

Soweto Urban

Claudine Phillips, the woman who lives in a car

Claudine Phillips story will break your heart.

Dane Job

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The car that Claudine lives in.

Everybody has problems. Some people's problems are bigger than others. Claudine Phillips is one of those people who is experiencing a very difficult time in her life. She lives in Eldorado Park Extension Two with her husband.

They have a son together but because of her situation, he is unfortunately not living with them.

Phillips said, "I'm a disabled person, my husband and I are currently living in our car, for about a year now. I went to the councillor for help and he never got back to me.

"Before I got my grant I struggled for seven years, I had to take a higher appeal to the head office in order for it to be granted. I got it from the health minister, where she sent me a letter granting the disability grant."

She said that she does get her disability grant but according to Phillips, every month there is a shortage when she gets paid.

She said, "My husband is not working and I had to leave my son at other people's houses as he attends school in Toekomsrus."

A little more insight on Phillips' situation is the conditions that she is living with. One of her conditions are, erythromelalgia and the other is that she is living with a hole in her throat.

Erythromelalgia is a rare vascular peripheral pain disorder in which blood vessels, usually in the lower extremities are episodically blocked on and off on a daily basis which then becomes hyperemic and inflamed.

She said, "I have erythromelalgia and a permanent tracheostomy which I breathe through. It's a combination of various illnesses and I have to get medication every month.



Claudine Phillips lives in her car and has a permanent tracheostomy in her throat.

"We can't survive off my disability grant, there are days where we go without eating and sometimes I can't even go to the hospital because I don't have money."

She concluded, "If there is anyone or an organisation that can help get me accommodation or any help whatsoever it would be highly appreciated. I just need accommodation for us, that's my main priority, food and things will come somehow, I just need a house."

The contact number for Claudine 074 675 1374 or alternatively contact LDECA office at 011 945 7045.