

Gala fundraiser planned for boy with cerebral palsy



Tyler Sexton (left) and Christopher Simmons.

ST. EUSTATIUS--A gala dinner is planned for Christopher Simmons who is suffering from cerebral palsy and is in dire need of medical treatment which he can receive at a hospital in Florida. The gala dinner will be held on Saturday, October 4, starting at 7:00pm at Fort Oranje.

Tyler Sexton, a student of St. Eustatius University School of Medicine and Chapter President of The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) has stepped up to the plate in an effort to help 6-year-old Christopher Simmons and his parents. The young boy is suffering from spastic diplegia, a form of cere-

bral palsy, and is bound to a wheelchair.

Shriners Hospital for Children in Tampa, Florida, is specialises in orthopaedic disabilities and is dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing special paediatric care in a family-centred environment at no charge.

Sexton met Christopher's mother one afternoon near the Suares building at the Med School campus, when she was begging him to come with her to meet her son.

Sexton made it his duty to help the boy and his family and in May presented him with a wheelchair, donated by the hospital he was then

working in.

"He (Christopher) desperately needs medical treatment," Sexton said, adding that with proper care it might even be possible that Christopher will one day be able to walk.

Christopher was scheduled to be sent to Curaçao to be placed for the rest of his life in a home alone, without his family. Instead of allowing this fate to fall on Christopher and his family Sexton proposed to use his connections at Shriners Hospital to facilitate treatment, surgeries, and physical therapy.

Shriners Hospital for Children has agreed to accept him as a patient and take care of all his medical needs. Airfare and lodging will have to be provided by the patient's family.

Sexton and AMSA have teamed up in an effort to raise money to provide airline tickets and lodging for a minimum of three trips. The initial trip is for assessment and minor physical therapy.

"We want to be able to raise enough money to facilitate as many trips as needed," Sexton said. Funds will be raised during the gala evening on October 4 at Fort Oranje, consisting of a dinner, a raffle and a social event.

Should anyone wish to get in contact with Tyler Sexton, his telephone number is 318-4526, or check web-site www.tylersexton.com.