



FRIGID FIDO: Experts offer tips on how to keep your pets safe when it's cold outside. **1B**



SPORTS: Fairport athletes introduce youngsters to sports at an annual clinic. **10B**

AWARD: The Perinton Chamber of Commerce honors its adult and youth Citizens of the Year. **4A**

'There was nothing left, not even rubble ...

A local family plans to return to Southeast Asia, where they dispensed donations to the tsunami victims.

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While visiting what used to be a fishing village on the eastern coast of Sri Lanka, the area most devastated by December's tsunami, 11-year-old Natascha Yogachandra saw something.

A child's teddy bear lying next to the ocean.

"That was all that was left," she said. "And you can think this used to be a thriving village with many kids. There

was nothing left, not even rubble, and you can't even imagine what it was like before."

The Yogachandra family has returned, safe and sound, from their trip to dispense aid to the devastated areas of Southeast Asia. They were gone for almost three weeks, and went from India to the Sri Lankan coast, chasing the worst of the disaster.

You don't leave that kind of experience behind.

"We heard a lot from people," Natascha said. "We heard a lot of stories from kids that they lost their brother, their sister, their mom, and their dad was in the hospital. They lost everything, and that's something you can't forget."

However, there are other memories, too.

"What I remember most would be the children's smiles and how they would just come up and touch you and want to shake your hand, just hold your hand," she said. "They'd all want to hold my hand. I think that's what stuck with me the most."

For her father, Nat Yogachandra, a former marketing executive for Eastman Kodak Co., it was a reminder that you can never really know what people need until they ask.

The Yogachandra family took almost \$20,000 of locally donated money with them to give to the relief efforts — including thousands from Fairport schools and a \$7,000 check from the Fairport Rotary Club — and Nat Yogachandra wants the community to know it was well spent.



Natascha Yogachandra, 11, of Perinton, sits in a temporary classroom in Sri Lanka. The original school was destroyed by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

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