

Tracy Press

Solace sought in wake of killing

by Jennifer Wadsworth/ TP staff

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Family members of Cynthia Ramos, wearing T-shirts with her image, share a moment of silence during a Saturday vigil in her memory. Glenn Moore/Tracy Press

Cynthia Ramos used to give her Thanksgiving leftovers to homeless people.

She religiously watched “All My Children” at noon and 5 p.m. every weekday.

The 58-year-old, called Cindy by friends and family, loved to paint her toenails and looked the picture of health after recently slimming down following weight-loss surgery.

“She was full of life, a friend to everybody,” said one of her daughters, Christina Barnes of Sacramento. “We will miss her so much.”

Ramos — who was found stabbed to death in her northern Tracy home last week — was a gregarious, straight-talking mother to six children and grandmother to 11. One of her granddaughters, 22-year-old Angela Maravilla, is nearly nine months pregnant with a great-grandson Ramos will never see.

“It kills me, because she was the most excited about this, and she’s the one who will never get to see

him," Maravilla said Sunday night to a gathering of about 100 friends, family members and well-wishers.

Family and friends of Ramos gathered at sundown Sunday for a second candlelight vigil in her memory. A third vigil was conducted Monday outside her trailer home at Green Oaks Mobile Home Park, where Ramos was found.

Barnes said the vigils and the public show of support have helped the family cope with the loss. A memorial to Ramos stands outside her trailer, No. 44 in Green Oaks. Candles, notes and photos of the woman decorate a table on her front lawn.

"We have received such an outpouring of support," Barnes said. "That comfort is what's getting us through this."

It's torture for the family to think that the life of its beloved matriarch ended so brutally, she added.

The family "has been absolutely devastated by this grievous act ...," she continued, and "we are also haunted by the horror she must have felt in those last moments of her life."

Police arrested two men Thursday, shortly after they responded to a call from Ramos' roommate, reporting that she had been found dead on the floor of her trailer. Robert Plunkett-Morgan, 39, and Jorge Morgan, 24, are held without bail at the San Joaquin County Jail in French Camp on suspicion of murder.

Because there is an active investigation, police refuse to release any more details surrounding last week's killing, which, according to dispatch logs, might have resulted from a foiled robbery. To avoid compromising the integrity of the investigation, the family also refuses to discuss the case.

Ramos' family is setting up a memorial fund, which should be ready this week. In the meantime, people can send checks addressed to "Christina Barnes in care of Cindy Ramos" at P.O. Box 293660, Sacramento 95829. When the account number is available, it will be posted on a Web site Ramos' youngest daughter is setting up in her mother's memory. The site, www.inmemoryofcindyramos.com.

Once it's up and running, the Web site will include photos of Ramos, letters, poems, thoughts from the family, condolences from well-wishers and news stories about the case.

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