

# Lobell Family Looses Everything

Continued from Page One

Finally, the phone call came and the Cooney's heard the best of news and the worst of news. Lon, Debbie, Adam, Dodi and the three kids were okay. In Ponchatoula (home of Lon and Debbie), several trees were downed, there was no electricity or anyway of getting out of there. Grandma Lobell's home was destroyed when a large tree came crashing through the front of the house. Luckily Grandma and her sister were also alive.

Adam and Dodi made the grueling trip from hard hit Gulfport, Mississippi to Ponchatoula with their frightened children. They had to borrow a pickup truck, since their own truck was destroyed near the shelter where the family waited out the storm.

After arriving in Ponchatoula and the shock of the experience subsided, Adam and Dodi shared their horrific tale. The housing development where the family lived (one quarter mile from the gulf in Gulfport, Mississippi) was totally destroyed. The development of 40 homes now only has 6 shells standing. Adam and Dodi's home was not one of them. In the home's footprint, where this young family raised their children, worked hard and were a vital part of their community, there only remains a concrete slab.

Adam tearfully told his parents, "Our last memory of our home will be the children's clothes and toys strewn throughout the sand. There is nothing else."

## Administrative Resolution and By-Law Amendments

Continued from Page Two

anniversary date as set forth in the International By-Laws. **Passed NY District House of Delegates August 20, 2005 as amended by voice vote.**

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### Proposed Amendment #3

The net effect of this by-law change, if approved by a 2/3 vote of the delegate body, would increase the annual dues by \$5.00, from \$19.50 currently to \$24.50, and an increase of \$1.00 for the Foundation Bulletin named Empire State Kiwanian from \$3.50 currently to \$4.50.

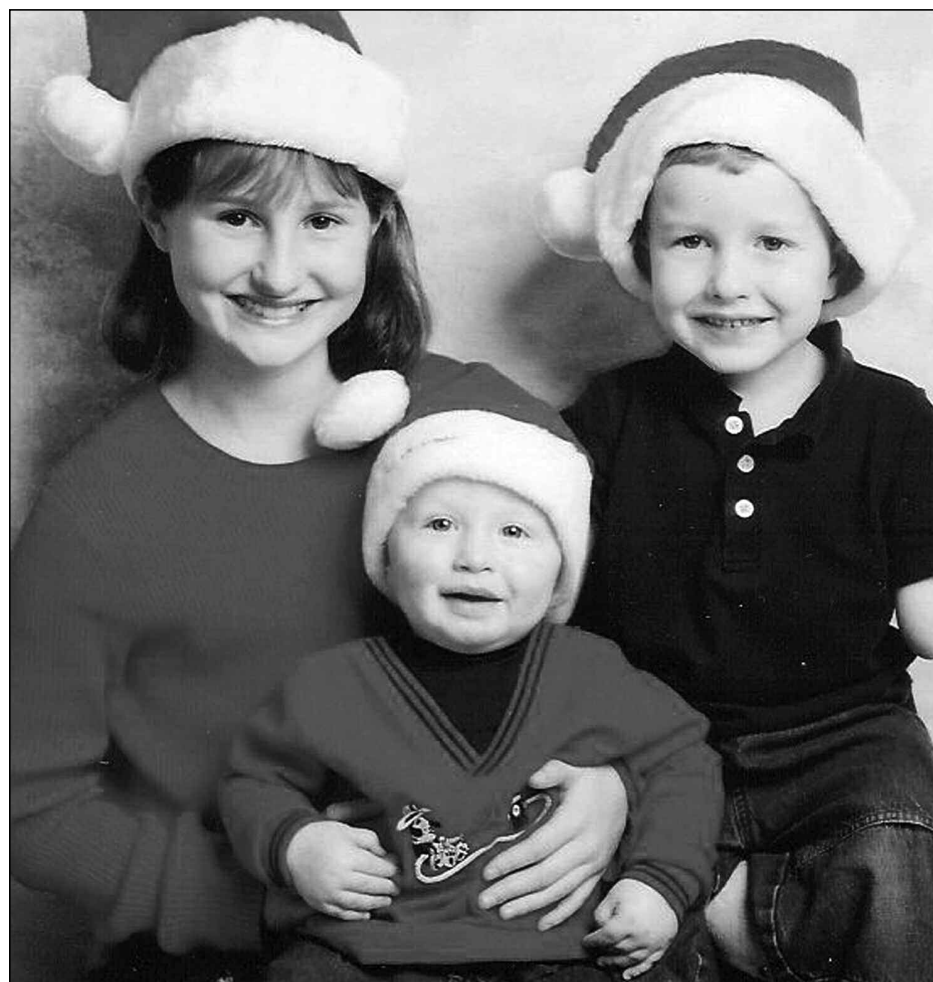
Submitted by the Kiwanis Club of West Seneca. Purpose: To increase the dues each member club must pay to the District for each of its members from \$19.50 to \$24.50 and to increase the Foundation Bulletin named Empire State Kiwanian from \$3.50 to \$4.50.

### Article XV

#### REVENUE

The following revision to the Standard Form of District By-Laws, Article XV, shall become effective as of October 1, 2005.

Section 1. Each member club shall pay to the District for each of its members, with the exception of its honorary members, \$19.50 per annum as dues and \$4.50 per annum as a reimbursement contribution to the District Foundation for its cost in issuing the Foundation Bulletin named Empire State Kiwanian, such amounts to include all District Charges, other than the registration fees paid by those in attendance at District convent, on, council or conferences. The total amount of \$24.00 per member shall be payable annually on the club's anniversary date as set forth in the International By-Laws. **Passed NY District House of Delegates August 20, 2005 by voice vote as presented.**



Christin, Evan and baby Seth this past holiday season.

Adam and Dodi are in their early 30's. Adam works for Bell South. He has already returned to work to help rebuild the telephone system destroyed by Katrina. Dodi is a nutritionist and an avid exerciser. Their family is very active in the Assembly of God Church.

Christin is 11 years old. She is very active playing softball in her school and in her church. She was very excited about being able to learn to play a musical instrument this year. Her beloved trombone was lost in the storm.

Evan is a happy, fun-loving little boy, age 5. Evan was born with birth defects and although he is a happy and healthy child, he is challenged by limited use of his legs and having been born with incomplete arms. All of his equipment was lost and the location of the prosthesis for his arms is unknown. Although he has physical limitations and attends a special school, he loves to play Nemo on his SONY playstation (probably lost now) and he loves to draw using his toes. He can perform most functions with his toes better than we can with our fingers.

Seth is only one. He is growing quickly and may over take his brother some day who is small for his age.

Linda and Pat Cooney, acted quickly to share this family's story with us and get them food and help. "We cannot think of a better place to turn for help for this young family than to Kiwanians. Please keep them in your prayers," the Cooneys remarked.

Anyone wishing to help this family or other families like them, please send donations to: Governor Designate David Rothman, Island Associated Cooperative, Inc., 27-25 Central Avenue, Farmingdale, New York 11735 (B) 631 293- 9774 (F) 631 293-2786 (C) 516 318-1585 Daglimp54@aol.com.

Please make checks payable to: New York District Foundation, earmarked: Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

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## Quiet Kiwanis Kindness

*Editor's Note: Many Kiwanians have shared with me antidotes about the "Kindness of a Kiwanian." Each and every time I am deeply moved and changed by the experience. I have decided it is time to share these stories with you.*

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When the HARTSDALE CLUB heard about the food collection for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, they shared the information with a club sponsored senior citizens group. The seniors also wanted to help. Buying and carrying heavy canned foods was too much for them. Instead, they purchased toilet tissue and paper towels (much lighter to carry) and quietly did their part. Thanks, seniors and Hartsdale.

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The BROOKLYN Division acted as one of the collection points for food going on a 48' Tractor Trailer to Ponchatoula, LA. They received so much food that it quickly filled three rooms. The donations needed to get to the METROPOLITAN Division to meet the truck in Staten Island the next morning and there wasn't enough room in the three vans they had. Governor Elect JOE CORACE picked up the phone and called Bensonhurst & Bay Ridge's longtime member TOM COLASANTO of Able Welding. The next morning at 8:30 an empty truck was at the collection point with a driver – free of charge. They food got to Staten Island on time. Thanks Tommy.

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When TRISH HOOK and JANET CALABRESE read about Kristin Lobell they wanted to help. Kristin was looking forward to a new school term and learning to play the trombone. Unfortunately, it was lost in Hurricane Katrina. Trish had her flute refurbished and Janet went out and bought this 11 years old a new set of clothes for the first day of school and sent them. Way to go gals!

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*If you are interested in sharing a short paragraph about a kindness of a Kiwanian, call me (718) 259-9679, or email me at NYKIWESK@aol.com, or send it to: ESK, Maureen Neuringer, 1535 63rd St., B'klyn, NY 11219.*

# Kiwanis

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District

www.lamisstenn.org

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13801 Chalmette Avenue  
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Off: (225) 383-4565  
E-mail: mark@simmonsllc.com

Dear Kiwanians:

In the confusion to help our fellow members and communities in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, we find that Kiwanians around the District are fielding questions for assistance, offering help, accepting donations, etc. To centralize the relief efforts by everyone, Governor Woody and I have asked International Trustee Lenny Simmons to help coordinate our District's efforts.

Lenny is well-known throughout all of Kiwanis, mainly because of his office as International Trustee. He has a good handle on the areas that need help, as he is extremely knowledgeable about the clubs and the geography of the affected areas of Greater New Orleans, the north shore, and even the Gulf Coast.

For now, all information should be shared with or funneled through Lenny. When communicating with offers of assistance by e-mail, please remember to cc: him with your messages at [katrinarelieff@lamisstenn.org](mailto:katrinarelieff@lamisstenn.org). If contact is made by phone, refer the calls to Lenny at 504/874-1279. We realize that calls into this area are often blocked because the networks are busy – just be patient as things are getting better.

The offers to help in our District has been tremendous. To make sure that we have one voice communicating our needs, and coordinating the offers, it is imperative that one person maintains control of the situation. Lenny is willing to handle this, and can do it for us – knowing that one day soon, he and Cathy will return to New Orleans to see what damage Katrina left for him.

Your in Kiwanis,  
*Mark*  
Mark G. Simmons  
Governor-Designate

## New York District 2004-2005 Scrapbook Contest

**Gold Division**  
Winner: Rochester West Central  
Honorable Mention: No Submission

**Silver Division**  
Winner: Lindenhurst  
Honorable Mention: Corning

**Bronze**  
Winner: Hempstead  
Honorable Mention: Delmar

**Unofficially**  
Southwestern Division  
submitted a beautiful representation of  
Division Activities  
(no category available for Divisions)