Afrikaans version)

On Friday, 19 March, Ciska Klein was hit by a car near her home. She was taken by ambulance to Red Cross hospital, with serious head and neck injuries. The doctors suspected possible brain damage, and her parents were told that she would not survive for more than two days. However, with the community's prayers, and with her fighting spirit, she has overcome huge challenges.

Serious injuries

Ciska broke her neck (vertebra 4 and 5). She is paralysed from the neck down, but fortunately she has no brain damage. She struggles to breathe on her own and uses a ventilator to assist her. Luckily, she can eat on her own.

Ciska has a catheter that has to be cleaned three hourly. On 24 April, Ciska was transferred out of Intensive Care to a rehabilitation centre. Her parents do not want her to go to a nursing facility, as they want to care for her at home. Her mom has received intensive training so that she can nurse Ciska herself.

Help required

Ciska will need specialised care for the rest of her life. Her needs, and the needs of the family, will change over the years. On 5 May, a medical team from Red Cross visited their home, to determine the needs of Ciska and her family. She will not go back to school this year, and will do home schooling with the help of teachers and parents.

Below is a list of all their wants and needs. Please contact Twanette if you are able to assist in any way.

Who is Ciska?

Franciska Klein is 8 years old and is a Grade 2 learner at Valley Primary at Altydgedacht Farm. She is the youngest of four sisters (9, 11 and 13).

Her dad, Marius, is a full time worker on the farm and her mother, Louwtjie, is a seasonal worker. Louwtjie is on the governing body of the school.

The family of six lives in a neat two bedroomed house on the farm, where they share a room. There is electricity and a toilet outside the house. They have hot and cold running water with solar panels outside the house.

The Story Box

The project is driven by equipped volunteers from the community. Their aim is to help the children to reach their full academic potential. They make use of structured programs, learning support and free services from professionals in the community. The volunteers assisted with visits and food during the time that Ciska's mom stayed with her in the hospital.

Financial help.

The family is currently trying to claim from the Road Accident Fund.

The Story Box Project has a Trust account at Kenridge Primary, which is managed and audited by Kenridge. Donations help the needy children from the Valley School. A section 18A certificate can be issued for any donations which are made.

Banking details:

Kenridge Primary School

ABSA current account

Account number: 1410149490

Branch code: 632005

Ref: Story Box HULPFONDS

See list of needs.

For any queries contact:

Twanette Acker

0834444560

acker@telkomsa.net

Needs

We require people to help with knowledge, businesses which can provide a service at a reduced price, volunteers to help with caring and school work / stimulation, etc.

Work required in and around the house:

- **Electricity** must be readily available and safe, as Ciska needs life-sustaining machines which require electricity to function. The farmer is prepared to upgrade the Pre-Paid system but the services of an electrician are required.
- Solar battery in case of load shedding.
- A plumber to install water inside the house.
- Repairs to the roof and the ceiling.
- Repairs to the gutters as well as the installation of a water storage tank – JoJo tank (extra water is necessary for medical purposes).
- The stone floor must be replaced in order to make it smooth. Linoleum is an option.
- The gravel road, next to the house, must be wheelchair friendly, which necessitates the building of a ramp.

Nursing care: To aid with comfort and to prevent bed sores

- Single bed (preferably a hospital bed)
- Ripple mattress
- Egg shell mattress

General needs for ventilation and nursing:

- Bedside chest for ventilator
- Cupboard or drawer for equipment and essentials
- Hooks on which to hang bags (emergency and others)
- Night light

Other equipment to assist with moving Ciska:

- A hoist to lift her from her bed to her wheel chair.
- A commode on wheels to facilitate movement from the toilet to the shower.

Disposable items

- Nappies
- Toilet paper

Services from volunteers to help the family with caring:

- Nursing (to help mom and give her some time off). Experience in tracheotomy will be useful.
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Assistance with school work. No teaching experience is needed. Help will be provided if necessary.

Entertainment in her room:

- TV
- Radio