



OUT OF GRIEF COMES LASTING GRACE, BEAUTY AND DIGNITY

The Angel Gown Initiative

Eric Elronde, founder and owner of couturiers, Erikr House, is charitably repurposing old wedding dresses and formal gowns into beautiful “Angel Gowns” for infants who do not survive their journey into this world.

At a time of utmost grief and sorrow, an Angel Gown is a small but deeply meaningful way to alleviate some of a family’s difficulties and great sadness. The Angel Gown Initiative assists bereaved families with an important practical issue: how to provide a passed child with the greatest dignity and grace.

The Angel Gown Initiative has been launched, developed and managed by Eric Elronde and forms an important component of Erikr House’s Corporate Social Investment, under the acronym, TAGI – The Angel Gown Initiative.

All Angel Gowns are hand-made and are a free donation. Already presentations have been made to hospitals where grieving families have been assisted.

But it is much more than a unique, charitable effort.

As joyous, as memorable as a wedding day may have been, as beautiful as the gown the bride once wore, how many of these beautiful garments hang disused for years in cupboards or finally given away for a pittance to thrift and second-hand shops?



An average of 10 - 20 Angel Gowns can be repurposed from a single wedding gown.

Their real beauty, the great care and craft that went into their creation, are sometimes lost and forgotten, perhaps never to be seen again.

Imagine the comfort and solace these gowns could provide to the family of a child that has tragically passed on? Imagine the good this can do, the sorrow it can help ease.

For no charge, nor any cost, Erikr House will take on these old wedding gowns (or evening gowns), carefully deconstruct them and then use the fabrics to



create perfect Angel Gowns. Each is hand made, lined in cotton for the softest touch and then delicately trimmed with beautiful detail. Any damaged fabric is entirely removed and the finished Angel Gown washed and beautifully packaged. From a forgotten dress, perhaps a dusty memory, comes new beauty, grace and dignity.

Comfort in a time of grief.

Recently donations have been made to, amongst others, Vredendal Hospital by Eric Elronde. As a moving twist of history, this was where a former client of Erik House, Mrs. Chrismari Elsbury worked as a nurse. She had previously donated her wedding gown and was delighted to receive it so valuably repurposed.

Of even greater surprise, was Vredendal Hospital was also the hospital where Eric himself had been born, delivered there by Dr. J. van Dyk who was on hand to receive the first collection of Angel Gowns.



Dr. J. van Dyk from Vredendal Hospital and Mr Eric Elronde.



Mr Eric Elronde and Ms Carla Hanekom from Mediclinic Stellenbosch.

Perhaps you'd like to help creating a little bit of beauty, grace and dignity for a child.

Eric Elronde and Erik House are enormously dependent on the donation of old wedding dress or formal gowns for the creation of Angel Gowns. The final gowns themselves are so small (some panels no larger than an A4 page) that even your off-cuts can be given great and lasting purpose.

So think, just for a moment, the good you can do. If of course you're saving that gown for another generation or perhaps a gift to a younger friend or family, that's beautiful and moving and we entirely respect your decision.



But if, for any reason, the dress is going to hang in a closed closet, unused for years, perhaps now's a time to consider donating it to a truly magical cause: The Angel Gown Initiative.

Please give it some thought. Your decision can do so much heartfelt good.

The Angel Gown Initiative would be delighted to receive your wedding dress or formal gown. We will set about using it for several Angel Gowns and hopefully be able to soon send you a photograph of the finished articles and perhaps even the hospital donation that follows.

You will have done an immense amount of good. You will have brought some happiness into the saddest of families, you will have provided a young child with a bereavement gown of great beauty and a passing over of immense dignity.

Please feel free to contact TAGI via email at tagi@erikrhouse.com to enquire about how to proceed further with getting your donation to The Angel Gown Initiative.

Gratitude

Erikr House would like to give special thanks to Chrismari Elsbury for her input, contribution and help in getting the Angel Gowns donated to the hospitals in need.

We would also like to thank Janet Vandermeulen from 7 Pine Design for supplying a free PDF pattern online for these gowns. We receive ongoing interest and help but our real need is for fabrics and working materials. We cannot over-emphasize the great good that your unused wedding gown, formal gowns, or simply offcuts of quality, soft fabrics (silks, all satins, lace, taffeta, all cottons and so on) can do to provide lasting dignity to a bereaved family.

There are some additional items that would also be of immense use:

- 6mm wide satin ribbon in white or cream is most needed. These ribbons are stitched into the back of each Angel Gown for closure. Satin olive green polka dot ribbons (15mm-20mm) are also used for wrapping the completed garment.
- White and cream stitching cotton. Brands that work best and which are most needed for the Angel Gowns are Coats, Gütermann, Seralon and Polycore. Of course, all other brands are welcome and will be used for hand sewing. These are available at most fabric or haberdashery shops.
- Stitching needles – especially Schmetz brand – Schmetz Microtex in sizes 8,10 and 12 are perfect.
- 190mm x 250mm x 25mm cellophane envelopes for packaging (Merrypak).
- As the Initiative grows, courier services will be of enormous help, along with people who can assist with wrapping and packing.

Hand-made, hand-packed, hand-delivered, heart-felt.

So much goodness and comfort comes from a long-forgotten wedding gown or old formal gown once it is transformed into an Angel Gown. So we, at Erikr House, take very special care when we prepare Angel Gowns for donation.



Before enclosing the repurposed Angel Gowns are enclosed in cellophane envelopes and folded around a condolence card and tied down with a carefully tied ribbon.

Size Chart

- **Micro** **0.6kg – 1.1kg**
- **Tiny** **0.9kg – 1.8kg**
- **Preemie** **1.3kg – 2.7kg**
- **Newborn** **2.2kg – 3.6kg**



Angel Gowns ready for donation.

If there is any way you may wish to contribute to this charity, please contact TAGI directly at tagi@erikhouse.com. We

truly do respect the history, care and memories threaded into every wedding gown and how very precious they are. All we ask is, for a moment, you consider the further good your most beautiful gown could be put to and the pride, comfort and dignity it will certainly provide to a family deeply bereaved.

tagi@erikhouse.com

<http://www.erikhouse.com/angel-gowns>

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