

one man pulling the plug and bursting the bubble. Who knows when this is going to be over?"

In April of last year they contracted to have a new home built in Lakewood, N.J. Jennifer was scheduled to start classes in a school there Sept. 2. Their son, Kenneth Jr., will be attending college in New Jersey in the fall.

Schweiger, dressed in the black dress pants and a white shirt he wore earlier in the day while tending to the details of his daughter's funeral, said that volunteers planned to continue hunting for Jennifer's clothing and other evidence, as well as for other missing Island children.

"Once we get ourselves together, we would volunteer time and energy to help search for other missing children," the father noted. "We have a lot to get back ourselves before that."

For a moment, the father became caught up by a bearded face made up of cotton balls pasted to a large white sheet of paper, a bit of Jennifer's artwork that is posted in the kitchen.

"Now, you get up in the morning, and you don't know what to expect during the day," Schweiger stated grimly.

The mother and father praised the exhaustive work done by police and volunteers during the sometimes-frustrating 35-day hunt for Jennifer.

"I'd like to bless and thank them all," Schweiger said firmly. "The volunteer effort was tremendous. At times they were what kept us going."

The son, father and mother have all cried in the past five weeks, turning to each other for strength to overcome the strain of the search and the cruel loss at the end of it. Now, it is time to tend to the wounds and move ahead.

Friday night the Schweiger's were going to put the "For Sale" sign back up in front of their house on Wardwell Avenue.

"We found what we were looking for," the father concluded sadly. "We have our ending, we have to live with that. She'll always be in our hearts."

Jennifer's dad says thanks

Kenneth and Karen Schweiger send a special message of thanks to everyone on Staten Island and throughout the metropolitan area who unselfishly sacrificed countless hours in a relentless effort to find their daughter, Jennifer.

Through weeks of oppressive weather, rough terrain, and bitter frustrations, volunteers refused to surrender hopes of finding the missing girl.

In the father's own words, "I'd like to thank them and bless them all, at times, they were what kept us going."

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