

A mile a minute....
that is how fast your child can disappear

A MESSAGE FROM MARC



As you consider your year-end charitable giving, I invite you to support the KlaasKids Foundation with a generous donation. With more than 19 years of search and rescue (SAR) experience, community outreach, and legislative and media advocacy, KlaasKids is one of America's most active child safety organizations.

To date, KlaasKids SAR has helped 866 families of missing persons throughout the United States. We've conducted 273 searches for missing persons, including many high profile cases. *"We can never repay you for bringing resolve to the gravest, most urgent mystery of our lives. It is likely that we would have never known what happened to our daughter if your [KlaasKids] services were not made available free of charge."* – Craig Lomax.

Our Print-A-Thon program has allowed KlaasKids to travel throughout the country. We have fingerprinted, photographed, and provided a comprehensive suite of child safety materials to more than 1,000,000 children at no charge to families and without databasing personal/private information.

We led in the effort to provide government computer system

interoperability, truth-in-sentencing, Megan's Law, the Adam Walsh Act, and prevention funding for at-risk youth. We have passionately defended California's hugely successful 3 Strikes & You're Out Law. Last year we took a leadership role in California's Prop. 35, which targets human traffickers and provides much needed services for victims of human trafficking. We vow to continue to fight for victims' rights and to be a voice for those silenced by violence.

Missing nursing student Michelle Le's cousin Krystine Dinh said, *"KlaasKids offered invaluable resources, from media awareness to search center assets. We only hope that other victims' families can keep having access to KlaasKids in the future."*

Unfortunately, our funding has not kept pace with the growing demand for our services. Without your generous support, our ability to provide unparalleled service to America's families will be severely challenged.

Please join the KlaasKids Foundation in extending Polly's legacy of integrity and excellence as we move into the future. Alone none of us has the power to create significant change, but together we can change the world. ■

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLLY'S TRAGEDY: OCTOBER 1, 2013

In 1993, 868,345 persons were reported missing in the United States of America. I wish to write about, remember, and honor one of them.

1993 sometimes seems so near that I can reach out and grab it, and sometimes so distant that the details are



Polly's school photo
September 1993

blurred memories. However, since very few people who were touched by her plight ever met Polly, I will do my best to tell you about her. She was a very pretty, smart, cheerful, and engaging girl who was just beginning to realize life's potential. She was a skilled actor who could nail the first read-through of a script. She could ride a bike, had mastered swimming and wanted me to teach her how to play baseball, so that she could "play with the boys." On Sunday evenings I enjoyed sitting on the couch with Polly on one side and Violet on the other. Polly and I would cackle at Homer and Bart Simpson's mindless antics while Violet looked at us quizzically and asked what was so funny? Even in life we thought of Polly as an old soul because of the depth of her compassion and capacity for love. She was the kind of a girl who would make her presence known when she entered the room. When she left it would be with an unspoken, "Hey, remember me!"

Polly lived with her mom in Petaluma, but we had joint custody. She would spend two days a week with Violet and me, take vacations and



Violet & Marc Klaas on an emotional day -
20th year anniversary of Polly's tragedy

spend most holidays with us. We talked on the phone almost every night. The last time we spoke was on October 1. She was very enthusiastic about the slumber party she was hosting for her girlfriends. Before we hung up I told her that I loved her. "I love you too, Daddy," she replied.

If Polly were kidnapped in 2013 instead of 1993, things would have played out very differently. In 1993, when the authorities issued an APB with the stipulation that Polly's kidnapping was "Not for press release," it led to a series of systematic failures that might have cost Polly her life. Two sheriff's deputies that confronted the killer about an hour after she was kidnapped had no idea whom they were dealing with and sent him on his way instead of arresting him on the spot. Today we have interagency cooperation, written protocols, computer system interoperability, and a much greater awareness of the issue. The two deputies who helped a killer pull his car out of a ditch would have been informed and might have been able to solve the case much more quickly.

Continued on Page 3

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLLY'S TRAGEDY: OCTOBER 1, 2013



Friends, volunteers, supporters, and missing child Kevin Collins' sisters

Also, there is no doubt in my mind that today the killer would be a third striker, which means that he wouldn't have had the opportunity to kidnap, rape, and kill because he would already be incarcerated. We simply don't revolve recidivist offenders through the turnstile as quickly as we did in 1993. Finally, today we have the Amber Alert which was originally designed for this type of scenario. Unfortunately, as it has become institutionalized, its effectiveness is substantially diminished.



Friends, volunteers, supporters watching a video of Polly Klaas



KlaasKids Foundation Westcoast Search and Rescue Team left to right - Violet and Marc Klaas, Brad Dennis, Stacey Dorsey, Dan Capps, Peggy Chou, and Krystine Dinh

Ironically, I don't know how many of those changes would have occurred if it had not been for Polly. She had become the face of American victimization as quickly as her killer had become the face of crime in America. She was the symbol, first of hope and then of loss. She was the impetus, but certainly not the inspiration, for California's hugely successful 3 Strikes law. The FBI wrote the first predatory abduction protocol based on her crime, she was the Internet's first missing child, and all future community responses and volunteer search efforts have been measured against Petaluma's heroic effort.

I think that the work the KlaasKids Foundation has done on Polly's behalf has had an influence on this cause. One of the reasons that Polly's situation received so much attention is because my family and I were unrelenting in our desire to bring her home alive. Prior to Polly's kidnapping, there had been a rash of predatory abductions in the Bay Area. They would all begin with a roar and end shortly thereafter in a whimper. We embraced the media as partners,

Continued on Page 4

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLLY'S TRAGEDY: OCTOBER 1, 2013



Christina Abela, former Office Manager of BeyondMissing and Brad Dennis, Director of Search and Rescue of KlaasKids Foundation



Pat Parks, retired Petaluma Police Chief and Mark Mershon, retired FBI Deputy Director



Meredith and John Klaas, Board of Director of KlaasKids and Cathy Groves (family friend of the Klaas family)

not adversaries, and did everything that we could to keep her story alive, because we knew that if the media went home people would stop caring.

If the people stopped caring there would come a time when law enforcement would stop investigating. I feared that we would join the ranks of those caught in the limbo of “not knowing.”

Unlike other, much better funded child locator NPOs, the KlaasKids Foundation staff and volunteers do more than sit behind our desks answering phones and posting flyers on our website. We innovate, we advocate, we search, we educate, and we take a stand where others remain silent.

Late at night on October 1, 1993, when Polly was being forced into the night at knife-point, under the threat of death she said, “Please don’t hurt my mother and sister.”

At that moment in time she was the bravest little girl in the world. She remains our beacon, our inspiration and the reason that we will continue to focus on the fight for America’s children until we draw our last breath. ■



Polly’s best friend, Annette , and her son Riley

© 2013 by the KlaasKids Foundation. The *Klaas Action Review* is published quarterly for Foundation members. Dedicated to the memory of Polly Klaas, the Foundation’s purpose is to inform parents, children and communities about how to prevent crimes against children through personal action and support of legislation. Design Concept: Blackburn Design, Petaluma, CA. 20th Anniversary photography by Fletcher Irwin

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLLY'S TRAGEDY: OCTOBER 1, 2013



Volunteers Suzanne DeNubile, Krystine Dinh (cousin to nursing student Michelle Le recovered in 2011), and Bobby Davidorf



Ed and Jan Nickerman and Kim Shirley (grandparents and the mother Raina Bo Shirley recovered in 1996)



Craig Lomax, Pat Parks, and Maya Lomax (Lomaxes are parents of Linnea Lomax recovered in 2012)



Volunteers Kelby Jones, Kevin and Stephanie Thompson



Gay Smithers, Katie Romank, and her sister and Bob Smithers (the Smithers are parents of Laura Smithers recovered in 1997; Katie was a kidnap victim in 1994)



Sharon Murch with her daughter and friend (mother and sister of missing child Michalea Garecht)

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLLY'S TRAGEDY: OCTOBER 1, 2013



Marcia Slacke, Executive Director of Child Quest International; Steve and Danielle LaMar (father and sister of missing child Sierra LaMar)



Sharon and Mike Reynolds, author of 3 Strikes, and Marc Klaas



Linda Feferman, Film Director, and Candice DeLong, retired FBI profiler



Long-time supporters Mike and Corinne Smith



Volunteers Roy McClure and Krystine Dihn with Loan and Erik Duke (aunt and uncle of nursing student Michelle Le)



Volunteers Stacey Dorsey and Eva Cheer with Elle Fallahat (on the prosecution team for Polly's case)

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLLY'S TRAGEDY: OCTOBER 1, 2013

For Polly

*We raced the darkness of the night,
Your face our only guiding light.
A simple picture, but in a while,
you enchanted the nation with your smile.*

*We knew your love by a Mother's candle.
By a Father's anguish, too tough to handle.
We shared your parents, hope and pain.
We prayed our efforts weren't in vain.*

*You touched our lives and joined our hands.
Your spirit spread throughout the lands.
We assured ourselves that faith alone,
would be enough to bring you home.*

*The passing days soon turned to weeks.
Smiles strained from weary cheeks.
Our worst fears were left unspoken.
Sill, without you, all our hearts were broken.*

*Clues of your fate brought some relief,
but our hope soon turned to grief.
God in heaven heard our cries,
and Angels' tears filled somber skies.*

*Out of anger and out of shame,
we quickly sought to place the blame.
It was as though secretly we shared the fear
of a finger pointing in the mirror.*



*But now, a glance brings sweet refrain,
Because your spirit does remain.
Friendships formed, new dreams to share,
We will reach out in love and show we care.*

*It is not the first time God above,
has sacrificed innocence to reveal love.
For sweet Polly when you died,
your love by millions multiplied.*

*As we race into the darkness of the night,
Your face remains our guiding light.
We will run the race and endure each mile,
Encouraged by your enchanting smile.*



Winona Ryder and Joe Klaas
December 1993



Joe Klaas and Marc Klaas
December 5, 1993

By Brad Dennis

KLAASKIDS SEARCH AND RESCUE EAST COAST TEAM



The Greece mystery girl and the rescue of the Cleveland three, Amanda Berry, Georgina DeJesus, and Michelle Knight have captivated our hearts and the news wires throughout the past year. But what about the thousands of other missing children? The KlaasKIDS Search Center receives requests from desperate families every week to assist them.

Our Search Center offers one-on-one assistance for these families of missing children. Our volunteer case managers assist with flyer distribution, timeline creation, coordination with law enforcement, and emotional support. If search and rescue assistance is deemed appropriate, our team either provides remote search planning or our search management experts and nationally certified search team will provide on-site assistance.

With deployments to Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, California, Oregon and even the British Virgin Islands, we have seen a marked increase in the number of families requesting our

on-site assistance. Our team has conducted 26 searches this year which has resulted in the rescue of six missing persons, the extraction and rescue of four human trafficking victims, and the recovery of six missing persons including three victims of homicide.

The Foundation never charges for its services and will not raise funds while involved in a missing person search. Despite our efforts to reduce costs of our deployments, however, these costs and a lack of funds have forced us to turn down some requests. There is an obvious need for on-site assistance by our nationally trained and recognized team and we need YOUR HELP in order to provide that assistance.

The foundation receives no government funding and is 100% dependent on its donors. Monies donated to support the search center goes directly to costs associated with the search for a missing person. Please, consider helping us so we can help others.■

PLEASE DONATE TO THE KLAASKIDS FOUNDATION SO WE CAN PROVIDE OUR NEEDED SERVICES.

Please Make Your Tax Deductible Contributions to the KlaasKids Foundation Today ~ no amount is too large or too small.

There are four convenient ways to donate on www.klaaskids.org:

1. PLEASE MAKE YOUR SECURE DONATION ONLINE @

<http://www.klaaskids.org/pg-help.htm>

2. Donate your car to: <http://www.klaaskids.org/cardonate.htm>

3. MyBroker Donate: <http://mybrokerdonates.com/>

4. Checks can be made payable to KlaasKids Foundation and sent to:

KlaasKids Foundation ~ P.O. Box 925 ~ Sausalito, CA 94966

Please provide us with your e-mail address to receive the Klaas Action Review

E-mail: _____

Thank you in advance for your contribution and support!



KLAASKIDS FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 925
SAUSALITO, CA 94966
WWW.KLAASKIDS.ORG

Nonprofit Org.
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sausalito, CA
Permit No. 41

*A mile a minute....
that is how fast your child can disappear*