



Katrina family grateful to Fin Fans, community

By Cheryl Vassiliadis

Tim Volentine left Gulfport, Miss., on the morning of August 28, 2005 with his pregnant wife Bridget, who already was three days past due. The couple traveled with their 1-year-old son, Gavin, and their big ole' dog, Gypsy. They didn't know what to expect as Hurricane Katrina approached.

Bridget was reluctant to leave and deliver the baby without her family doctor, but on her advice, they left ahead of the storm. Hannah joined the family the next day.

Difficult days lay ahead. Bridget was hospitalized for three weeks, needing blood transfusions to recover. Tim made the trip back and found their home in shambles.

"The home we lived in and loved was torn apart," Tim says. "I will never forget walking through the front of our home, which was wet, but not that bad. Walking toward the rear to my son's room, I was amazed that you could look up and see the sky."

"That is when we decided to come to Flagler County to stay with my brother, not knowing what I would do for work, where we would ultimately live, or how we would replace so much that we lost so fast."

After staying with his brother amid a hectic household, the family went looking for housing of their own. "Pine Lakes apartments took us in and Z-Best gave us furniture for three months for no charge," Tim says. "After we were in the apartment for about a month, Laura Brown from the apartment complex called saying the Fin Fans football fan club wanted to adopt us."

The fan club found the Volentines a house, paying the security deposit and six month's rent for the family. They arranged for a year of medical care through Medi Quick family practice, and Dr. Jeremiah Mahoney provided dental work. U.S.1 Auto assisted with free car service.

"If it wasn't for Rusty and the Fin Fans Club, we still wouldn't be on our feet," says Tim, who has since started a job as a tattoo artist with Inflicting Beauty in Flagler Beach. Tim worked as a tattoo artist in Mississippi but lost all of his equipment.

"When we were told that a Miami Dolphin's fan club was adopting us, we never imagined that guys watching football and drinking beer would hold such a special place in our hearts." ☉

0000529884



See what you've been missing ...

Many generations have accepted poor vision in later years as a consequence of aging but refinements in cataract surgery have changed this assumption dramatically! If your vision has faded or become cloudy, you may be a candidate for cataract surgery. With our highly competent eye surgeons, you will enjoy a rapid recovery and enhanced vision! Call today for more information and to schedule an appointment at one of our conveniently located offices.




Tomoka Eye Associates

Leading the Way to Better Vision Since 1972

Palm Coast, (386) 586-3711 • Ormond Beach, (386) 672-4244 • Port Orange, (386) 767-0053

0000534108



ROLEX

OYSTER PERPETUAL
36MM DATEJUST TURN-O-GRAPH

**TOM COOK
JEWELER**

150 S. Beach Street
Downtown Daytona Beach
(386) 255-1468

OFFICIAL ROLEX JEWELER
ROLEX & OYSTER PERPETUAL DATEJUST AND TURN-O-GRAPH ARE TRADEMARKS