

Neighbors, Friends, Strangers Rally To Help Amish Family

NEW HOLLAND —They came by the thousands in horse and buggies, cars, pick-up trucks and bikes. Neighbors, friends, and strangers came to a New Holland farm last Saturday from as far away as Florida, Rhode Island and Argentina.

Why did they come? Mostly to

time a pin was inserted for 18 months."

It was reported that the father who is paralyzed from the neck down, and still hospitalized, is regaining a fighting spirit. He, so accustomed to hard physical labor, felt useless after the accident to support his family of seven. Then a

port for the family. One member of the sect noted that in cases like these, no formal plan is devised. "We know the need is there and we continue to visit and give. It would be an unheard of thing for an Amish family to visit needy members and not take along food and let it on the kitchen sink before leaving."

The 23-year-old driver struck the Esh buggy while they were traveling to church will stand trial on charges of drunken driving, hit-and-run and reckless driving.

This was not the first benefit sale held at the New Holland farm. Since 1981, the family has been hosting a benefit sale for a needy member of the community. According to a participant, the benefits were first implemented when an Amish woman named Barbara Lapp organized a small sale for a widow. Because Barbara derived great pleasure from helping others, she continued the annual tradition by helping other needy families. Last summer, Barbara succumbed to lung cancer. A friend remarked, "We knew that the last thing she'd want is for the benefit sales to stop. There is always a person who needs it."

Those who knew Barbara explained, "What she started is just like a small seed that keeps growing. Even though she is no longer with us, the seed she planted keeps growing."

Those desiring to contribute to the fund, may send donations to the Beiler Benefit Fund, 101 Amishtown Road, New Holland, PA 17557, or phone 717 354-6066.

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support the benefit sale that was being held for Joseph Esh and his family. Passerbys, uncertain of the event but attracted by the crowds, stopped too. Whatever the reason, the proceeds from the sale will go toward the Amish family that was severely injured by an intoxicated, hit and run driver on June 27.

"We sold 1,400 subs and more than 1,600 pounds of chicken and it was not nearly enough," one of the organizers of the event reported. "I couldn't believe it, people delivered baked goods by the van loads. In the beginning I thought, 'Who is going to buy all these things?' But the people kept coming. Freshly baked bread barely had time to touch the table before it was snatched up."

While donated items were auctioned and sold, the smell of barbecue chicken wafted over the New Holland farm that served as the sale site. Freshly turned ice cream and steaming hot chicken corn soup attracted the patrons. There were baskets of pears, peaches, and cataloupes to take home.

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Although two districts of the Amish community organized the benefit, the help was not limited to the Amish. The spokeswoman said, "Many 'English' people helped transport all the food and supplies; we couldn't have done it without them." She continued, "One, Gaten Martin, who is with Animal Medic, offered his services. For several days before the sale, he acted as a "go-for". His help was invaluable to us because we don't have cars and there were so many things that needed transported."

Seven members of the Esh family received injuries. In addition to Esh who is paralyzed from the neck down, his wife, Barbara, lost her spleen and suffered a miscarriage. Three daughters suffered broken legs. Three-year-old Lizzie received minor injuries and one-year-old Barbara is recovering from a concussion.

A friend of the family reported that the little girls are improving fast. Two are on crutches, another in a wheelchair. She said, "A piece of bone is missing from one of the girl's leg but doctors are hoping that since she is young, the bones will grow together. In the mean-

letter came from another paraplegic who encouraged him: "You might feel like a burden because you cannot help your family, but remember you'll still be there to guide them."

"Things like that cheer him," an Amish friend remarked. "It's a little word here and there from people who care—some that don't even know him—that makes a difference."

Although enthusiastic about the success of the sale, the organizers admitted, "What we collected is only a splash in the bucket toward the amount the family needs." The Esh bill has already bypassed \$300,000. Insurance should cover \$100,000 of that amount, but Esh hasn't begun his rehabilitation.

The Amish community will continue to provide financial sup-

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Ten Steps To Improve Listening

To get along in any relationship whether it's at home, at work, or among friends, the key is communication... that means two-way communication. Most of us are really good at the sending end, but not so good at the receiving end. After a while others will just not bother trying, because they think "she'll never listen." Here are Ten Steps to Improve Listening. It works for men and women, parents and kids.

1. STOP TALKING: You cannot listen if you are talking.
2. PUT THE TALKER AT EASE: Help them feel they are free to talk.
3. SHOW THEM THAT YOU WANT TO LISTEN: Look and act interested. Do not read a magazine or perform other chores while they talk. Listen to understand, rather than to oppose.
4. REMOVE DISTRACTIONS: Don't doodle, change the radio station or TV channel. It

might be quieter if you shut the door and turn the radio and/or TV off.

5. EMPATHIZE WITH THE TALKER: Try to put yourself in his place so that you can see his point of view.

6. BE PATIENT: Allow plenty of time. Do not interrupt. Don't start for the door or walk away.

7. HOLD YOUR TEMPER: An angry person takes the wrong meaning from words.

8. GO EASY ON ARGUMENT AND CRITICISM: This puts people on the defensive, and they may "clam-up" or become angry. Don't argue even if you win, you lose.

9. ASK QUESTIONS: This encourages a talker and shows you are listening. It helps to develop points further.

10. STOP TALKING: This is the first and last, because all other guidelines depend on it. You cannot do a good listening job while you are talking.

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