



Vanished Children's Alliance

Educate • Locate • Advocate

OUR MISSION

The Vanished Children's Alliance (VCA), a national nonprofit, is 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 reunify them with their families, in collaboration with law enforcement, communities and other credible agencies.



Volunteer Caleb Yuen fingerprints child at Alum Rock OSH store in San Jose.

22,000 Children

Fingerprinted in 6 Hours!

On May 17, the VCA and Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) teamed up for the 2nd Annual KID Identification event. This event, which took place at all 82 OSH hardware stores across California, has grown significantly since its inception in October 2002. KID ID is a free program that provided participating children a chance to be fingerprinted and photographed. This vital documentation is provided for parents to keep in the event

of a missing or abducted child. In addition it also provides parents and caretakers with critical VCA safety information to keep their children safe.

This year, VCA had the assistance of over 95 local police departments, sheriff's offices, Masonic Lodges, fire departments, county safety departments and California Highway Patrols. These agencies volunteered their time to fingerprint children and educate their communities about safety. In addition, civilian volunteers also helped fingerprint children and pass out child safety literature. Our combined efforts enabled over 22,000 children to be fingerprinted statewide! In addition, more than 51,000 pieces of VCA child safety literature were distributed to concerned parents, guardians and grandparents.

A Special Thank You to:



Orchard Supply Hardware has generously donated promotional items and substantial funds to the Vanished Children's Alliance. These items and donations will be used to help forward VCA's mission towards child abduction prevention education and recovery.

VCA Joins The Human Race

VCA joined the 10th Annual Human Race at Shoreline Park, Mountain View on May 10, 2003. The Human Race, which is produced by the Volunteer Center of Silicon Valley, is the annual premier community fundraising event providing non-profit organizations the opportunity to raise money for their programs and services. The event, which was a 5K walk or 10K/5K professionally timed run, also featured kid races, a dog walker course, music, entertainment and food. This year's event was supported by more than 2,300 (total) participants that benefitted over 102 Santa Clara County non-profit organizations. VCA, who had 10 staff members and volunteers participate in the race, was able to raise over \$1,200 towards its services.



VCA staff member Katy Bartlett marches in 5K walk with picture of Mitchell Owens missing since 2/3/83. VCA staff and volunteers carried signs of missing and abducted children in the 5K walk.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO EVERYONE WHO
HELPED VCA AT THE
ORCHARD SUPPLY
HARDWARE KID ID
EVENT.

Fingerprinting Agencies: Alameda Co. FD, Alameda Co. Sheriff, Alameda Masonic Lodge # 167, Antioch/Brentwood Masonic Lodge & Antioch PD, Berkeley PD, Boy Scouts of America Troop 58-San Francisco Bay Area Council, Burbank FD, Burbank PD, Cahuenga-La Brea Grand Masonic Lodge, California Highway Patrol, Capistrano CHP, Capitola PD, Central Los Angeles CHP, Chico FD, Citrus Heights PD, City of Pinole FD, Clairmont Masonic Lodge #436, Clovis PD, Concord PD, Conejo Valley Masonic Lodge #807, Contra Costa Co. Sheriff, Elk Grove Community Services District FD, Elk Grove PD, Folsom City FD, Folsom PD, Foster City PD, Fountain Valley PD, Fremont Elks Lodge #2121, Fresno P.D.- South East Station, Gilroy PD, Granada Hills Masonic Lodge #378, Hanford PD, Huntington Beach Masonic Lodge # 380, Huntington Beach PD, Kern Co. Sheriff, King's Co. Sheriff, Knights of St. Andrew, L.A.P.D. West LA Division, L.A.P.D. Wilshire Division, Laguna Niguel Police Services, Livermore-Pleasanton FD, Lodi P.D., Long Beach FD, Long Beach PD, Los Angeles Co. FD, Los Angeles Co. Sheriff-Altadena Sub-station, Los Angeles Co. Sheriff-Santa Clarita Sub-station, L.A.P.D.-Foothill Division, Manteca PD, Merced PD-North, Millbrae PD, Modesto PD-East, Modesto PD-Northwest, Mosaic Masonic Lodge #218, Napa PD, Newark FD, Newark PD, Office of Nursing Services, Orange Co. Fire Authority, Pasadena PD, Petaluma PD, Pinole PD, Redwood City PD, Sacramento Co. Sheriff, Sacramento Co. Sheriff-North Cental Division, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Salinas PD, San Fernando Valley Scottish Rite Club, San Gabriel Valley Red Cross, San Jose FD, San Jose PD-Volunteer Program, San Leandro PD, San Luis Obispo CHP, San Mateo Co. Health Education Department, San Rafael PD, San Ramon PD, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Santa Ana CHP, Santa Barbara Co. Sheriff, Santa Clara Co. Sheriff, Santa Clara Co. Lead Program, Santa Clara Co. Office of the District Attorney, Santa Clara Co. Sheriff, Santa Clara PD, Santa Cruz Co. Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Santa Maria CHP, Shasta Co. Sheriff, South San Francisco PD, Sonora City FD, Sonora PD, Stockton PD, Tracy PD, Tulare Co. Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Turlock PD, Watsonville PD, Woodland PD and Yuba City PD.

VCA volunteers: Katy, Gary, Terri, Denexxel, Jean, Megan, Michael, Kate, Jessica, Lynn, Nick, Catherine, Martha, Robert, Andrea, Matt, Erin, Rene, Caleb and Yvonne.

School Safety

Discussing these safety tips with your children can help ensure a safe and happy school year for everyone! Repetition, Repetition, Repetition is the key to safe habits!

- Teach kids the facts about child abduction early. If handled as another fact-of-life or just another safety skill – like buckling safety belts and wearing bike helmets – children need not be overly frightened.
- Teach your child to *always* ask for permission before going anywhere without you.
- Make sure your child knows his or her full name, parents' names, and address (house number, street name, and city). Practice reciting this information with them.
- Kids should also know their phone number, area code, and that a "1" must be dialed before the number when calling long-distance. Practice with your child when you are outside of your normal calling area. Ensure that they know how and when to dial 9-1-1.
- Ensure that your child plays in groups or uses the "buddy system" when having summer adventures. There is safety (and fun) in numbers!
- When at the beach, the park, or in other public areas, establish a place to meet if you become separated or lost. Role-play what the child should do if he or she gets lost in a public place.
- Remind your child that it is OK to say "NO!" to adults who make them feel scared or uncomfortable. Let them know that it is okay to be rude, make a scene, or hit and kick if they are in trouble. Practice with them what they should do if they find themselves in a crisis situation.
- Kids should be reminded which people are alright to approach if they feel unsafe or get lost in a public place. Police officers, firefighters, store cashiers, and especially *mothers with children* are good bets.
- Remind children that strangers are not necessarily strange-looking. Let them know that it is the way a person acts and makes a child feel (the "uh-oh" feeling) that are important, not a person's appearance.
- Teach kids that adults should not approach children for help or directions. Grown ups have grown up problems, and it is inappropriate for adults to request assistance or favors from children. Let children know that not assisting others in these situations is okay and is not rude, but simply common sense.
- Establish a family "code" word. Kids should never go with someone who doesn't know the code. Remind your child to always ask permission from the person in charge, even when they are given the correct code word.
- Do not put your child's name (or other personal information) in a visible place, such as clothing, a backpack, lunch box or personalized bicycle license plates. This can put a potential abductor on a first name basis with your child.
- If your child(ren) stay(s) home alone, remind them never to open the door or tell anyone that they are home alone (this includes giving information over the phone or on the internet).

We're Moving!

Effective October 15, 2003, VCA Headquarters will be located at 991 West Hedding Street, Suite 101, San Jose, CA 95126. The sighting hotline (1-800-VANISHED) and website address (www.vca.org) will remain the same.

YES! I want to support Vanished Children's Alliance!

Name: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____ Fax: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Day Phone:() _____ Evening Phone:() _____

I can make my donation:
 quarterly monthly
 yearly one time

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

- \$500 Sponsors overall efforts to help find a child.
- \$100 Pays for a school presentation to teach kids safety.
- \$75 Fingerprints 25 children.
- \$50 Pays for 50 b/w posters or 25 color posters.
- \$25 Covers the cost of the Sighting Hotline for a full day!
- \$10 Pays for 1 teddy bear to be sent to a recovered child.
- \$_____ Any amount will help make sure we're there for them.

- My company will match my gift!
Company Gift Match Contact Person/
Info:
- I am interested in making an in-kind donation
- I am interested learning how I can ensure VCA's future through planned giving
- I am interested in donating my vehicle
- Please keep my name anonymous
- Please do not add me to VCA's mailing list

*Please make contributions payable to: Vanished Children's Alliance
 2095 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126*

*VCA is a federally approved 501(c)(3) charity. Tax ID number 94-2783682
 Thank you for your concern and generosity!*

DONOR HALL OF FAME

GUARDIAN ANGEL ADVOCATE CONT.

- KIDZ-IDZ, INC.
- ORCHARD SUPPLY HARDWARE
- BARBARA SMITH
- MICHAEL AND ROBERTA COHEN
- GREG EDGAR
- RONALD AND DIANNE HEGEMEIR

BENEFACTOR

- PETROCHEM VALVE INCORPORATED

ADVOCATE

- CARRIE ADKINS
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MEMBER

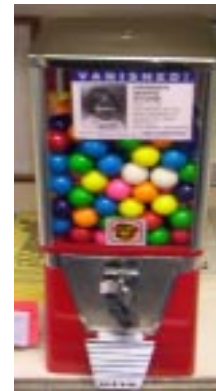
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- THEODORE SHPACK
- MARY WONG

Thank you Mr. Armbuster!

Through the generosity of Mr. Bill Armbuster, we have a gumball vending machine. When not at a fingerprinting event, it sits in VCA's lobby to help advertise our Vending Sticker Program and display missing/abducted children stickers. He was also kind enough to send us a Double Bubble



Glass Jar full of Double Bubble gum that shares gum with all who visit the Vending Department office.

VCA would like to thank all of our donors for their generous support. Our continued services would not be possible without the generous efforts of many individuals and organizations. Their donations are gratefully accepted as a symbol of support for the services our organization provides. With their support, we will continue to provide active case management, photo dissemination of missing children, reunification services, counseling, and technical assistance. In addition we will continue prevention education to families and children as well as training for law enforcement and education professionals.

VCA DONOR CIRCLE CATEGORIES

MEMBER	\$25.00+
SPONSOR	\$50.00+
ADVOCATE	\$100.00+
BENEFACTOR	\$500.00+
GUARDIAN ANGEL	\$1,000.00+



10 Things You Can Do to Help The Vanished Children's Alliance



Bob Orr fingerprints a child at the Orchard Supply Hardware KID ID, May 17, 2003.

VCA's dedicated VOLUNTEERS enable VCA to provide services to communities with efficiency and precision. Volunteers are an integral part of VCA's family through poster dissemination, fingerprinting children, computer programming, speaking with families, providing legal advice, and many other important duties. Here are some ways you can volunteer:

VOLUNTEER AT A COMMUNITY CHILD FINGERPRINTING EVENT

Whether you come on your own, with a friend or a group of co-workers, your gift of time can make a difference in the life of a child and their parents. Volunteers will become fingerprint trained by law enforcement personnel. Child fingerprinting at community events are opportunities to educate your own community about child abduction prevention.

SEARCH ASSISTANCE

(San Francisco Bay Area only) In the event of an abduction, you may assist in the search for a missing child by providing support to VCA's staff. Volunteers can help with emergency response procedures at the VCA headquarters or the volunteer command post, disseminate posters, answer telephones, fax information to the media, participate with the search team, etc.

SPONSOR A CHILD FINGERPRINTING EVENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

\$500 sponsors a Child Fingerprinting Event, which allows children within the community to be fingerprinted for free as well as providing parents and guardians with free child safety information. Sponsors are individuals, service groups, neighborhood associations and corporations.

POSTER DISTRIBUTION

You can help reunite missing children with their families by displaying VCA missing child posters at local businesses in your community. Remember to ask permission from the business owner before posting any posters.

MAKE A CHILD OR PARENT PRESENTATION

VCA staff and volunteers make presentations to children, parents and other community members on child abduction prevention. Approved volunteers will receive special training on making safety presentations. Educating the community is the first step to protecting our children and keeping them safe!

If you would like to share your special talents and time with VCA, please call VCA's Volunteer Coordinator today at (408) 296-1113. You may also visit our website at www.vca.org to learn other ways you can help.

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

VCA accepts donations of operable and non-operable cars, trucks, boats, RVs and more. To find out how you can donate your used vehicle, please contact the Outreach Department.

MAKE A DONATION

Your 100% tax deductible contribution enables VCA to provide its services to families throughout the United States, free of charge. Donations can be monetary, stocks and bonds, real property, in-kind, employee gift matching, CFC campaign (VCA #2757), etc.

A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE PARTY

Tired of regifting? If you are planning to host a party (birthday, graduation, anniversary or other special occasion) for friends or business associates, consider asking your guests to give a gift in your name to the Vanished Children's Alliance. Their gifts are tax-deductible and you won't have to find a place for another Chia Pet!

VOLUNTEER AT THE VCA HEADQUARTERS

If you live in the San Francisco Bay Area and you're available during business hours, come volunteer at our office. Office volunteers can assist on a long term or short term basis with mailings, photo dissemination, computer entry, research, fundraising, newsletters, proposal writing, website updates, and many other activities.

BE PART OF VCA'S VENDING STICKER PROGRAM

Do you own vending machines? If so, become part of VCA's vending sticker program. Dissemination of missing children's stickers on vending machines assists in the location of children and can help vending machine owners secure locations for their machines. Sharing this information with others helps increase public awareness of missing and abducted children. Please contact the Vending Department for more information.

Recovery News

Recently, VCA was able to assist the San Jose Police Department in searching for a missing child. VCA staff and volunteers helped SJPD canvas local San Jose neighborhoods, field sighting calls and alert media attention. Thankfully, the child was released by her abductor and is now recovering from the ordeal with friends and family.



San José Police Department
WILLIAM M. LANSDOWNE, CHIEF OF POLICE

July 7, 2003

Georgia K. Hilgeman-Hammond, Executive Director
Vanished Children's Alliance
2095 Park Ave.
San Jose, CA 95126

Dear Mrs. Hilgeman-Hammond

On June 6, 2003, a nine-year-old girl was violently abducted from her home in the southern area of San Jose. Her mother and brother valiantly fought the suspect, but were unsuccessful in their attempts to stop him. Due to the brazen and violent nature of the crime against such a young person, our Police Department responded swiftly with an abundance of resources to search for the kidnapped little girl and to apprehend her abductor.

From the beginning, we recognized the importance of conducting an expansive and systematic search for the victim. We also acknowledged that we needed additional resources outside of our police department to conduct the search and to publicize the case to the public, via flyers and media interviews. Your organization took the initiative and immediately offered our police department assistance.

During the three days of the search, your organization provided our police department with resources and technical advice that were invaluable in our search efforts. In a period of three days, your volunteers passed out approximately ten thousand flyers throughout the city. This tremendous feat is a testament to the dedication of the volunteers.

The little girl was eventually released by her abductor in a city on the Peninsula. Without question, the massive and intensive search for the little girl, and the vigorous campaign of passing out the flyers, played a part in putting the suspect on notice and may have forced him to release the little girl.

On behalf of the San Jose Police Department, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to volunteers for their tremendous assistance. Their willingness in spending their own time to help is commendable. This collaborative effort by law enforcement, your agency, and the citizen volunteers truly embodies the spirit of Neighborhood Community Policing.

Sincerely,


WILLIAM M. LANSDOWNE
Chief of Police

WML:PN



301 W. Mission St., San Jose, CA 95110 at (408) 277-4212 fax (408) 277-5771 www.sjpd.org

VOLUNTEER

SPOTLIGHT!

Erin Skourtes



Erin won 1st place in the women's division in the 10K run at the Human Race on May 10, 2003.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Erin Skourtes. Erin interned in VCA's Outreach and Development Department from April 2003-June 2003. We have appreciated her dedication and hard-work ethic that has enriched our community involvement and prevention education awareness programs. In June, Erin graduated from Santa Clara University with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Anthropology. She plans to attend law school in the future. Good Luck Erin!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Fingerprint Training at VCA Headquarters
6pm-8pm

Saturday, September 6, 2003

Air Systems Inc. Car Show and Family Fun Fest
1pm-8pm

Saturday, September 13, 2003

CompreCare Health Center Annual Health Fair
10am-3pm

Saturday, September 20, 2003

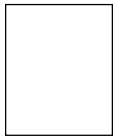
South County Housing Development Grand Opening
11am-3pm

If you would like to know how you can be involved in this or other events, please contact our Outreach and Development Department at (408) 296-1113 or email us at info@vca.org.

Support VCA while you shop!

Do you or someone you know live in Arizona? If so, be part of Basha's Thanks A Million For Friends and Neighbors from September 2003-January 31, 2004. Everytime you shop at a Basha's Supermarket, show your Thank You Card and VCA's group ID number:27658 to the cashier. From then on every purchase made with your Thank You Card will be credited to VCA. At the end of the program, VCA will receive a check for one percent of the total dollars you spent, up to \$2,500. It's an easy way to support VCA and help make a difference in a child's life.





Dedicated to Preventing, Locating, Recovering and Reuniting Missing, Runaway & Abducted Children Since 1981

If you wish to **remain** on our mailing list, please complete the following, and mail to the above address above. Thank you:
 I would like to receive the VCA newsletter by email.
Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Please make the necessary corrections to your mailing list.
 My name is misspelled.
 My address is incorrect.
 I received more than one newsletter.
 Please remove my name.

Return this Portion

2095 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126
Phone: 408-296-1113
Fax: 408-296-1117
Email: info@vca.org
Web: www.vca.org



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We're aiming for a perfect 10!

If everybody gives a little, it adds up to a lot! With your help, VCA is hoping to raise \$101,010 by 1/10/04. You can be one of our special supporters whose generosity and utilization of VCA's resources continues to inspire us to fulfill our mission. Your gift of \$10 will help VCA protect children and reunite families tomorrow.



Donate to VCA through the 10 CAMPAIGN!

**To find out more about the 10 Campaign, please contact our Outreach and Development Department at (408) 296-1113.*