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SALINE COUNTY EMA USES SOCIAL MEDIA TO RETURN LOST PHOTO

“This is a good example of how social media can be very helpful”

A portrait of a young blond haired girl was found in a field five miles east of Harrisburg by area Future Farmers of America members volunteering to pick up debris. This portrait was one of many articles lifted from a certain family in Harrisburg during the tornado, and while not reaching Indiana as some of those various articles did, still travelled well out of their area.

The portrait was taken to the Saline County EMA emergency operations center and the first efforts were made to find its owner. People entering the center were asked about the canvassed image. Photocopies were printed and distributed in hopes of finding the owner. Finally, the image was posted on the Saline County EMA Facebook page.

Twenty-one days later, Derek McKinnies of Eldorado posted the likely owner’s name on the status. The Saline County EMA immediately reached out to Janice Choisser, the named individual, to seek confirmation. Upon her retrieval and acknowledgement of the image, SCEMA Director Allan Ninness sought to work towards the restoration of the piece and contacted Joy’s Hallmark and Custom Framing.

Joy’s Hallmark is a company emotionally invested in the aftermath of the tornado. Mary Osman was an employee of Joy’s Hallmark who sadly lost her life during the tornado. Kim Anglin was another employee of Joy’s. She lost her home. Joy’s subsequently put a great and quick effort into the cleaning and reframing of the portrait.

Director Allan Ninness would like to encourage all Saline Co. citizens to head to the SCEMA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/SCEMA or by searching Facebook for “Saline County Emergency Management Agency”. Each option should take someone to the proper page. People who follow SCEMA on Facebook will get plenty of information in emergency preparedness and disaster information. Also, as seen, Facebook users can be equally helpful to SCEMA by providing on the ground information and answering questions that may arise in the community.





FFA Volunteers finding the portrait.



Laura Omohundro, the subject of the portrait. This picture was taken before the portrait was taken to Joy's Hallmark.