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KENTUCKY POST

Unknown hero saves family of 3

Post staff report

A passing construction worker, whose name police didn't get, is being hailed as a hero after he helped rescue a Florence mother and her two young children from a car sinking in a neighborhood lake on Saturday.

He first pulled one child from the car, then using his hammer knocked out a window to rescue the other child and the mother as the car sank.

"My biggest fear was that we wouldn't be able get them out of the car," said Don Quinn, a neighbor who helped with the rescue.

"Thank God it worked. Without the hammer, we might not have gotten them out as quickly."

No one was more thankful for that hammer than Jill Marshall - the mother who was trapped in the car with her children, Matthew, 6, and Alex, 10.

"My 6-year-old is afraid of water," Ms. Marshall said today.

"He just kept backing up into the corner of the backseat. He wouldn't come with me out the window. So I got in the backseat with him, and by that time the water was starting to come up. The water was so far, I had Matthew up against the ceiling and I was screaming to people to help me.

"The tip of my nose was just barely up out of the water."

As rescuers hurried to help, she held Matthew's head up to the roof so he could breathe.



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The accident happened about 9 a.m. as Ms. Marshall drove on Tiburon Drive off Mt. Zion Road in the Southhampton Estates. Her car skidded on some gravel and she lost control.

Quinn, who was working in his yard, rushed across the street.

The construction worker already was in the water. He pulled Alex from the passenger-side window and passed him to Quinn. Hysterical, the boy screamed, "Get my momma out, get my brother out!"

Quinn waded back into the water up to his neck as the car kept sinking. But with the doors submerged, they wouldn't open. Quinn yelled for a hammer. The construction worker had one.

Inside the car, Ms. Marshall knew the water was too high for her to get out on her own. She also knew there were people outside the car trying to help.

"I was screaming, 'Help me! Get us out!'" Ms. Marshall said.

As the window broke, Ms. Marshall handed Matthew out - then made her own escape.

The Marshalls were shaking from being cold, wet and frightened.

Neighbors brought blankets.

Boone County Patrolman Dave Fields talked briefly with the construction worker - who then disappeared into the crowd.

"I don't know who that guy is, but I'd like to thank him in person," Ms. Marshall said.

"He saved our lives."

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