

'I think it's a miracle'

Doctor says baby improving; rescuer visits

By Stephanie Cain
STAFF WRITER

PASADENA — Azita Milanian looked through the glass Monday at the newborn baby, the first time she'd seen him since rescuing him from a shallow grave in the Altadena foothills this weekend. Tears filled her eyes as she recalled the first time she saw the infant, covered with dirt and left for dead.

The 2-day-old boy — named "Baby Christian" by the nurses in the neonatal intensive care unit at Huntington Memorial Hospital — was upgraded Monday from critical to serious condition.

'Now I think somebody's just crazy, to carry a child for nine months and dump it.'

*Rescuer
Azita Milanian*

"I think it's a miracle," said Dr. Ricardo Liberman, head of the neonatology unit. "He has all the normal neurological activity we would expect in a newborn."

The baby, found with its umbilical cord still attached, was admitted Saturday with severe hypothermia and a body temperature of about 80 degrees. He was taken off a respirator on Sunday.

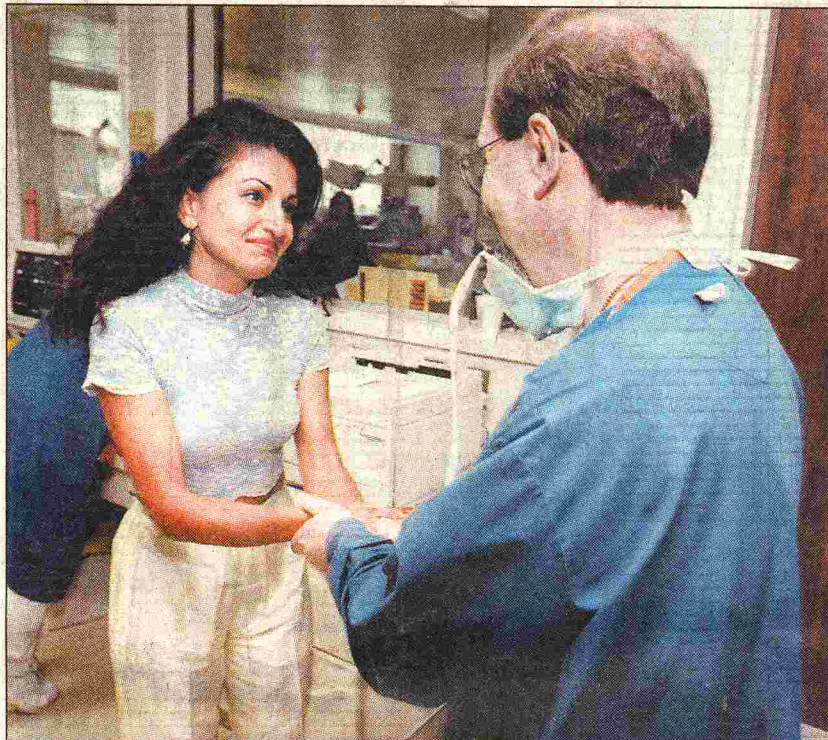
Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies were still searching for the baby's mother.

Using scents picked up from two bath towels the infant boy had been wrapped in, search dogs have repeatedly returned to a residential spot about a mile from where Milanian, who was jogging, found the baby just north of the private Alpine Villa Drive, said sheriff's Detective Kevin Elliott.

Elliott said he didn't know why the dogs kept returning to that spot but



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"BABY CHRISTIAN" is watched over Monday by Karen Tanner, above, a neonatal nurse at Huntington Memorial Hospital. Azita Milanian, left, the jogger who found the baby, meets Dr. Ricardo Liberman, who is caring for the child.

Please turn to BABY / A7

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