

telephone work.

"Sure, I get frustrated when I think we really have something and then it turns out to be nothing," the volunteer coordinator said. "But, you wake up the next day and you build yourself up again. If I were Karen, I wouldn't want people to give up."

Her briefcase stuffed with Jennifer posters, maps, notes and telephone numbers for almost every official in the city and state, Donna arrives home as the hour nears midnight.

"I live between Willowbrook (the Staten Island Developmental Center) and Jennifer's house. It could have been my child," the volunteer coordinator said when asked why she has taken such an active role in the search. Donna's two stepchildren also live in the area.

One of her children is physically impaired, an added reason for her intense concern for Jennifer, who has Down's syndrome.

Some days, Donna brings her children to the church while organizing the search. Other times her parents help out by watching them while she and Charles take to the streets and wooded lots.

Many a night, maps and folders have been spread around the Cutugnos' apartment as they work with people trying to piece together the mystery of Jennifer's disappearance.

"This kitchen table is like the headquarters," Donna said in her home last night as she wondered what she would give her children for dinner. "My kids have never eaten so much take-out."

Although the drive to locate Jennifer has taken most of the Cutugnos' private family time, the shared goal has brought Charles and Donna closer together. Cutugno, operating on his own and occasionally with a few of the volunteers, has been using his expertise as an accident investigator to follow up some of the more elusive leads.

"I think we've developed more respect for each other now than we ever had before this," Charles said as he scouted for a pair of pants for his son, Devin.

Whether dealing with exposure to television cameras or mosquitos and low branches, Donna ex-

hibits an unflappable manner that always seems to find the best use for a volunteer's talents. Former SIDC patients are encouraged to use their familiarity with the facility to help search the buildings, while former servicemen are directed to search the rugged terrain.

While coercing a politician to support the search for Jennifer, or trying to get additional posters printed, Donna's theme has become: "Do what you have to do."

One day, Donna had arranged for trained dogs to help search the grounds, and for a psychic to visit the facility to "feel" for impressions, but needed to be accompanied by a police officer. Donna's requests for an officer went unanswered, and she opted to slip on the grounds and risk the consequences.

"On the way there she jumps out and flags down these officers,"

her husband explained. Three Emergency Services Unit officers were scheduled for their lunch hour, but gave in to Donna's near tearful pleas and wound up helping search the SIDC grounds instead of eating.

The telephone continued ringing last night as straggling volunteers called for directions and tipsters left information. If lucky, Donna will be able to get to the grocery store for some quick shopping before it gets too late.

Devin was engrossed watching a video tape of "Super Grover," when Donna's 2-year-old daughter, Trina, toddled innocently into the kitchen and asked "Where's Jennifer?"

Donna gathers up her folders and notes, asking the little girl, "What are mommy and daddy trying to do?"

"Find her," Trina answered.

Minor casualties have been suffered: Cuts and rashes. One of the most active volunteers, Fran Auriti of New Dorp, was forced out of action temporarily by a serious case of poison sumac.

"Fran, she's given up her home life for this," said Donna Cutugno, search coordinator.

Soda and ice have been donated to refresh the volunteers. The Red Cross routinely sets up a mobile kitchen to provide a rest station.

Searchers admit the focus of the hunt has changed. In the beginning they were called upon to look for signs Jennifer had been in the area. Now it has turned to a hunt for mounds of earth, bits of clothing, or "anything out of the ordinary."

Robert Vasquez of Oakwood one night led a contingent of six off-duty special-operations officers for the New Jersey Depart-

ment of Corrections into Sea View as part of the search.

"We are trained for everything, field search, tracking escaped prisoners. We'll be here until about 1 a.m.," Vasquez said. "Then, they'll (the officers) be at work at 6 a.m. with 16,000 prisoners to worry about."

The regular volunteers concede that at times depression and disappointment begin to eat away at their drive.

"I try to push it back. Once you feel pessimistic, it's all over," said Linda Farina, who, along with her husband, Robert, had been searching independently until the Friends of Jennifer pulled people together.

"Every day you just keep hoping and looking," Mrs. Farina said glancing at a poster of Jennifer. "I feel like I know her. That smile gets to you after a while."