

The DALLAS POST

50¢

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

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AN EDITION OF THE TIMES LEADER



Facebook helped the Chinikaylo family find Lillie.

Lillie's home - thanks to Facebook

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
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"You wake up in the morning and it's like a bad dream and then you think, oh man, my dog really is missing."

Anna Chinikaylo
Lehman Township

One local family recently learned that Facebook can be a valuable tool in time of need.

On Halloween night, the Chinikaylo family from Church Road in Lehman Township, lost Lillie, its 3-year-old Border Collie/Labrador mix.

Seventeen-year-old Vladimir Chinikaylo had the family dog in the yard and made the mistake of setting off firecrackers. Lillie was frightened and ran off. That was about 8 p.m. and a search began, lasting well in to the night.

"The first thing I did was to put it on Facebook," said Anna Chinikaylo, telling how she posted a picture of Lillie and asked for people to keep their eyes out for her.

Then the family took to the streets, on foot and by car, armed with flashlights on a frantic search for its pet. The family lives near the Huntsville Dam and searched the en-

tire area. According to Chinikaylo, family members went from Hillside Farms towards Penn State Lehman campus, up and Down Huntsville Road and everywhere in between.

Chinikaylo said Lillie knows where she lives because she frequently goes for walks and never with a leash.

"She is very well trained," Chinikaylo said. Lillie doesn't

wear a collar so there would be no way to identify her. The family was very worried about its dog, especially given the extreme cold on that night, and came home around midnight empty-handed.

"You wake up in the morning and it's like a bad dream," Chinikaylo said, "and then you think, oh man, my dog really is missing."

But what the family didn't know that night was that Lillie had been rescued almost immediately after leaving her yard. A Domino's Pizza delivery driver had seen Lillie on the road near the Huntsville

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Going where help is needed

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
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"They were still in shock. I just don't think it hit them yet that their entire homes were gone."

Caroline Landen
Misericordia sophomore

Thanks to support from Misericordia University students and alumni, New York and New Jersey residents are not left alone to pick up pieces from the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Representatives from Misericordia University spent the weekend of Nov. 9 delivering relief supplies and lending a helping hand to residents of New York's Staten Island. Donations of food, water, cleaning supplies and other items were collected at the university, loaded into a van and driven to Staten Island.

Jim Miller, a senior in the Occupational Therapy program at Misericordia, didn't realize right away that the group was in the damaged area. "The main street seemed fine but then you looked down a side street and there would be a boat in the middle of a street," he said.

"It was so bad," said Kellyann Gough, Misericordia student from Chester, New York. Gough is originally from Staten Island

and has family affected during the storm. "I've been to the area we were at hundreds of thousands of times and it was very upsetting," she said about hurricane damage.

Gough said, thankfully, her family members were not put out due to storm damage but their power was just returned late last week.

The students described the mess left in the wake of Sandy. They talked about homes caked with mud. "You would see a glove on the sidewalk just covered with debris," said Gough. A dog was crated outside because his owners feared if he were indoors he might become ill from eating the debris.

Police, fire companies and

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Seven-year-old Georgina Pugh, of Tunkhannock, carries donations from Tunkhannock Assembly of God for Operation Christmas Child into Cross Creek Community Church as her mom, Hope, watches.

BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Ensuring all a happy and festive holiday

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fill a shoebox or small plastic tote with items for children ages 2-14 in countries all over the world. The boxes are stuffed with necessities such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bandages and clothing. Some of them include small toys, hard candies, notebooks and pencils or other small, non-food and non-liquid items.

Each family or organization can stuff its box with whatever its members would like. Many of the local churches that participate include a letter from the church to the child. Some have even gotten thank-you notes from the recipients.

Once the boxes are filled, they are taken to a relay center, like Cross Creek, where they are packed for shipping.

"Our goal is to put at least 14 in

Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization based in Boone, N.C., is being helped in its mission this holiday season by Back Mountain residents. The far-reaching charitable hand of the organization's holiday drive, dubbed Operation Christmas Child, gets support from smaller, more local roots.

Cross Creek Community Church on Carverton Road in Shavertown is a relay center for this year's collection, marking the third year the local church has been a collection center for the Back Mountain.

Operation Christmas Child is a shoebox collection. Participants



Laura Sarnak, left, of Exeter, and Robert and Nancy Bonning, of Shavertown, box Christmas presents for distribution at Cross Creek Community Church in Kingston Township.

a shipping box," said Tammy Gray, a volunteer at the church. "The plastic containers are harder to pack but I think they have more value. Kids can use them to carry water and things like that."

Gray said church members heard a story about a young girl whose village was flooded. Fortunately, the girl's Bible and her precious possessions were saved because she had kept them in a plastic container in which she had received gifts.

Jenn Sgori, another volunteer at Cross Creek, put a paddleball, toy cars, a toothbrush, tooth

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Misericordia University students Caroline Landen, left, and Kellyann Gough rip water-soaked drywall out of a home on Staten Island.

