

Appeal for help for Neil Parker (Agata & Faro)

Dear friends and family of the Parkers

Neil suffers from a serious (and recently, near-fatal) digestive system illness*. In the last year, he has undergone a number of major, invasive and extremely painful but lifesaving, abdominal operations. It is a great relief to know that Neil's recent medical procedures have been successful, however, it is important to emphasize that the road to his functional recovery is still long and complex...

The medical scheme does not cover everything (e.g. excludes some specialists, ongoing out-of-hospital procedures and nutritional supplements to name just a few). As a formerly self-employed entrepreneur, Neil's extended hospitalisation and his prolonged absence compromised his previously profitable alternative energy business. And the successful, but nonetheless ongoing medical treatment has drained all his resources.

Bob Dylan once said, "when you've got nothing, you've got nothing to lose". There have been many times in Neil's life when he has had nothing and has actively sought to lose it. In every instance he succeeded in losing nothing and replacing it, through hard work, with something incredible. Most times these understated milestones captured my admiration. For these were mammoth tasks of real achievement, brought about by an old-school honest work ethic. Or else there was some creative process usually with an end of generosity in mind. Both formed his life and touched ours. But a time has happened upon Neil and his fledgling family in which for all his efforts and boundless heart he needs our help. He may not admit it, but the mark of friendship is to tread where angels fear. He does need our help. The most versatile of help we can offer is financial. This would allow Neil and his family the options necessary to plan their recovery right now. I would like to implore you all, if you have the capacity, to look into the memory of a great man and help to fashion his recovery. That which has been Neil's struggle for the last nineteen years is now a medical catastrophe, to which he has finally succumbed. But he will rise again, so let's help. (Grant Hatting, a long-time friend of Neil's)

This appeal for help has been put together by a number of people who care deeply about the well-being of this family. To assist, we have opened a dedicated bank account:

Acc Name: Neil Parker Recovery Fund
Acc No: 070013926
Code: 051001
Standard Bank
Thibault Square
Business Current Account

SWIFT ADDRESS (for international transfers): SBZAZAJJ

If you know Neil or care enough to relate, please pass this request on to others and contribute where it WILL count. We all express our desire to help differently but the bottom line is, we want to inspire as many others to stand with us in assisting the Parkers. We are extending this request far and wide in the hope that the smallest amount given willingly by many will add up - impacting the life of an awesome man who has touched ours.

*Neil's medical diagnosis: ulcerative colitis with probable eventual diagnosis of Crohn's disease. In layman's medical terms: Neil has had large portions of his intestine and bowel removed. Aside from acute pain the complications include severe inflammation, numerous infections, blood poisoning, peritonitis, sepsis...and so the list goes on, and on. The surgeries are highly invasive, extremely painful and the associated illness is debilitating and without proper medical, can be fatal. In the interest of privacy and not wanting to shock anyone, suffice to say that the medical version is downright terrifying with very long complicated terminology. Recovery will be very slow as what's left of his digestive system struggles to provide his body with the basic nutrients needed for optimal health. (Sean Rohm, a long-time friend of Neil's)