

Monday • June 17, 2002

Mid Day

Mid Day Impact

Flood of requests to adopt abandoned girl

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Two-year-old Pari

AFTER Mid Day published two-year-old Pari's story last week, several readers have come forward to help her.

An injured Pari was found by the railway police abandoned on the tracks between Charni Road and Grant Road railway stations on May 20. She was given medical assistance at Nair Hospital, Mumbai Central, before being sent to the Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation, Borivali.

She has enchanted everyone she has come in contact with — from railway police officers

to the staff at Shraddha. The foundation's staff named her Pari.

Now, she has enchanted readers.

Dr Bharat Vatwani of the foundation's nursing home, said, "More than 50 people have called us in the past couple of days, some from as far as Goa. Many have even come here personally, with the intention of adopting Pari on the spot."

He added, "In their enthusiasm to help, people forget that adopting a child is not something that can be done instantly. It involves paperwork that has to be processed by adoption agencies in collaboration with the police, and only after the real parents are not traced within a stipulated time period." The nursing home even got a call from a 15-year-old boy whose mother has passed away. "I want to make Pari my younger sister. Please give her to me," were his touching words.

A city builder called to say his mother cried on reading the article and insisted they adopt Pari. A father of two boys said as soon as he laid eyes on Pari's picture in the paper, he saw the daughter he never had and wanted to adopt her.

Not only the well-to-do have come forward to help. A man called the nursing home saying he did not have the means to adopt little Pari, but wanted to visit her and give her some chikkooos as he had read she was fond of chikkoo milkshakes.

Dr Vatwani and his wife Smitha have four children, three of whom are adopted. He said that though people have heaped affection on Pari, many do not realise that there are thousands like her who also need foster parents.

After the police found Pari, they took her to Nair Hospital. Pari was bruised and had a hip fracture. She was given medical aid and sent to the Shraddha Foundation. The police collected Rs 1,040 from among themselves to help the girl.