



**CNS**  
Sean Easley, accompanied by volunteer attendant Katie Kiesel, visits Lourdes, France, this spring. Kiesel visited Lourdes as a 13-year-old with leukemia in 1987. Her leukemia has been in remission since that trip.

## Lourdes 'cure' studied

By Sharon Abercrombie  
Catholic News Service

SAN FRANCISCO — In 1987, against doctors' advice, Charlotte and George Kiesel of Burlingame interrupted chemotherapy treatment for their leukemia-stricken daughter and took her to Lourdes, France.

Katie didn't really understand why she was there. Desperately ill, she slept through most of the Masses and other religious events. But by the end of that week, she was sipping Lourdes water instead of antacids. The painful mouth and esophageal ulcers caused by chemotherapy were subsiding, allowing her to eat normally.

"I'm coming back here next year as a volunteer," the 13-year-old seventh-grad-

er vowed at dinner, the night before she returned home. She kept her promise in 1988.

Today, Katie is 25 years old. Her leukemia has been in remission for 13 years, which has prompted an effort to gather her medical records for the Lourdes-committee that reviews potential miracles.

And she has made 12 spring trips to Lourdes as a volunteer helper for the annual Knights of Malta trip to France.

As a volunteer she helps take the sick everywhere — to Masses, to meals, to the spring waters, to the candlelight processions, to all the events that fill visitors' days there.

"She and Mary are on a first name basis," her mother, Charlotte, said with a smile. **Continued on page 5**

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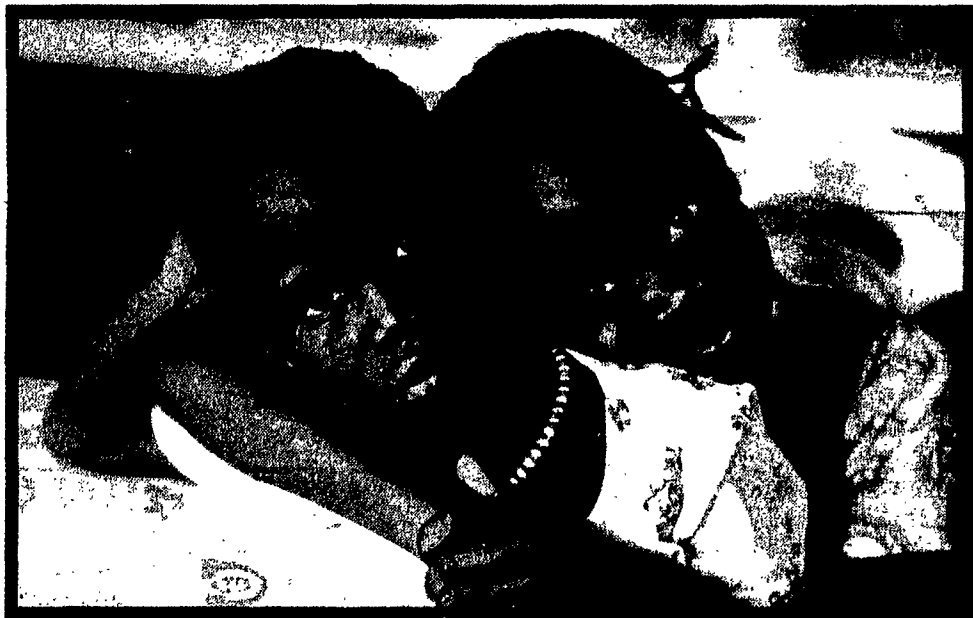


**Teenagers deal with heartbreak**  
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## Refugees from many lands



Kosovar refugee Besarta Ilazi, left, chums up to new friend Devon McAndrew while watching cartoons June 22 at the St. John the Evangelist Church rectory.



Sudan refugees Nyadon Wal, left, and Nyeruach Bor at their North Street, Rochester, apartment June 30.

*"People helped me, and now it's my time to help them back,"*

— Quyen Luu

**M**oved by charity, many native U.S. citizens have poured out their hearts to help Kosovar refugees resettle in this country.

But a foreign-born citizen like Quyen Luu, a Rochester Buddhist from Vietnam, can open her heart to the Kosovars out of a different sense.

She knows exactly how they feel.

In 1975, having fled North Vietnam's takeover of Saigon, 12-year-old Luu lived with her family in refugee camps in Guam for almost three months before moving to the United States.

"It seemed like your whole life over there is waiting in line for food and water," recalled Luu, who said she never went to the bathroom alone or took a shower alone for fear of being raped or mugged.

Luu's experience changed her forever, and inspired her to devote much of her adult life to helping refugees. A counselor with refugees on behalf of the Rochester City School District, Luu also serves as the Catholic Family Center's volunteer services coordinator, an unpaid



Young Kosovar refugee Kadrie Ilazi jokes with St. John the Evangelist Church parishioner Joyce McAndrew at the church rectory June 22.

position in the Rochester agency's Refugee and Immigration Department. As coordinator, Luu supervises the agency's five-to-six-member resettlement teams that have aided hundreds of refugees  
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STORY BY ROB CULLIVAN • PHOTOS BY GREG FRANCIS