

## Film crew aids charity

**Sibling filmmakers spend weekend shooting an ad for Lost & Found group.**

*By Angela Wilson  
News-Leader*

Eighteen-year-old Kate Dixon sat in the dirty bed of a green pickup truck Saturday afternoon on McDaniel Street, her intent face absorbing the sights and sounds around her.

For an hour, a film crew of about 10 hurried about, shifting rusty metal objects into the bed and on the ground. A slightly battered red mailbox was plucked from the ground and moved across a lawn littered with metal to where Dixon sat.

“Bring the mailbox closer,” said Buzz Feitshans as he peered into the lens of a film camera.

Soon, the shot was ready.

It took about 30 seconds for Dixon, a student at Springfield Catholic High School, to repeat her line a dozen times for a commercial for Lost & Found of Springfield. The film crew, directed by Southwest Missouri State University alumnus Ted Melfi, flew to Springfield this weekend to shoot the commercial free of charge.

Lost & Found, which provides emotional support to children who have lost their parents, was formed by Springfield attorney Shawn Askinosie and licensed professional counselor Karen Scott.

Brothers Ted and Joe Melfi — owners of Goldenlight Films and Moviepartners. com respectively — hope their combined efforts this weekend will prompt some to donate to the organization, which serves 50 children and their families, and spread the word about Lost & Found.

“There could be a kid out there to get though it because of what we” did, said Joe Melfi, whose father died 10 years ago.

Ted Melfi, producer of the independent film “Winding Roads,” directed the 30-second spot. Between guiding the crew at the McDaniel Street shoot and answering his constantly buzzing cell phone, Ted Melfi said he knew informing the public about the group was the key to Lost & Found’s continued success.

“I said: ‘We need to get the word out. We should do a commercial that the group’s here for (families),’” he said.

But shooting the spot wasn’t easy. Lost & Found’s Robin Brown has been securing locations and equipment since January for Ted Melfi, who had the difficult task of choosing 19 children for speaking roles out of about 70 who auditioned. He scouted locations a few weeks ago and then went back over the sites with director of photography Feitshans on Thursday.

Saturday, the crew descended on the law offices of Askinosie and Grantham. Traffic on National Avenue slowed as passers-by watched SMS Sigma Chi pledge Matt Kersting delicately spray the brittle, pale grass in front of the law office with deep green paint.

“It’s nice to come back to grass roots — and paint them,” Feitshans said.