



Making Homecomings Possible

Spring 2008



Meet Our New Executive Director, Sheila Barry!

A native of the Monterey Peninsula, Sheila Barry attended the Monterey Institute of International Studies where she received her B.A. in Hispanic Studies in 1980 and her M.A. in TESOL (Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages) in 1986. In 1983, she received a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to do post-graduate work in Deaf Education in La Plata, Argentina. Upon her return to the United States, she lived and taught in Washington, D.C. for eight years as a Dual Language Immersion teacher and, in 1993, returned to California where she helped develop a similar program in Half Moon Bay. She resigned from the field of education in 1995 to pursue a lifelong dream of owning her own travel consulting firm.

In 1998, Ms. Barry joined the Rotary Club of Cupertino where she is still an active member today. She has spearheaded wheelchair donations to Mexico and Chile and has been a volunteer Spanish interpreter on humanitarian and medical missions to Argentina, Guatemala, and Uruguay over the past eight years. Her love for children was a natural progression into the non-profit arena where she worked for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for four years as a Supervisor, Community Relations Director and Training Director.

Meet Our New Chief of Operations, Melissa Paredes-Scampini!

Melissa Paredes-Scampini started working at the Vanished Children's Alliance in May 2001. During her tenure at VCA, Ms. Paredes-Scampini has been a Caseworker, Senior Caseworker, and the Director of Casework. She has been serving as a board member of the Victim Support Network for Santa Clara County for the past four years. Her years of experience and her vast knowledge on the subject of missing and abducted children made Ms. Paredes-Scampini the excellent choice for her new position.

We are thrilled to welcome Sheila and Melissa to VCA's Administrative Staff! We look forward to many future accomplishments!

Don't Miss What's In This Issue!

<i>Meet our New Directors!</i>	1
<i>National Missing Children's Day</i>	2
<i>What You Can Do To Help</i>	2
<i>New Employee Introduction</i>	2
<i>SF Giants and VCA's Missing Children Awareness Day</i>	2
<i>Safety Source</i>	3
<i>Donor Appreciation</i>	3
<i>Common Abductor's Trick</i>	3
<i>What is the Community Saying about VCA?</i>	4
<i>Have You Seen These Missing Children?</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

VCA'S MISSION

The Vanished Children's Alliance, founded in 1981, is a national 501 (c)(3), nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting all 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.

You Can Help Prevent and Locate Missing Children!

Imagine waking up cold, hungry, and not knowing where you are. Picture yourself being told your parent doesn't love you anymore or that a parent has died. For an adult, these situations would be frightening, but for a child, they would be devastating. Often, many child victims of abduction are faced with the above scenarios and much worse.

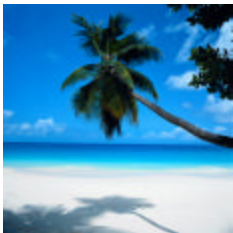


Children that have been abducted by a family member are usually led to believe that the left behind parent has died, doesn't love or want them anymore. All missing children are at a greater risk for emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. They will likely not attend school or receive medical and dental care to avoid being found. They might not be fed

regularly. When an abducted child is found, (s)he has to struggle with the guilt of "allowing" themselves to be taken. They have to face their peers who have probably heard of the case in the media. They are often ostracized because their abduction makes them stand out. Victims of sexual abuse are at risk for being harassed by their school mates, especially if the details of the case are well known.

Your monetary donation can help fund VCA's valuable programs that work to prevent and locate missing and abducted children. **Donations can be made online at www.vca.org through PayPal or at Change.org, via US Mail at 991 W Hedding St., Suite 101, San Jose, CA 95126, or in donation jars at community events.** You can make a difference in a child's life!

New Employee at the Vanished Children's Alliance!



Meipo Flores was raised in San Jose and joined the VCA staff in October 2007 as a Caseworker/Photo Disseminator. Before coming to VCA, Meipo interned for L.A. County Superior Court in Pomona. She assisted with family law and unlawful eviction matters. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Cal Poly Pomona and has studied abroad in Spain and Puerto Rico. Her hobbies include traveling, reading, and spending time with her family and friends. She hopes to continue her education in the future to obtain her law degree.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Join the Vanished Children's Alliance and the San Francisco Giants on May 30, 2008 in honor of Missing Children's Awareness Day. VCA staff will be on hand to fingerprint children and distribute child safety literature. Vanished Children's Alliance will receive proceeds from the tickets sold through the special events website at www.sfgiants.com/specialevents or by calling 415-972-2298.



May 25th is National Missing Children's Day. Vanished Children's Alliance will be promoting child safety throughout the month of May! We are planning on holding fingerprinting events as well as fundraising events to help promote the importance of child safety. Our website will be updated with details closer to these upcoming events. Keep checking www.vca.org for the latest information!



Talk to Your Children About this Common Abductor's Trick

It's a common after school scene: crowds of adults and children, adults in cars vying for a space in front of the pack so their children can easily find them, children playing with their friends and laughing about the day. Would you be able to notice if something was wrong amid all that chaos? *Would your child be able to determine if someone were trying to lure them into their car?* By creating and using a family password, you will train your child how to know if someone has been authorized to pick them up from school.

Tell your child(ren) that you will only tell the password to someone if they are permitted to pick him or her up. If the person is not able to say the correct word, your child(ren) should go to the office and tell the office staff of the situation. Remind him or her that this is always the rule, even if they know the person in question. *Unless they know the password, your child should not get in the car with them.* With the above knowledge and tools, you can empower your children to make decisions that will keep them safe. Remember to keep the staff of your child's school updated with names of people who are allowed to pick your child up from school, they will be able to rely on that information if an unauthorized adult were to attempt to pick up your child.



Safety Source!

Watch out for the safety of all children and report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency. It only takes a moment and could help keep your community safe!

If your family has a password, remind your child(ren) that (s)he should never tell the password to another person! Someone who asks for your family's password might not have your child's best interest in mind.

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

You will receive a letter from our Executive Director certifying our receipt of your donation!



DONOR RECOGNITION CORNER

Donations made from November 28, 2007-February 14, 2008

Advocates

PG&E Corporation
Storming Wheel Deals
Jack Beggs

Sponsors

Judith A Watkins
Prudential Matching Gifts
George C. Sharp Inc

Members

Stephen and Deidre Winters
Sophie Sahines

What do the levels mean?

Member: \$25+
Sponsor: \$50+
Advocate: \$100+
Benefactor: \$500+
Guardian Angel: \$1000+

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

Guardian Angels

Wal★Mart, La Quinta
Wal★Mart, Pittsburg
Munlake Contractors, Inc
Tacoma Crime Stoppers
Columbiana Development, Inc

Benefactors

Wal★Mart, Lodi
Wal★Mart, Milpitas
Wal★Mart, Lakewood
Wal★Mart, Apple Valley

The Vanished Children's Alliance would like to take this opportunity to thank Nordstrom, Inc for their generous donation of \$5,000 in support of our Abducted Children Training Program. We appreciate our community's support and continued efforts to locate and reunify our missing and abducted children.



Vanished Children's Alliance

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San Jose, CA 95126

Phone: (408) 296-1113
Fax: (408) 296-1117
E-mail: info@vca.org

"Making Homecomings Possible"

www.vca.org

What is the community saying about VCA?

The staff is compassionate and committed to the children and cause. I hope to volunteer again soon.

- recent VCA volunteer

Upcoming Events!

MARCH

8TH FINGERPRINTING EVENT , SAN JOSE
12TH CHILD SAFETY PRESENTATION,
SAN FRANCISCO
15TH FINGERPRINTING EVENT , ANTIOCH
20TH FINGERPRINTING EVENT ,
SAN FRANCISCO

APRIL

16TH ADULT PRESENTATION, WATSONVILLE
25TH ADULT PRESENTATION, PLEASANTON
26TH CHILD SAFETY PRESENTATION,
PLEASANT HILL

MAY

19TH FUNDRAISING EVENT, CHEVYS, SAN JOSE
21ST FUNDRAISING EVENT, WILLOW STREET
PIZZA
23RD OBSERVATION OF NATIONAL MISSING
CHILDREN'S DAY
25TH NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY
30TH MISSING CHILDREN'S AWARENESS DAY,
SF GIANTS

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

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

If you no longer wish to receive this quarterly newsletter, please email info@vca.org with the subject
"Unsubscribe."

We're
Missing!

**HAVE
YOU
SEEN US?**

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

Michael Omas Masaoay



Nonfamily Abduction

Date of Birth: 06/25/1972
Missing Date: 01/25/1989
Missing From: San Francisco, CA
Sex: Male Race: Asian
Height: 5' 0" Weight: 160 Lbs
Hair Color: Black
Eye Color: Brown



Age Progression

Makenzie Rae Newman



Family Abduction

Date of Birth: 08/18/1986
Missing Date: 03/02/1990
Missing From: Mountain View, CA
Sex: Female Race: White
Height: 3' 1" Weight: 32 Lbs
Hair Color: Blond
Eye Color: Blue



Age Progression

Colt Levi Clark



Endangered Missing

Date of Birth: 05/24/1996
Missing Date: 4/20/2006
Missing From: Wewoka, OK
Sex: Male Race: White
Height: 4' 4" Weight: 65 Lbs
Hair Color: Brown
Eye Color: Hazel

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**
- 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!

When reporting a possible sighting to VCA...

- Describe the child, accompanying adult(s) and any unusual behaviors/circumstances.
- If a vehicle is involved, get the vehicle description and license plate.