

JUNE 2019

Coventry

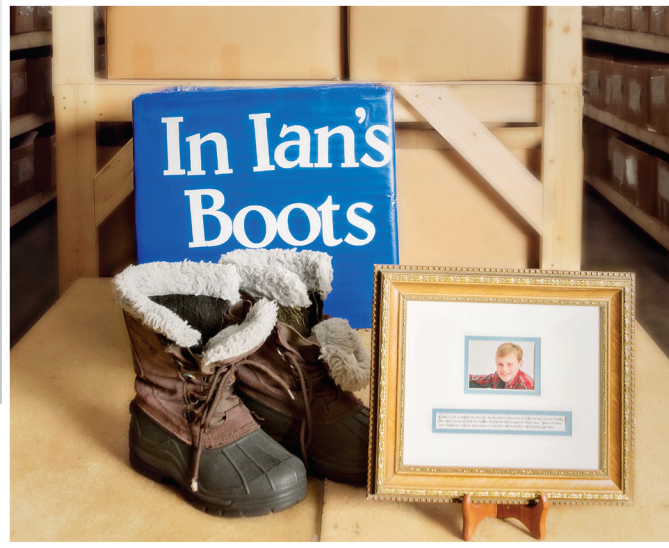
Neighbors



In Ian's
Boots-
*The Story of
Perseverance*

Photography by Picture Perfect

IN IAN'S BOOTS
A MISSION FOR SOLES



In Ian's Boots

The Story of Perseverance

IAN'S STORY IS AWE INSPIRING.

His life has created such a wonderful organization and has affected so many individuals!

By Robyn Flores
Photography by Becky Albright and the Millers.

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, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, MAC, First USA and 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-Mont 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 Saviour 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?



Seal Kissing Ian at Atlantis.



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 300 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 6,000 square foot warehouse, housing over 60,000 pairs of shoes at any given time. Since its beginning in July of 2010, In Ian's Boot's 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 for 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 with In Ian's Boots and volunteer full-time. They have two one-year-old cats, Phoebe and Franklin, whom they adopted last summer when they

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were only 12-weeks-old. Ron and Holly say that they keep them laughing!

The Millers reside on Laurelwood Road in North Coventry Township and have been there for the past 25 years. Ron and Holly share that they wanted a single family home and this was the perfect piece of ground on which to build their new home. They say they have always been thankful for their home and their neighbors. The couple loves to watch their neighbor's children play at the top of their yard. They share that hearing children's laughter eases the ache of missing their own child.

When Ian passed, Ron and Holly were astounded by the outpouring of love and support from their neighbors and community. They believe that the little things are what meant the most. Friends gathered to help them take down decorations from Ian's last Christmas; they called the school and bus company to notify them that they no longer should stop at the Miller's home. They are especially grateful to everyone who gave up their Friday evening to attend Ian's celebration of life service at their church.

Through In Ian's Boots, Ron and Holly are immensely involved with giving back. The In Ian's Boots warehouse is located along Route 100 in North Coventry Township. It has become an increasingly important community service site, welcoming anyone who wishes to volunteer. Additionally, In Ian's Boots is a site for at-risk youth who have committed minor crimes to perform community service hours in order to have their record expunged.

Before any volunteer begins his or her volunteer journey, they are educated on what Ron and Holly do and why they do it. The Millers show them pictures of people without shoes and then receiving footwear from In Ian's Boots. This way, the volunteers understand that the shoes they are cleaning today will soon be in the hands of someone who really needs them. This is especially impactful to children.

Ron and Holly open the warehouse on the first Tuesday of every month for the public to get shoes. Additionally, they go into the community to conduct shoe giveaway events. They also partner with other non-profits to supply shoes to their clients. From a disaster recovery perspective, they take shoes to the scene or open the warehouse



Ian & Mom Hugs on Bermuda Cruise.

immediately for victims to get shoes during their time of need. Ron and Holly have given shoes to people on every continent on the planet with the exception of Australia and Antarctica!

The Miller family motto is the Bible verse found in Ian's boot: "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."

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 610-970-8820.

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! ■

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Meet Dottie, Maisy, & Kit Kat:

The Three Musketeers

Submitted by Pottstown Paws

These 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 cats 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.

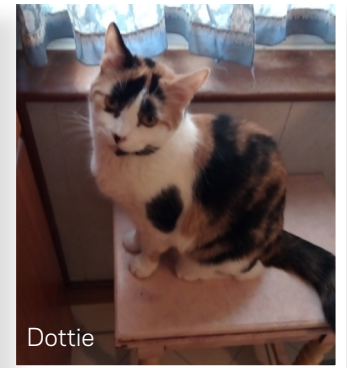
Are you looking for the most lovable cats ever? Would you like to meet Dottie, Maisy, and/or Kit Kat? You can download an adoption application from our website www.pottstownpaws.com - like Pottstown Paws on Facebook - call or text 610-308-1672 to request an application to be mailed - or email inquiries to pottstownpaws@gmail.com ■



Kit Kat



Maisy



Dottie

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