

# Tri-Valley Herald

## Crowd remembers Pack children

### Danville rally a show of support

By Joe Gaspar  
STAFF WRITER

**Monday, January 12, 2004** - DANVILLE -- Hundreds gathered Sunday to remember two Danville children killed in a hit-and-run accident last year.

Sunday's rally at the East Bay Fellowship in Danville featured guest speaker Marc Klaas, whose 12-year-old daughter, Polly, was abducted from her Petaluma home and killed just over 10 years ago.

Like Klaas, Danville residents have turned to activism and spent months building networks and foundations since the Oct. 26 deaths of Troy and Alana Pack.

Klaas criticized the Contra Costa County District Attorney, calling for the defendant to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

"To prosecute this at anything less than second-degree murder will diminish all that the Packs have sacrificed," Klaas said. "I may be out of line because they weren't my kids, but I'd prefer to see the district attorney go for the hard prosecution and go about it the right way and lose, rather than take the easy route and win.

"It seems they're more focused on protecting the rights of the individual who did this rather than seeking justice on this individual."

Other community leaders, including Pastor Ron Pinkston of the East Bay Fellowship, vowed that some good will result from last year's tragedy.

"We will use our affluence and use our influence for good," Pinkston said. "We have the opportunity that people will listen to us because of where we are, who we are and what we do." The siblings were killed Oct. 26, 2003, while walking on a Camino Tassajara sidewalk. A vehicle -- which prosecutors said was driven by Jimena Barreto of Walnut Creek -- jumped the curb and struck them.

Much of the rally focused on creating legislation to bar repeat offenders from obtaining driver's licenses and make their records easy for the public to access. Many supporters also urged the district attorney to prosecute Barreto to the full extent of the law.

Barreto is expected to appear in court on Wednesday for a pretrial hearing. She is being held in a Martinez jail on vehicular manslaughter charges. According to court files, Barreto has a history of drunken driving and had her license suspended nine times.

The Troy and Alana Pack Foundation -- run by their father Bob Pack -- seeks to overhaul state driving laws.

A third local organization that formed since the accident, For Our Kids' Sake, advocates safer road conditions in Danville and expanded trails throughout town. A Danville task force has brainstormed ideas, including building a trail for pedestrians away from Camino Tassajara.

District 3 Supervisor Millie Greenberg vowed to Pack family supporters Sunday that she is dedicated to the issue.

"We all want to live in a safe community where our families are protected," Greenberg said. "I want you all to know that I will stay with this until the end."

Bob Pack said his legislative goals include identifying high-risk offenders in the community and removing the seven-year washout rule, which allows most crimes to be deleted from a record after seven years.

"A unification and a solidarity has taken place," Bob Pack said. "I can now say that we will seek maximum justice and we will

change laws. It's no longer about me as an individual, but we as a community."

After a video presentation, Bob and Carmen Pack thanked Danville residents for their support.

"I was imagining the other day if no one cared, if there were no cards of sympathy," Carmen Pack said. "I think I would have crawled into bed and cried myself to death. But with your support I've made it through Halloween, I've made it through Thanksgiving and I've made it through Christmas."

More information is available at the foundation's Web site, [www.troyandalana.org](http://www.troyandalana.org)