

United Response Search & Rescue,

June 25 started out as a usual Sunday. I'm reading, my husband is doing yard chores, my brother is working and my daughter is meeting her great grandmother for breakfast. Little did I know that day would change our lives for ever.

We live simple non-descript lives. We're not rich and famous, however we have a good life and a wonderful family. We pay our bills, take vacations, take care of our families and go on about business as any other family does. Least not I mention that we have a "Solid Rock" in our family and that would be Memi (Grandmother & Great Grandmother). She is not a person that likes the spot light or wants any kind of formal recognition, however in our lives she is the "staple and inspiration" in our family. Memi is the reason our family exists, strives and survives. She is the inspiration that gives us hope, faith and a purpose to move forward.

On Sunday June 25 we had the most inspirational person in our lives vanish. At first we just thought it was a simple person lost, but after what seemed an awesome search we were left totally lost for answers. We were left with our police department and believed they were totally in control of the situation and knew what they were doing. We were thrown into the complete unknown. We did not know what to do and where to turn and believed that the police were doing every thing to bring her back to us. We soon found out that that the police only know how to find criminals and not lost or stolen people. We were overwhelmed by this new horrific world we had no idea existed.

We were so desperate to get Memi back we did not care what the police wanted or needed from us, it was there for the taking just to get her back. We gave statements to brutal and menacing police officers. We gave them our cars to have laminated, we gave them personal information about our friends, family and jobs. We called them daily with information from the neighborhood. They humiliated us and made us feel like criminals and yet we continued to be cooperative. We were not going to let their increasingly horrific behavior placed on us deter our help to them because we whole heartedly believed with in souls that they were going to find Memi and bring her home to us. We were looked at accusingly, cursed at and made to feel guilty. However they treated us we treated ourselves even worse because we did feel guilty, Memi was missing and we didn't know where she was, has she eaten, has she gotten any sleep, was she ok because she has not gotten her medicine. We did not need anyone to beat us down we were beating ourselves down bad enough.

After almost four weeks had passed, we still did not know where Memi was, we had no idea of even really how to look for and find her we had been in contact with your organization. We were so beat down we didn't have the strength to fight and hold up our heads to try to find her. I personally was so afraid of my own shadow I wanted to just die. I could not even find the strength in myself that Memi had instilled in me from a very young age to stand up and fight and find a way to bring her back home.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> you (collectively) showed up in Sherman and literally saved us from the hell we had been living for the last 33 days. Thank you. Dana, Shelia and the Crew, you guys were our "ANGLES", thank you. You believed us, you supported us and you gave us back our strength to do what is really the complete and total loss in this story MEMI. We have heard stories in our lives how some people have come into other lives and forever changed them because an over-whelming act of love and kindness, you are that to us. We have never had an occasion to meet such unselfish, giving and loving people and we thank God for you and know there is a special place in heaven for everyone of you. All we have wanted for the last 33 days is to have Memi back, and now thanks to your love and support we now believe that it is possible.

I'm not sure how this will end and I'm not sure why this all happened but I do know one thing for sure, we love and miss Memi and are forever indebted to you and your organization for giving us hope we will get Memi back home with us.

May God Be With You Forever, God Bless and Love,  
Mary, Steve, Brenda & Curtis