NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEWSDAY, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2001

Children's Care is Victim's Worry

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She was raised in Guyana, the eldest daughter of parents who toiled in sugar cane fields so their nine children might have a better life. Ten years ago she came to America, hoping to provide a gentler sweetness for her own two children.

Now, relatives of Latchmie Ramsamy, 41, who suffered a fractured skull and had her left leg amputated below the knee after being pushed into the path of an onrushing subway train Thursday, said she fears she will not be able to care for son and daughter.

"For her, everything was about her kids," said her brother, Arjune Ramsammy, 27 who visited her at Bellevue Hospital Center early Friday. "She was always hopeful and always successful, so she might worry that she can't take care of her children. But she knows we are there for her."

Ramsamy, a nurse's assistant, had been on her way to work at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, on York Avenue and 68th Street in Manhattan, when she was pushed from the platform at the Grand Central subway station.

On any other day, she might not have even been on that subway platform.

Her husband, Michael Singh, to whom she has been married for 20 years, usually drives her to work, friends and relatives said. But when she heard a report that traffic was backed up Thursday, she insisted on catching the subway instead.

"She didn't want to trouble people. That was the kind of person she is," said the Rev. Subash Cherian, pastor of Highland Church in Jamaica, who visited her Friday.

Ramsamy lives with her husband and children — a son, 13, and daughter, 12 — in a Cypress Hills apartment, a stone's throw from where traffic races past on South Conduit Avenue. An American flag flutters from the front porch of the brick rowhouse.

Theirs is a neighborhood where Guyanese and Bangladeshi immigrants have joined an ethnic stew of African-American and Latino families, plus Italian empty-nesters.


Latchmie Ramsamy

A cheerful, industrious woman, Ramsamy has been a nurse's assistant for the past six months, her brother said, and was preparing for an exam that would make her a licensed practical nurse in February.

A neighbor described her as pleasant, even friendly, but so busy she rarely stopped to chat.

But those who know her say that is because she devotes almost all of her time to her extended family — her mother and five of her nine siblings long ago established a nurturing network among themselves — lavishing vast quantities of love upon them.

Friday, her family said they do not harbor angry feelings for her alleged assailant — former mental patient Jackson Roman.

"I have mixed feelings, but anger is not it," said her brother, Ramsammy, who lives two blocks from her. "After I heard he was sick, I think I felt sorry for him. I think they are doing good to get him off the streets, because he is a danger to himself and a danger to others."

"I think she would feel the same way," he said of his sister. "Not anger, not remorse."

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