

# Uhambo/Shonaquip Info Session

## AsTeRICS Summer School Vienna 2016



**UHAMBO**



**SHONAQUIP®**

# A Hybrid Social Enterprise

## **BARRIERS IN COMMUNITY**

- Empower children with mobility disabilities, their families, caregivers & communities
- Through community programmes

### **WHAT & WHY**

- Build day care/centre & community capacity for all
- Develop social support structures
- Reduce dependency

## **BARRIERS TO MOBILITY**

- Access to appropriate mobility devices, clinical & technical support services for children
- Through clinical services & devices

### **WHAT & WHY**

- Build clinical capacity for 24 hour positioning
- Empower families in positioning
- Reduce secondary health complications

# BEGINNING

- In 1984, after her daughter Shelly was born with cerebral palsy, Shona McDonald established Interface, an NGO, to address communication needs
- Initially her focus was on communication, as Shelly is non-verbal
- Shonaquip was founded in 1992 operating from Shona's garage, with a staff complement of 2 people.



# Shonaquip – Humble Beginnings

- Shona soon realised that mobility and seating are primary, and required for communication
- She started in her garage, building the first electrified wheel chair completely manufactured in SA using repurposed parts such as windscreen wiper motors



# THE WRONG APPROACH



# THE RESULT OF BAD SEATING



# APPROPRIATE SEATING



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



# APPROPRIATE SEATING



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**





# madibaBuggy



The Madiba buggy is Shonaquip's original rugged rural posture support buggy. It was designed for children in need of more postural support than a traditional wheelchair or stroller can offer. It is ideal for children and young adults, from age 6 months, who cannot self-propel or sit up independently. It provides full body support to help control spasms and muscle weakness and imbalances.

The unique seating system offers modular full body and head support cushions, which can be configured to optimally fit young and growing bodies. Using the adjustable tilt-in-space feature in conjunction with full body support enables optimal positioning and alignment of the child's body, which can limit the risk of developing postural deformities.

With the benefit of large off-road wheels the buggy can easily overcome the most challenging of obstacles.



# madiba2goBuggy

The award winning Madiba2GoBuggy is a rugged off-road posture support buggy specifically designed for children who need more postural support than a traditional wheelchair or stroller can offer, but who will benefit from this new easily transportable design. It is ideal for children, 6 months and up, who cannot selfpropel and / or are unable to sit independently.

The unique seating system offers rigid adjustable full body and head support, which can easily fit and accommodate young and growing bodies. In addition to this support, tilt-in-space and backrest recline allow for optimal alignment and postural support during functional activities while also minimising the risk of the development of postural deformities.

A special feature of the Buggy is the rugged, folding base frame, making the Madiba2GoBuggy easy to transport and store.



DESIGN  
INDABA

INNOVATION  
AWARD



# sullyActive

The SullyActive chair is a specially designed rugged posture support wheelchair. It's ideal for energetic and curious young children who are able to self-propel and will benefit from independent mobility to explore the world. It is suitable for young children from 18 months and can adjust to accommodate basic to intermediate postural support needs.

It is designed to be highly manoeuvrable and yet stable, allowing users with varying levels of mobility skills to safely access more demanding terrain.



# madiba2goActive



The Madiba2GoActive is a unique posture support wheelchair that combines the successful multi adjustable Madiba2Go seating system with the rugged off-road wheel base of the SullyActive.

It is ideal for active children from 1 year to approx. 6 years who can self-propel, but require intermediate to complex postural support.

The unique adjustable seating system offers rigid padded full body and head support to optimally fit growing bodies, minimising the risk of developing postural deformities. It is designed to be highly manoeuvrable, yet stable, providing the user a means to move around comfortably and explore the world.



# tessBack

The Tess Back is the ideal rigid back system to accommodate users with basic to intermediate postural support needs. With over 30 different back and side support combinations, this rigid back system can be used to seat a wide variety of wheelchair users who require firm pelvis and trunk side support. Easy width adjustment of the rigid trunk side supports provides optimal fit.

The Tess Back was specifically designed to be lightweight and user-friendly. It fits with a wide range of different wheelchairs, both manual and motorised.

Used in conjunction with a good positioning cushion, it promotes healthy development of the spine in children and helps prevent and delay spinal deviations in adults.



# jackStander

Shonaquip's Jack Stander provides an all-in-one fully tilt adjustable standing solution designed to accommodate children in both prone and supine standing positions. It allows children, who spend much of the day sitting in a wheelchair the opportunity to stand in a safe and supported position. Lockable indoor castor wheels ensure the base frame provides a stable platform.

A standing frame forms an important part of a 24 hour therapeutic posture management program.



# lalaPositioner



The Lala Positioner is a useful positioning device designed to improve a child's postural alignment when spending time out of the wheelchair. It can be used to position the child while asleep during the night or for effective and comfortable positioning for short periods during the day. It helps to control severe muscle stiffness, spasms and uncontrolled movements and is particularly effective in preventing extreme flexed or extended positions of the body, head and limbs. It also allows for controlling the positioning of the head to improve the child's ability to breathe, swallow and socialise.



It is highly effective in promoting healthy growth and development of the hips, knees and spine in children by maintaining a normal and relaxed posture in lying, over longer periods.

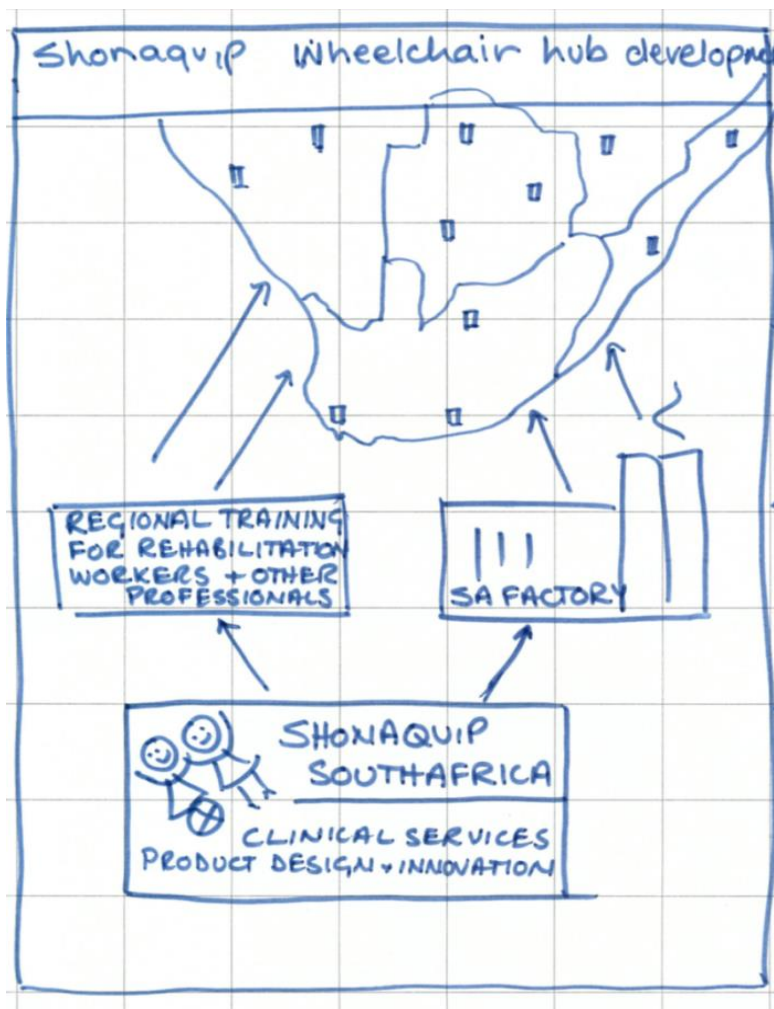


# POWER WHEELCHAIRS





# SHONAQUIP'S GROWTH



1992 workshop with 2 staff established in the garage of Shona's home

2004 moved to small factory in Ottery Cape town with 9 staff

2007 moved to larger factory in Wynberg Cape Town with 27 staff

2012 moved to outsourcing all South African production to large scale production site in KZN

Exploring global impact with THINK



# AN INCLUSIVE FACTORY



# ASSEMBLY & CUSTOMISATION



# CUSTOMISATION



# SEATING SERVICES



# PEER TRAINING



# MAINTENANCE TRAINING

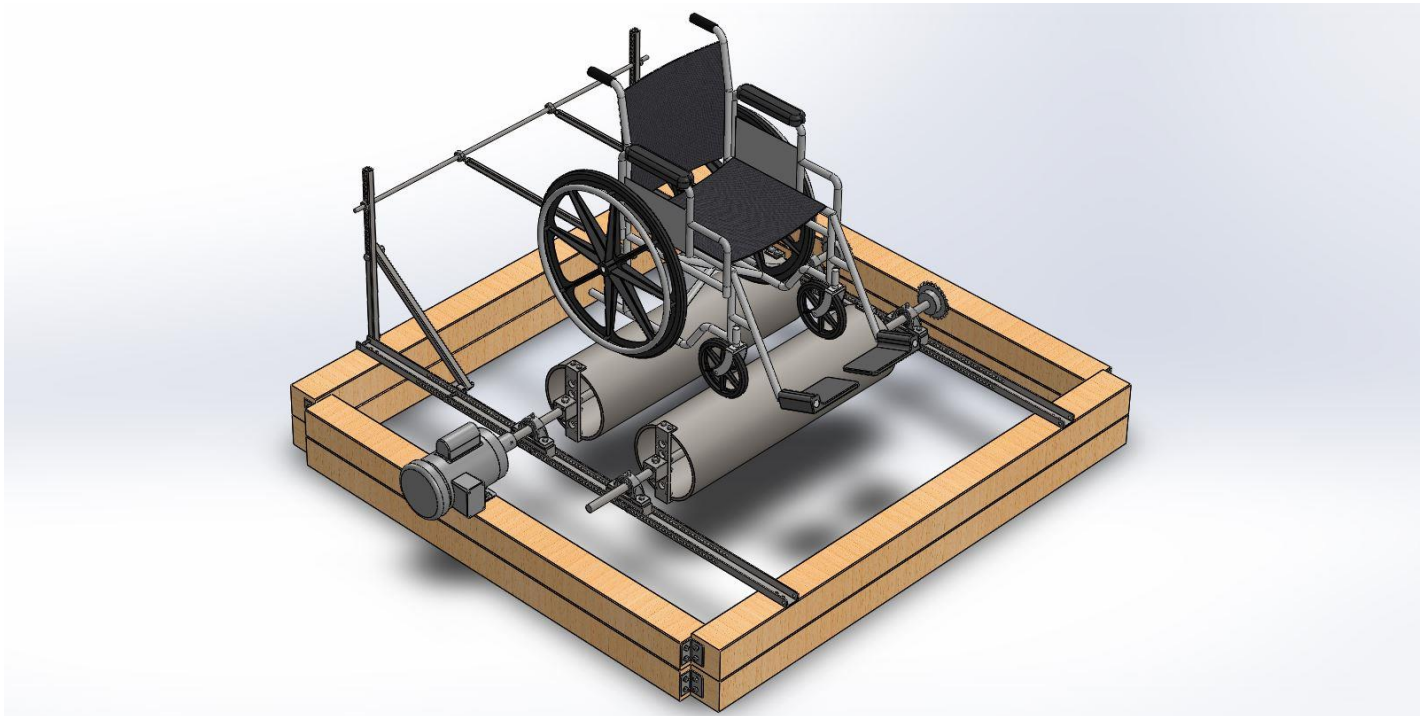


# MOBILE OUTREACH CLINICS





# WHEELCHAIR TESTING



- Developing an in-house testing facility in collaboration with International Society of Wheelchair Professionals and RESNA
- Setting testing standards for rural wheelchairs with the International Society of Wheelchair Professional working group



# Uhambo

- Uhambo was founded in 2010 to address advocacy, capacity building and funding needs
- Social work teams support individuals, families and communities
- Ndinagona – a box of tools and toys for disabled children – very successful
- Seating – training of repair technicians, capacity building for therapists
- Repair and mobile outreach



# FOUR-PRONGED STRATEGY

- Uhambo – training and advocacy
- Shonaquip – seating and mobility
- Champions of Change – voice for disabled people and their support structures
- Empowerment through Enterprise – funding from corporates, repair clinics, trolley manufacture, assistive device development



# ADVOCACY & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Uhambo Foundation and Shonaquip are dedicated to changing the political landscape supporting children with disabilities and their families.

In 2013 Uhambo developed the Uniform Referral Pathway for the Western Cape Department of Social Development

In 2015 Uhambo wrote the draft Vulnerable Children's Policy for the City of Cape Town based in 24 stakeholder workshops across the Metropole.

**Uhambo Foundation & Shonaquip have been asked to coordinate the Assistive Devices Protocol for SAFOD – the Southern African Federation of the Disabled.**



# CONCLUSION

- Uhambo/Shonaquip are looking for partners in the Assistive Technology space
- We believe in appropriate, sustainable projects, addressing needs iteratively
- We believe in support for disabled people and their families/carers
- We believe in training to enable people with disabilities to take control of their assistive technology and to support each other
- We are moving beyond mobility and seating, back to the space of communication and broader assistive technologies to enable disabled children to have access to education and achieve independence and inclusion in society



# SHELLY & SHONA

