In Ian’s Boots—
The Story of Perseverance
In Ian’s Boots
A Mission for Soles

IAN’S STORY IS AWE INSPIRING. His life has created such a wonderful organization and has affected so many individuals!

Ron Miller and Holly Wastler-Miller’s story is one to be admired. It started with a traffic accident. Holly was involved in a minor accident one summer evening, and Ron was sweet enough to stop and help. Coincidentally, Ron was on a date at the time with one of Holly’s good friends! During that particular summer, Holly was enrolled in a calculus course at a local community college and was in need of a ride to get to class. Ron offered to take her to school on his way to work and to bring her home during his lunch break. How sweet! Ron kept his word and by the time Ron dropped Holly back at her home, they had a date in the books and never looked back! They were married three years later and have been married for 37 years!

Ron attended Harrisburg Area Community College, Ursinus College, and Marywood College to study business. He has been employed in various managerial positions in the telecommunications industry. Ron has worked for Bell of Pennsylvania, Bell Atlantic, and Verizon. He ended his telecommunications career as President of Charlesbrooke Consulting. He is currently the co-founder of In Ian’s Boots, Inc.

Holly is a graduate of Messiah College with a bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry with a biology education certification. Holly went on to a career in advertising, public relations and marketing with Bell of Pennsylvania, Bell Atlantic, and Verizon. She ended her marketing career as Group Manager with Verizon Small Business Marketing. She is currently the co-founder of In Ian’s Boots, Inc., with her husband, Ron.

Ron and Holly are the parents of Ian Joshua Miller who tragically passed away on January 16, 2010. Ian was born in Phoenixville and grew up with his parents in North Coventry. Ian was a 7th-grade student at West Moreland Christian Academy. At school, he was active in student council, band, baseball, and soccer. He played baseball with Coventry Little League and was a Boy Scout with Troop 95 in Cedarville. He was also active in his middle school youth group at the Church of the Savoir in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Ian was interested in a plethora of activities from cooking, scuba diving, theater, horseback riding, piano, and saxophone. But his true passion was soccer. He began playing soccer at the age of four and played for the Phoenixville YMCA and Coventry Inter-mural teams before being accepted into the Coventry Red Storm Travel Soccer Club where he served as the team goalie. The fall before his accident, Ian was thrilled to be accepted into the Olympic Development Program’s indoor training for goalkeepers.

On the evening of January 15, 2010, Ian attended a skiing and snowboarding trip with his Boy Scout troop. That evening, the scouts were permitted to go sledding on the bunny hill at the ski resort. Tragically, Ian was involved in an accident and suffered fatal blunt force trauma to his brain. At the emergency room, inside one of Ian’s boots was a Bible verse, James 1:2-4: “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete not lacking anything.” Astounded, Ian’s parents felt that the message was truly divinely inspired. Holly and Ron had just suffered the worst trial of their lives, and inside their only son’s boot, was a note to persevere. But how?

In Ian’s Boots gives all types of shoes, boots, cleats, and new socks to follow Ian’s message of perseverance. The end result? In Ian’s Boots. About in Ian’s Boots, Inc.

At a time when all seemed lost, Ron and Holly considered how they would face a future without their little boy. They wanted to find the light at a time of such darkness and began the inspiring journey to start a non-profit in their son’s name.

About the time of Ian’s passing, Ron and Holly learned that over 900 million people worldwide did not own a single pair of shoes. The Millers felt that giving shoes to those in need on his behalf was the ultimate way to follow Ian’s message of perseverance. The end result? In Ian’s Boots.

In less than nine years, in Ian’s Boots has grown from boxes of shoes in the Miller’s garage to storing their supply in a 4,000 square foot warehouse, housing over 60,000 pairs of shoes at any given time. Since its beginning in July of 2010, in Ian’s Boots has given away over 200,000 pairs of shoes. They have expanded globally and currently donate to 38 countries outside of the United States.

In Ian’s Boots gives all types of shoes, boots, cleats, and new socks to both genders and all ages and sizes. Shoes are donated from various sources including churches, schools, Scouts, civic groups, retail outlets, business, and individual donors. The shoes must be new or gently used. All gently used shoes are cleaned before being given away.

Wow, what an amazing organization! Funding for the non-profit is all donor-based and 100% of the money received goes to donating shoes. Aside from running a heroic non-profit, Ron and Holly enjoy travel, reading, swimming and relaxing with their friends. But their passion is within Ian’s Boots and volunteer full-time. They have two one-year-old cats, Photoe and Franklin, whom they adopted last summer when they were permitted to go sledding on the bunny hill at the ski resort.

IN ‘IAN’S BOOTS’
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BECKY ALBRIGHT AND THE MILLERS.

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Meet Dottie, Maisy, & Kit Kat:
The Three Musketeers

Three siblings were rescued at the age of five weeks and are just over a year old now. Born to a stray momma cat on a farm, sadly unwanted, and being kicked aside, a friend of Pottstown Paws contacted us with this heartbreaking story. These incredibly adorable little balls of fur had no idea why they weren’t loved but that was quickly about to change. Brought up with tenderness, care, and compassion, these three fur babies have blossomed into the sweetest kids I have ever fostered! They are bonded and love to play and cuddle together and may be adopted together or separately. They are very social, playful, healthy, and well rounded. They were raised with other cats, a chihuahua, and a 2-year-old child. Each is spayed and neutered. They are all current on vaccinations and will be microchipped for the approved adoptive parent.

Dottie is an absolutely gorgeous calico. She is a super sweet and a lovable lap cat. Maisy is just adorable, black & white and just look at that cute white mustache! She is a sweetheart and loves being a lap cat like her sister, Dottie. Kit Kat is a handsome, dapper, dark gray and white cutie pie. He may start off a tad shy, but he is just a sweetheart. Are you looking for the most lovable cats ever? Would you like to meet Dottie, Maisy, and/or Kit Kat? You can download an adoption application from our website www.pottstownpaws.com - like Pottstown Paws on Facebook - call or text 610-308-1670 to request an application to be mailed - or email inquiries to pottstownpaws@gmail.com

Ron and Holly have been able to travel to many places due to their non-profit. They take a yearly trip to Westminster, Maryland on the fourth of July to give shoes to the homeless. They have traveled to Houston, Texas to give shoes to the victims of Hurricane Harvey and will often find themselves in interesting places as they deliver shoes for shipment overseas. The Millers travel to many different states in their delivery van, the Boot Bus.

Ron and Holly would like to thank their neighbors who support them in any way they can. They also want to offer a warm welcome to any volunteers who are interested in their organization as well as anyone who needs shoes. They are open to volunteers every Monday and Tuesday evening from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. They are open to the public on the first Tuesday of every month to pick up shoes. You can find more information about In Ian’s Boots on their Facebook page or at www.iniansboots.org or by calling 610-370-8820.

Ian’s story is awe inspiring. His life has created such a wonderful organization and has affected so many individuals! Please stop by In Ian’s Boots to donate your time or shoes so that Ron and Holly and Ian can continue their good work!