



**The Sunflower Fund**  
Hope begins with you

Our vision is to **save lives of individuals diagnosed with blood diseases** by increasing the number of patients making it to transplant

**THE CHALLENGE:** There is a very low number of registered donors across the African continent, leading to too few patients finding a match and making it to transplant.

The Sunflower Fund fights blood diseases like Leukaemia through the recruitment of stem cell donors and maintaining a registry of potential donors committed to helping anyone in need of a life-saving stem cell transplant. We fundraise to cover the cost of education and awareness about the need for and the process to become a blood stem cell donor as well as to cover the cost of the HLA tissue-typing test involved in the recruitment of donors. The Sunflower Fund also maintains a patient support fund to assist patients who are unable to afford costs associated with getting to transplant as well as being actively involved in creating a platform for support structures to assist patients, families and communities.



**STEM CELL REGISTRY FOR AFRICA**

- Through active global partnerships and alliances, we are building a registry of donors across Africa who are committed to helping anyone in need of a life-saving blood stem cell transplant.



**PATIENT SUPPORT FUND**

- We offer financial support for the cost associated with finding a donor and getting to transplant.
- Accessibility to treatment through actively engaging technology and research.



**DONOR CENTRE**

- In order to improve outcomes for patients in the African Diaspora who need a stem cell transplant, we jointly aim to recruit 100,000 donors of African ancestry by 2030 as part of the Stem Cell Registry Alliance (SCRA).
- We actively drive education and awareness about blood diseases as well as the need for and the process involved in becoming a blood stem cell donors and raise funds to cover the cost of tissue-typing tests as well as for patient support.

With an 18 year history, The Sunflower Fund prides itself in being the premier organisation in Southern Africa to recruit and create awareness about the need for stem cell donors. We provide access for tissue type testing through our partnership with Lancet laboratories and through working closely with the blood banks. We have launched a partnership with the Centre for Proteomic and Genomic Research (CPGR) to increase the

level of HLA -typing and launched an HLA Data Centre for Africa - the first of its kind for the continent. We are also a founding member of the Stem Cell Registry Alliance (SCRA), a joint initiative of registries across the Caribbean, UK and Africa who jointly aim to recruit donors of African ancestry, primarily from the countries of the member organizations.



More than **70,000** donors recruited to date



Over **R1,6M** spent on patient support



Increased level of tissue-typing to 11 Loci in January 2018.



The Sunflower Fund's stem cell registry for Africa confirmed on 21 March 2018

Partnerships, memberships and associations:



**Interested in supporting our work?**

Contact Alana James - CEO

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