

The tumour is gone — and Juliean so soon will be — but kindness lives on

The best thing about Whitchurch-Stouffville in 2000 was: nobody stood by and let anybody die.

At no time during the past year, were the local newspaper editors forced to write such headlines as, "Screams were ignored" or "Residents Turn a Deaf Ear to Cries of Help."

While I have the greatest respect for service clubs, non profit organizations and charity-minded churches, I'm especially touched when, out of the blue, someone puts his or her own agenda aside and acts to make the world a better place for someone else.

What makes one person take charge when it's needed, while another will sit back, shake his head, mumble "ain't it awful", and wait for the other guy to do something? We could analysis it to death. Or, we could simply acknowledge that some people act on their own initiative, while others are sheep.

Nobody could accuse Esther Windsor of being a sheep. While in the Philippines recently, the Musselman's Lake resident came across a stranger in need.

The stranger was a shy eight-year-old child.

The sight of the child was heart-breaking, Windsor didn't look away. Instead, she eventually took the child by the hand and led her to a better life.

Little Juliean Nagera was disfigured. A facial tumour extended from the child's forehead, affecting her nose, her eyes and part of her face. Sophisticated medical help was needed.

Unfortunately, it could not to be found in the Philippines.

Despite the fact that Windsor had no experience in such matters, she put the wheels in motion to bring the



Joan Ransberry

child to the Hospital for Sick Children for much needed surgery.

Windsor contacted officials of the hospital-based Herbie Fund, while a fundraising drive was launched. Windsor then reached out to friends, organizations and businesses to help return the natural beauty to this little girl's world.

The reaching paid off.

"The sight of the child was heartbreaking, Windsor didn't look away. Instead, she eventually took the child by the hand and led her to a better life."

Juliean and her father arrived in Toronto in mid November, while surgery was carried out soon after. During the 20-hour surgery, a team of doctors rebuilt Juliean's eyes and nose.

The surgery was complicated and lengthy and involved parts of her brain and her vision. It was a complete success.

The little patient made a speedy recovery and was released from hospital soon after.

The tumour is gone, the surgical marks will fade and Juliean is now wearing a little Band-Aid on her nose.

Juliean celebrated Christmas with Windsor's family. When Santa Claus visited Musselman's Lake on Christmas Eve, he found a very healthy and very beautiful Juliean.

Esther Windsor's humanitarian actions reminds us all that in this ultra-organized, team-work world, there remains a need for the one-person crusade.

On Jan. 18, the little girl will bid Esther Windsor a heart felt good-bye.

At the same time, let's everyone in Whitchurch-Stouffville extend a "job well done" message to this very special lady.



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