

s m e r g o s TM

i n s p i r i n g m o t i o n

The Smergos story began one morning as Nick was thinking about what he could give Nicole on her next birthday. He recognised that she often struggled to carry or keep her belongings on her lap while using her hands to push herself in her wheelchair. A wheelchair bag was the obvious solution. It would be functional yet also original and distinctively Nicole.

The more he thought about the idea, the more Nick began to see far richer possibilities. That afternoon, he called Nicole and asked her if she would like to make something that could change lives. Her response? “Definitely! I’m in!” Smergos was born.

Both Nick and Nicole have dealt with their own disabilities for most of their lives and overcome numerous challenges along the way. Aged just six months, Nick was involved in a car accident that resulted in cerebral palsy with left hemiplegia. Nicole was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, a congenital disorder characterised by brittle bones that are prone to fracture. Consequently, she has never been able to walk and is permanently in a wheelchair.

However, we are talking about two driven and determined individuals whose positive mind-sets would never allow their disabilities to define them or prevent them from fulfilling their life goals. Their personal experiences have given them an acute awareness and understanding of what disabled people need and how the current marketplace is failing to meet many of those needs.

Smergos was launched to the public at the end of 2015 with a range of bags that fit neatly on any wheelchair, giving the user a safe and easily accessible way to carry their belongings. Through their own experiences and interactions with their customers, Nick and Nicole have recognised the need to diversify and personalise their product range. They have several new and exciting products which will be released in 2018.

In 2017 Smergos was accepted into the Spark International incubator program and more recently won R520 000 as joint second place winners at the 2017 SAB Foundation Disability



s m e r g o s TM

i n s p i r i n g m o t i o n

Empowerment Awards. This is a massive leap forward for the company. It will help fast track their plans to reach more people with disabilities and inspire motion.

