

## SUPERMAN

### MY PATH TO THE SPACE POOP CHALLENGE

This story begins 38 years ago, in a small Town in México. At that time, I was a film lover and I had a huge crush on Christopher Reeve, the actor in the film Superman. In 1995 he suffered a horse riding accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down. The news left me in shock and at the same time got me interested in his condition. I am afraid to say that among the challenges that a quadriplegic person suffers, it also made me think in how awful it would be that somebody else would have to help you in order to go to the bathroom.

Many years later, I met a young man in the park with a cervical spinal injury, I don't remember his name, he didn't know but we called him Superman, in a good way of course, you really need to have super powers to keep on leaving as a quadriplegic. We saw each other very often and became good friends, and again, I kept thinking in the same problem. One day he disappeared, I never saw him again.

Later on, I had a close friend that was forced to use diapers due to illness, the sadness and embarrassment on his eyes when I witness what was going on made me think, "for heaven's sake, we are already traveling to the stars and nobody comes with an idea to help these patients to make their lives easier?"

Well, finally, here I am, in Mexico City few weeks ago, watching a PBS Spacetime program on YouTube, at the end of the program; to my big surprise they mention the NASA Poop Challenge! I really jumped from my seat and said, "Finally, thank you NASA! I was so interested and excited that I decided to participate. Also, I was so happy because I am a great admirer of astronauts. They are all for me Super Heroes; wearing a space suit and exploring the unknown is something that really blows my mind.

My story made me think about us, humans, wearing a human body suit, like Super Heroes traveling throughout space and time, exploring the unknown, our future. Here, we have the power to create our own universe in this incredible and amazing planet. Good luck to all, here or in the space, we are all explorers, enjoy the journey!