

U N I T E D W A Y R E P O R T

Your United Way of Broome County investment at work

February 2004

American Red Cross united separated family members

Five years ago, Anneliese Kupiec came to the American Red Cross office with a birth certificate, a baptismal record, and the last address of her husband's niece, Janina, who was lost in Germany since the Holocaust. Anneliese, who is 72 years old, has never met Janina before. But through the **International Tracing Program of the Red Cross**, Anneliese finally united with her missing family member last October.

"Mother always wondered if she was still in Germany. My motivation is to bring some peace and unity. To my amazement, the Red Cross found her for us. It reunited my husband's family."

Janina Couto often visits Binghamton for bowling tournaments and passes by the community without knowing that her relatives live nearby. She is now married and resides in Walden, NY.

Red Cross helps family locate each other

The Red Cross has not helped Anneliese's family only on this occasion. The agency also helped her find her brother-in-law and sister-in-law in the past as well. With the documents Anneliese had, she thought the Red Cross could help her find Janina through its International Tracing Program. Although she did not know whether or not the search would turn out to be successful this time, she knew she had to give it a try.

Efforts from local Red Cross gain recognition

The Emergency Services Specialist, Phyllis Eronimous, from the Southern-Tier Chapter of the American Red Cross took the mission and set the search in action. Anneliese was grateful for not only the Red Cross's performance, but also for Phyllis' professional and compassionate assistance.

"If it wasn't for the dedication of the individual workers of Red Cross, I didn't think I'll ever find her. Each per-

right away. She felt as if she had known her niece for a long time. Anneliese describes the experience as a "heart-felt" connection. She gave her niece phone numbers of her siblings and a pair of plane tickets to visit her youngest sister, Stella, in Florida.

Making a difference by working with each other

Anneliese believes that it is important to bring the girls together, and she did. After 47 years of separation between the sib-

lings, they are finally united, thanks to the American Red Cross.

To learn more about the International Tracing Program, call the American Red Cross, Southern Tier Chapter at 785-7207. To learn how you can help families like the Kupiecs in connecting with each other,

contact United Way at 729-2592, or visit its web site at www.unitedwaybroome.org.



From left to right: Janina, Anneliese, Stella, and Joseph Kupiec spends their first Christmas together at Binghamton, NY.

son who is involved in the organization did a wonderful job. I am indebted and grateful."

When the two finally united, Anneliese said she connected to Janina



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