

STEPHANIE FARMER STORY

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Dear *Jennifer and Mike*

STEPHANIE FARMER is one of the most caring, loving young person Steve and I have ever known. She takes such good care of her Mother who is very ill and on oxygen all the time. She has always taken great care of her daughter KASONDRA who is 26 years old and has been in a wheel chair all of her life because of celebral palsy. STEPHANIE has worked so hard to see that KASONDRA has received a good education so she could become independent. KASONDRA just completed her four year college education in the spring.

STEPHANIE has helped me with my computer work for about 16 years and she does all of my travel brochures and helps me do anything I need in my office at home. (I am almost totally computer illiterate.) STEPHANIE is so smart and she can do a brochure in about an hour and it would take me about eight hours.

STEPHANIE has devoted a lot of her time to volunteering at ST. LUKE'S COMMUNITY CENTER in West Nashville. She has a girl scout troop and does work with the YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT SERVICES which is an afternoon program for young boys. She works with 45 of these young boys and even cooks for them twice a month and she does all the cooking herself.

Unfortunately STEPHANIE did not get to go to college because she married young and had a family. She has always been interested in the legal profession. In addition to working a full time job, taking care of her Mother and daughter, she started to college the first of the year and goes two nights a week. She wants to become a para-legal and work in the legal profession.

Enclosed is an ARTICLE about the terrible FLOODING in NASHVILLE. When RICHLAND CREEK overflowed on Sunday morning STEPHANIE was keeping her four year old granddaughter that week-end. She looked out of the house and saw the water actually running in the street. She had lived in this area for 16 years and had never seen the creek overflow. She actually lived several blocks from the creek and could not even see the creek from her home.

STEPHANIE knew she had to do something immediately so she got a LADDER, put it up and actually started carrying her Mother, her Granddaughter and the new little puppy up in the attic for safety. She was totally upset because she could not carry her daughter up the ladder because of the celebral palsy so she got a life vest and put it on her and dragged her up to a step on the ladder and held on to her for THREE AND ONE-HALF HOURS until help finally arrived. All this time STEPHANIE was on the cell phone with the 911 Operator trying to tell her where they were located so they could be rescued.

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We talked with STEPHANIE last night and she said during this time she kept thinking, "I am the only one of these four people that can swim. I could not save all of them if we had to swim out of here so which one would I save - my Mother - My Daughter or my Granddaughter." WHAT A DECISION!!! CAN YOU IMAGINE GOING THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THIS???

Fortunately after about three and one-half hours a boat arrived and someone broke a window in the house and carried them all to safety. They could not go back and get the puppy but they were all saved. KASANDRA was taken to an emergency shelter in a church and the reporter interviewed her at this time as you can read in the ENCLOSED ARTICLE. Stephanie's Mother went straight to the hospital.

Steve and I saw part of the evacuation on television. We saw her Mother being placed in an ambulance and we saw Stephanie but we did not see her daughter so we were upset for about four hours until we knew that she was safe.

The only good news is the next day a friend went over to the house, went up the ladder and found the little puppy in the attic - safe but scared to death. Kasandra was so happy because this puppy had been her graduation present from college.

STEPHANIE HAS LOST EVERYTHING SHE HAD IN HER HOUSE. She actually rented the house but everything is gone. She has to replace her stove, all the furniture, refrigerator, dishes, linens, towels, make deposits on the new apartment when she finds one. She is looking for a three bed room apartment that would be accessible for her daughter because of her cerebral palsy.

Steve and I have the greatest respect and admiration for STEPHANIE FARMER and we want to help her. If you would like to HELP STEPHANIE please make your check payable to STEPHANIE FARMER TRUST and mail to us at our home address.

THANK YOU.

Steve and Betty

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