

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday 9 February 2022

## BUSKING 'SHOPLIFTERS' SURPRISE COOLUM FAMILY AND RAISE \$2K TO HELP FIND A CURE FOR DAUGHTER'S RARE DISEASE

Coolum institution and busking band "The Shoplifters" have raised mass attention and funds to the tune of **\$2,000** (two thousand dollars) for Genetic Cures for Kids: a charity that funds research to cure the rare genetic disease affecting a young Coolum girl.

2-year-old Tallulah Moon moved to the Sunshine Coast with her parents and big brother Finn to access the region's specialist Paediatric services in a focused effort to combat the progressive neurodegenerative disease that's attacking her: Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia Type 56 (SPG56).

Last year after doctors said there was no current treatment or cure, Tallulah's parents Golden and Chris Whitrod started a foundation to fund research to cure this currently classified 'incurable disease'.

"We quickly learned that there are very promising research opportunities out there to cure rare diseases, but it's very expensive and until big pharmaceutical companies and government agencies adequately support the research, it's up to families to come up with the money," said Golden Whitrod, Tallulah's mother.

While establishing Genetic Cures for Kids and its campaign '[Our Moon's Mission](#)' in 2021, the Whitrods filmed [a short video](#) to tell their story, and "the Shoplifters" were busking at Tickle Park on the day of the shoot.

*Shoplifters* musician Jim Tannion had noticed the family dancing to their music with the camera. But it wasn't until December 2021 when the charitable foundation launched, that he saw [the film about Tallulah's plight](#) and the disease that has progressively taken away her ability to walk, talk and move independently.

"My friend rang me and said 'I think you're in this video' and sent me the link. We had no idea what it was about but when we learned about this family's fight to cure SPG56, we knew we wanted to help raise some funds for this precious little girl," Jim said.

Tallulah's dad Chris Whitrod said the *Shoplifters'* heartfelt fundraising effort took them completely by surprise.

"We were walking up from the beach one morning and stopped to listen to the music. When the band stopped and suddenly said our charity's name and started talking about Tallulah, we almost fell over!" said Chris.

“My wife excitedly yelled out who we were and that was it- we were all in tears as we connected the dots: the musos, us, everyone!” said Chris.

Fellow *Shoplifters* Musician Les Kirkbride said the record fundraising effort ran over two months during the school holidays the community response was amazing.

“We’ve fundraised for a plethora of charities over the years but people really responded to Tallulah’s story. We thought we’d try to raise \$1,000 but when we reached that and the momentum was there, we knew we could keep this going,” Les said.

Les said the Shoplifters had not only raised important funds, but lifted the spirit of the community and raised important awareness about rare genetic diseases and SPG56.

“It’s been amazing to meet Tallulah and be part of her journey through raising this money with the community, as well as putting good vibes out there,” Les said.

“Every person who knows about Tallulah’s story connects with it, and that builds on the positive energy she needs and we all have when we come together as a community.” Les said.

Jim said the Shoplifters will continue to play at Coolum’s Tickle Park each Wednesday and Friday morning from 8.00 am to fundraise for community groups who need their help.

“We love what we do, we love where we live and we love our community,” Jim said.

“We may be in our 70s, and the hippy shake is more like a hippy break now, but it gives us a whole new lease on life to help people like Tallulah Moon.” Jim said.

To donate to Our Moon’s Mission: Genetic Cures for Kids head to [www.ourmoonsmission.org/donate/](http://www.ourmoonsmission.org/donate/)

*Our Moon’s Mission: Genetic Cures for Kids* is committed to finding a cure for SPG56 through dedicated, results-driven research.

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### Additional Resources

Images for media release: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ChWeiD8ZHfZzKrUX8>

Website: [www.ourmoonsmission.org](http://www.ourmoonsmission.org)

Website Media Portal: <https://ourmoonsmission.org/media-portal>