

# NEWBORN

## Abandoned baby critical but improving

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here," Elliott said.

Azita Milanian, an engineer from Altadena, discovered the baby while jogging.

Wearing a "Save the Children" T-shirt, Milanian was running her regular route through the Altadena foothills Saturday night. She said she was lost in thought over how children worldwide were suffering from starvation and abuse.

Nearing the end of her five-mile run, Milanian's three Labradors suddenly stopped around a pile of branches. And then Milanian heard the faint sound of a baby weakly crying, she said Sunday.

She cleared away the leaves and dirt and saw two small legs sticking out of the ground. The baby was covered in a blue towel with its umbilical cord still attached.

"I thought, 'Oh my God!' and went down and grabbed him, and the minute he felt my hand touching him, his crying got louder," Milanian said.

"I told him, 'It will be OK. I'll be right back.' And I was yelling, 'What kind of a sick person would do this?' I'm not a

religious person, but I know God is out there and has been watching this."

The baby remained on a respirator Sunday. He was being given medicines intravenously. Liberman said it was a full-term birth; officials believe the infant was no more than a day old.

Doctors were putting his chances of surviving at 50 percent Sunday. Meanwhile, hospital officials received more than 20 telephone calls from people offering to adopt the baby, Liberman said.

Milanian said finding the baby has strengthened her resolve to help suffering children around the world. Before Saturday's discovery, Milanian had already organized a fashion

show fund-raiser scheduled for July to help raise money for worldwide child relief organizations. Now, she plans to donate half of that money to help raise the baby she discovered.

"When he held my hand, I really wanted to adopt him, but I am not married and I wanted him to have a supportive family, the best family they can find to grow up in," Milanian said.

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