



# Making Homecomings Possible

Winter 2008



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## Talk To Your Child About This Common Abductor's Trick

Andrea had just finished her holiday shopping at the local mall. She told her parents she'd wait in the food court while they completed their shopping. While she was waiting, a nicely dressed woman approached her looking upset. The woman told Andrea that she had put a bag of wrapped presents down next to the table and had forgotten to pick them up when she left. She asked Andrea if she would help her look for the bag. **Andrea told the woman she could not help her and to ask at the customer service desk if they had seen it.** The woman asked Andrea again, telling her that she would pay her money if she helped her find the bags. Again, Andrea told her to ask someone else for help. When the woman asked Andrea a third time for help with the bags, Andrea walked to the nearest store and asked the person behind the counter to contact mall security and her parents. By the time security arrived, the woman was gone. Andrea stayed safe and smart by refusing to go with the woman, especially after the woman continued to ignore Andrea's rejection. Her only mistake was continuing the conversation; she should have walked away after the woman's first attempt to draw her into a conversation. **When you talk to your children about safety, remind them that any adult asking for help should ask another adult for help. They should be wary of adults that try to convince them or change their minds. Show them places they can go for help if they need it and teach them what words to say.**



## Upcoming Events!

FOR MORE EVENTS, CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE, [WWW.VCA.ORG](http://WWW.VCA.ORG)

### DECEMBER

6TH FINGERPRINTING EVENT -ROCKLIN, CA

13TH FINGERPRINTING EVENT-ALVISO, CA

20TH FINGERPRINTING EVENT-EMERYVILLE, CA

### JANUARY

CALL US TO SCHEDULE AN EVENT!

### FEBRUARY

CALL US TO SCHEDULE AN EVENT!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE VCA FOR A PRESENTATION OR AN EVENT, CALL OUR OUTREACH DEPARTMENT AT (408) 296-1113!



## Safety Source!

**During the holidays when gift giving is everywhere, teach your child not to accept gifts or treats from anyone without your consent. You should be cautious of anyone who is overly interested in your child.**

Planning on attending San Jose's Christmas in the Park this year? Stop by tree number 243 to see our tree! Special thanks go to Richard Wakefield for donating supplies and the students at St. Justin School for the wonderful ornaments!

## VCA'S MISSION

The Vanished Children's Alliance, founded in 1981, is a national 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children from disappearing. To ensure children's safety, VCA educates the public and professionals about the serious issue of abducted and runaway children. VCA works to prevent, locate, and recover child victims and reunite them with their families in collaboration with law enforcement, other credible service agencies, and communities at large.

## First Annual Evergreen Health and Wellness Fair



VCA STAFF

On November 15, 2008, the Vanished Children's Alliance and Eastridge Mall teamed up to recognize World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse (held on November 19th). Eleven other agencies from the area participated in the event in order to bring awareness to the community about resources that are available in Santa Clara county (and beyond). Our heartfelt thanks go to the agencies that attended the event as well as the sponsors that provided goods, services, and raffle prizes.

The day was enjoyed by all those involved. Keep your eyes open next November for a similar event!



**We're Missing!**

**HAVE YOU SEEN US?**

**If so, please call 1-800-VANISHED**

**Amber Jean Swartz**

**Nonfamily Abduction**



**Date of Birth:** 08/19/1980  
**Missing Date:** 06/03/1988  
**Missing From:** Pinole, CA  
**Sex:** Female **Race:** White  
**Height:** 4' 0" **Weight:** 62 Lbs  
**Hair Color:** Blond  
**Eye Color:** Blue

**Samantha Paola Hernandez**

**Endangered Missing**

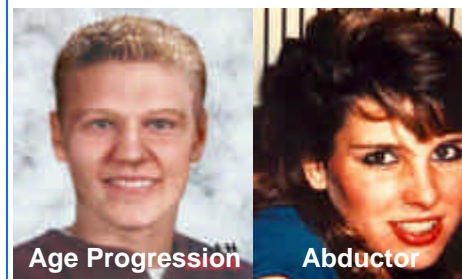


**Date of Birth:** 02/26/2006  
**Missing Date:** 07/27/2008  
**Missing From:** San Jose, CA  
**Sex:** Female **Race:** Hispanic  
**Height:** 2' 5" **Weight:** 25 Lbs  
**Hair Color:** Black  
**Eye Color:** Brown

**Daniel Stephen Spangle**

**Endangered Missing**

**Date of Birth:** 05/13/1987  
**Missing Date:** 03/02/1989  
**Missing From:** Lancaster, CA  
**Sex:** Male **Race:** White  
**Height:** 3' 0" **Weight:** 30 Lbs  
**Hair Color:** Blond  
**Eye Color:** Blue



**Do You Know the Whereabouts of a Missing Child?**

- Stay calm and gather as much information as possible!
  - Do not attempt to intercede.
  - Contact Law Enforcement
  - Contact VCA at **1-800-VANISHED**
- When reporting a possible sighting to VCA...**
- Describe the child, accompanying adults, and any unusual behaviors/circumstances.
  - If a vehicle is involved, get the vehicle description and license plate.
  - Specify location(s) where the child was seen and when. Provide any and all relevant addresses.
  - Explain whether the child had indicated being taken from the other parent.
  - Explain whether the child hinted at having a different name or family.
  - Tell us if you think you have seen the child's picture on television, a grocery bag, poster, directory, mailer, VCA fax dissemination, or other missing children's announcement.
  - Remember that you may remain anonymous with VCA if you wish. The important thing is to help reunite missing children with their families!

*Thank you!*

**DONOR RECOGNITION CORNER**

Donations made from September 3-November 19, 2008

**Guardian Angels**

Nordstrom  
 Wal★Mart-Fresno  
**Benefactors**  
 Smythe European- San Jose  
 Sports Basement  
**Advocates**  
 David Kane  
 United Way- Capital Region  
 Richard Wakefield  
**Sponsors**  
 Great America (admission)  
 Winchester Mystery House (admission)  
 Raging Waters (admission)  
 Lunardi's (gift cards)

**Members**

PG&E Employee Contribution  
 Bed Bath and Beyond (gift card)  
 JC Penney (gift card)  
 Hobee's (gift certificate)  
 Jessica Carrington- Randall  
 St. Justin School (laminating)  
 Verizon Matching Gift Fund  
 Auntie Anne's Pretzels (supplies)



*What do the levels mean?*

**Member:** \$25-\$49  
**Sponsor:** \$50-\$99  
**Advocate:** \$100-\$499  
**Benefactor:** \$500-\$999  
**Guardian Angel:** \$1000+

**Thank you to all of our generous donors! We couldn't do what we do without you!**

**If you're interested in donating:**

**Please make checks payable to**

**Vanished Children's Alliance**

**991 W Hedding St, Suite 101  
 San Jose, CA 95126**

**Or make an online donation at  
[www.vca.org](http://www.vca.org)**

**You will receive a letter from our Chief of Operations certifying our receipt of your donation!**