

## REVIEW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KLAASKIDS FOUNDATION

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



## A MESSAGE FROM MARC

Occasionally, a community draws a line in the sand after it has been visited by violent crime. Morgan Hill, California, is such a community. On March 16, 15-year-old Sierra LaMar left her house for school at about 7:15 a.m. and has not been seen since. I couldn't agree more with the Santa Clara Sheriff's Department and the FBI assessment that Sierra was the victim of a kidnapping.

The KlaasKids Foundation has been leading in the effort to recover Sierra. During the first week of the search, more than 3,500 volunteers registered at the Find Sierra Search Center. Working with the Santa Clara Sheriff's Department, we were able to dispatch hundreds of search teams and scour an area that covered a 20-mile radius around Sierra's home. KlaasKids volunteer Krystine Dinh provides a rare insider perspective of the search on page 3.

KlaasKids Search and Rescue (SAR) Director Brad Dennis and teammate Laurie Strite flew to Northern California to

organize and facilitate the massive search effort. On page 4, Laurie explains the cutting edge technology and methodology employed to ensure that this unprecedented volunteer force is well coordinated and spends its time focused on viable searches in the field. Unfortunately, Sierra has not yet been located.

During a brief respite from the search, Violet and I attended the National Child Abuse Prevention Month launch in Sacramento, California, where we met with friends old and new. We had dinner with Mark Lunsford, whose daughter Jessica inspired Jessica's Law; Mark Sconce, whose daughter Courtney fell victim to abduction and murder; and Kaine Horman, whose son Kyron has

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# A MESSAGE FROM MARC

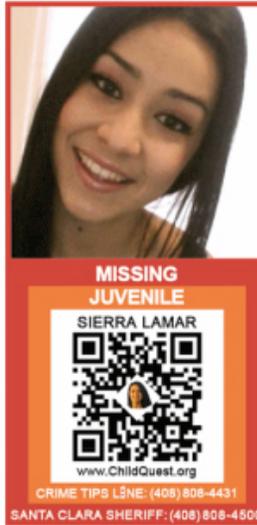
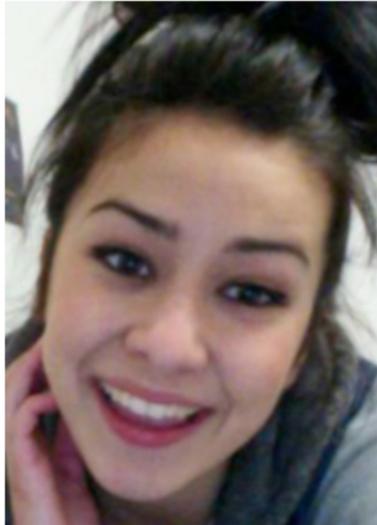
## ENDANGERED MISSING \*\*\$25,000 REWARD

DATE: 04/12/2012

CASE #: 120760368

Author ID: CQI - 15

NIC #: M090605324  
 Last Name: LaMar  
 First Name: Sierra  
 Age: 15 y/o  
 Gender: Female  
 Height: 5'2"  
 Weight: 110 lbs.  
 Eyes: Brown  
 Hair: Black (dyed)  
 Complexion: Light  
 Race: White  
 Date of Birth: 10/19/1996  
 Last Seen: 03/16/2012



been missing from Portland, OR for nearly two years.

I love these men who have refused to be defeated by tragedy. Each of them is fighting injustice by staring evil in the eye with unblinking determination. At the conclusion of our visit, the two Marks embarked upon a cross-country motorcycle run designed to raise awareness of child abuse, while Kaine returned to the Pacific Northwest to continue searching for his son and help other victims of child crime.

I have saved the best news for last. In the last issue of the *Klaas Action Review*, we discussed the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) Act, which will update Megan's Law and address the epidemic of human sex trafficking that plagues our state. With

**ENDANGERED MISSING** with suspicious circumstances: Sierra LaMar is an INVOLUNTARY MISSING 15 y/o female. Sierra IS NOT considered a runaway. **THIS IS A POSSIBLE CHILD ABDUCTION.**

Sierra was LAST SEEN on the morning of 3/16/2012 in Morgan Hill, CA. Sierra left for school but did not make it to the bus stop and was absent all day from school. Her cell phone, purse, and some clothing have been located near her Morgan Hill, CA home.

Anyone with information on Sierra LaMar's whereabouts is asked to contact the Santa Clara County Sheriff 1-408-808-4500 and 1-408-299-2311 or the ANONYMOUS TIP LINE 1-408-808-4431. Scan QR code with mobile device for additional information.

\*\*The Sierra LaMar Fund is offering this reward to the first person who provides information that leads to Sierra LaMar being returned alive & safe to her family. The trustees of the Sierra LaMar Fund, under advisement from law enforcement, shall determine, in their sole discretion, if and to whom the reward will be paid.

**Santa Clara County (CA) Sheriff 1-408-299-2311**  
**Anonymous Tip Line 1-408-808-4431**

Sierra LaMar website <http://www.FindSierraLaMar.com>

more than 865,000 signatures, the CASE Act has qualified for the California ballot in November. Now, the people will have an opportunity to create the common sense policy that our legislature has been unable to accomplish.

The search for Sierra LaMar reminds me the search for Polly. In both cases, the community has stood as one and responded with overwhelming support. In both cases, a beautiful child seemingly disappeared off the face of the earth, leaving all wondering. Like Petaluma, Morgan Hill is a quiet agri-burb of a major metropolitan area.

Let's just hope that the similarities end there. Unlike Polly, we still hope to find Sierra alive. ■

## ON THE OTHER SIDE: THE SEARCH EXPERIENCE

This routine is familiar. I wake up at 6:00am, prepared to make a long drive to a search center that promises an even longer day. Media trucks are parked outside, but this time our family is not the one they're looking to hound. A long line of volunteers forms outside. Most are not familiar faces, but their presence is calming. The emotions that come with every search are difficult for me to comprehend – I am filled with anxiety but unbeatable hope, exhaustion but perseverance. But this time, I'm on the other side. I'm a volunteer, one of the many, simply trying to make even an ounce of difference in the effort to bring Sierra home.

"Whatever it takes," I tell myself – the same phrase I repeated in my head over and over when my cousin Michelle Le went missing last May.

The first time I met Sierra's family, I was speechless. What is there to say that would suffice? They are facing a nightmare every minute of the day; they wake up each morning wondering where Sierra is and go to bed every night hoping Sierra is alive, fed, safe, warm, trying to find her way back. And on top of all of that, they have to use whatever brain power they have left to coordinate a national effort to bring Sierra home. I came to the LaMar searches knowing that it has only been six months since I faced the same emotions, fought with the same demons. I hope that I can be strong enough now to help others be strong.

And now I remember. I remember that searches give you an acute sense of how many compassionate people exist – their hearts big enough to give love to people they have never met.

It amazes me every time. Today, more than 500 volunteers of all ages have come to Morgan Hill to help search, post fliers, and promote fundraising efforts. Sixty-four teams are dispatched, extending the search radius to 20 miles around Sierra's home.

Teenagers help to make signs and tie bows. Restaurants and grocery stores donate food and water. The most passionate volunteers have found themselves in significant roles within the Search for Sierra – whether that be making phone calls or braving poison oak as searchers.

At searches, everyone is working toward something much, much bigger than themselves. And despite the ugliness that surrounds Sierra's disappearance, searches remind you that there remains so much good in the world. I am in awe of the community that is pulling together for Sierra. I hope this sends a loud, clear message to the abductors, sex offenders, human traffickers, perpetrators, kidnappers, murderers, and rapists that they will not and cannot take our loved ones without a fight. That if you take one of ours, we are not staying silent.

From what I have learned, Sierra is a fighter – always sticking up for her friends, speaking her mind, showing her loved ones that she cares for them. So I pray that her community continues to show up for her the way she would for all of them. Together, we can and will bring Sierra home, whatever it takes. ■



Krystine Dinh & Michelle Le

## USING COLLABORATIVE COMPUTING IN SEARCH AND RESCUE

In recent weeks, the KlaasKids Foundation has been deeply involved with the search for missing teenager Sierra LaMar, who vanished from the small Northern California town of Morgan Hill near Santa Cruz. As the search continues, our Search and Rescue (SAR) is utilizing today's most advanced techniques to make sure the volunteers are appropriately utilized and no stone is left unturned. A new collaborative online environment is helping to bring remote experts to the scene of the case, allowing them to contribute their experience even from a distance.

In many ways, missing person cases are similar. Immediately, tactical response begins with an analysis of Lost Person Behavior. A one-mile radius is set up. Egress points are checked. Canvassing occurs. Time is of the essence. After the first few days, however, each missing person case becomes unique. The case takes on more life and urgency as the community gets involved and media attention escalates.

Search and rescue personnel across the United States will often follow the case no matter where they are located. Not all of these experts can get on a plane and fly out to be on site. Yet many have much to offer and want nothing more than to help.

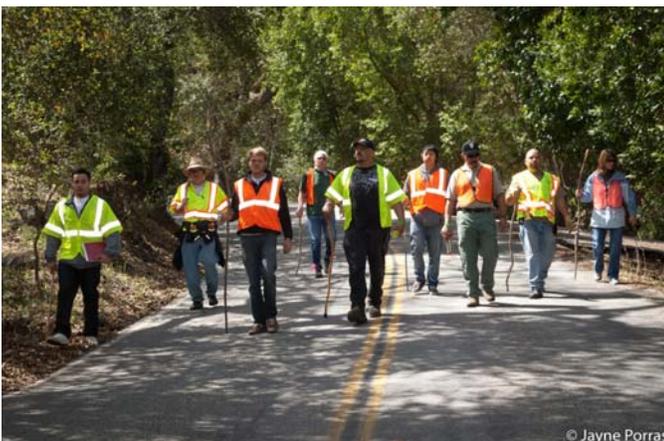
This is where the Sierra LaMar case has become unique. The KlaasKids Foundation is using advanced technology to design and implement an innovative collaborative computing SAR environment that harnesses the Internet, satellite mapping tools, topographical mapping, video/audio teleconferencing, and file sharing methods to allow many people to work together with one goal in mind.

This environment has allowed trained professional Search and Rescue personnel across five different states (FL, AL, TN, MI, and NC) to participate in the search mapping and planning process as if they were physically present in the command center – in real time! With two planners on site in Morgan Hill, CA, a total of

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## SEARCHERS HELP TO FIND SIERRA LAMAR

*Photos provided by Jayne Porras*



## KLAASKIDS PARTICIPATES IN A COALITION OF CARING

As the storm clouds drifted out of Sacramento, CA, the sunshine rolled in. We saw one advocates face after another, arriving to help kick off the April 50-state National Child Abuse Prevention Month (NCAMP) campaign. The KlaasKids Foundation team was being joined by many others who operate daily on the front lines for children. They included old friends like Mark Lunsford and Robin Sax, and new ones such as Kaine Horman. All these caring individuals came together to work in harmony with the Army of Angels to coordinate a compassionate coalition devoted to one common cause.

The weekend of festivities began with a reception at the local restaurant outlet Wingstop to introduce the 2012 Kross Kountry-4-Kids. This cross-country motorcycle tour is designed as a



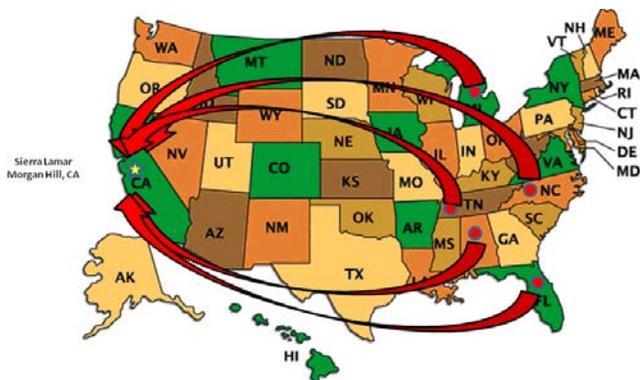
Mark Lunsford and Marc Klaas

peaceful, two-week demonstration in support of America's children. There was an air of excitement about the gathering as we became better acquainted and got geared up for the flurry of activities ahead. Event leaders Rachel Jackson and Colonel Antonio Monico, who flew in from

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## USING COLLABORATIVE COMPUTING IN SEARCH AND RESCUE

*Continued from Page 4*



seven search planners used this new environment to share information and plan search areas for six days straight.

Skilled search planners also wrote assignments for up to 750 community volunteers per day to help in the search effort. The experience and the real-time availability of the search

planners resulted not only in quantity of search assignments but more quality in search assignments as well. The use of mapping tools track everywhere that has been searched and everywhere that is planned to be searched.

By unifying these capabilities without even setting foot on a plane, the KlaasKids Foundation is sponsoring a valuable new tool to the field of Search and Rescue. While the community provided the volunteers to search, KlaasKids is introducing powerful new search and rescue techniques. KlaasKids has harnessed search and rescue responder skills from across the United States making the Sierra Lamar case a unique example of teamwork and perhaps the start of a new era in Search and Rescue. ■

## CALIFORNIA DEATH PENALTY ON THE BALLOT

**P**olly's killer has been on Death Row since 1996. This November, California voters will be asked to overturn his sentence and the death sentences of 723 other serial killers, baby killers, cop killers, and mass murderers. A proposition called the SAFE Act (Savings, Accountability, and Full Enforcement), will appear on California's ballot to retroactively outlaw the death penalty in favor of life without the possibility of parole.

The SAFE effort is being led by so-called abolitionists associated with the ACLU, who claim that we should abolish the death penalty because it's broken. Ironically, they point to today's administrative bottlenecks, many of which they themselves created over the years, as justification. They believe that voters will be fooled into approving an initiative that will reward evil scum under the guise of alleged cost saving.

The true answer is more simple: If the death penalty is broken, mend it, don't end it.

First, adopt one standard drug for executions. Several states, including Ohio, Washington, and Arizona, use a constitutionally valid single drug for executions. Since 2009, Ohio has conducted 14 executions using this method. Executions in California, however, have been delayed because death penalty opponents endlessly file appeals claiming the current three-drug method is unconstitutional because it may be "cruel and unusual." The final ten minutes of a remorseless killer's life are not legitimate grounds to delay the death penalty.

Second, SAFE supporters assert that the final appeals process and the death penalty itself is too expensive for the state to maintain. Yet there is no objective data that elimination of the death penalty will save money. The studies relied upon

by death penalty opponents were created based on their own data and their credibility is highly questionable. The only unbiased study to determine the true cost was done by the RAND Corporation, a nonpartisan organization. RAND found there was no objective data available to give a true estimate of the costs of the death penalty.

There certainly is no question that the automatic appeals process is arduous and burdensome. Over the years there have been many legislative and constitutional efforts to fix this problem. Retired California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron George endorsed a constitutional amendment to allow Appeals Courts to hear such appeals, which would significantly reduce costs and delays. Other recommendations have been to modify and limit the time for filing certain types of appeals, and to require defense attorneys to take appeals. Currently, California has more than 171,000 practicing attorneys, yet only about 100 are qualified to represent automatic appeals.

Unfortunately, elected officials who advocate on behalf of death row inmates never allow those legislative changes to see the light of day. On April 17, I testified before the Senate Public Safety Committee on two measures that would have streamlined the process. Senate Bill 1514 would have eliminated the automatic appeal in cases, like Polly's, where guilt was never in doubt. It was defeated by a straight party vote. Senate Constitutional Amendment 20 (SCA 20) would have amended the California Constitution so that appeals of death penalty cases would go to the California Court of Appeals instead of the California Supreme Court. Our 105 Appeals Court justices would be able to rule on many more death penalty appeals than the seven

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## KLAASKIDS PARTICIPATES IN A COALITION OF CARING

North Carolina, could not seem to meet other guests fast enough, eagerly discussing other potential collaborations for this focused team.

A few hours of sleep later, participants regrouped for the ride sendoff from Folsom Harley-Davidson, where the sound of motorcycles was married with the singing voice of four-year-old Logan Lunsford. Logan was delighted to realize that he would be traveling to Washington DC and along with his father, learning the fine art of lobbying at a very young age. Members of the media conducted interviews and broadcast live as participants such as Mark and Cindy Sconce made final preparations for the two-week trip.

Shortly after the motorcycles pulled out, dozens of new groups were piling into the Sunrise Event Center, where they enjoyed a Leadership Luncheon that spelled out the current state of affairs and what can be done for our cause of protecting children. Missing Kyron Horman's father Kaine was honored as Honorary Social Worker of the Year, paralleling his continued quest to locate his son with the family film *Finding Nemo* – a reference that moved the entire audience to tears and drove effectively home the significance of our meaningful mission.

By evening, the crowd had doubled in size to shop a giant silent auction before seating themselves to attend the NCAPM grand finale – the Heroes With Heart Gala honoring several dozen individuals and groups that devote their time and resources to protecting children.

It was great to see honorees such as the California Highway Patrol officers acknowledged

for their work on the Amber Alert, as well as the Eastern Division U.S. Marshals acclaimed for efforts enforcing the Adam Walsh Act. These awards complemented a giant screen teleconference with Ed Smart and the Kross Kountry-4-Kids team, who by this time had reached Ontario, CA.

This outstanding weekend helped unite the Army of Angels and inspire us with new purpose as we utilize the National Child Abuse Prevention Month of April to build a more comprehensive, cohesive system of care for our children from coast to coast. ■

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## CALIFORNIA DEATH PENALTY ON THE BALLOT

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Supreme Court justices, greatly easing the backlog. SCA 20 was defeated because it would cost too much.

The death penalty has historically been supported by a majority of Californians. The law of the land and the will of the people have been subverted by administrative shenanigans, frivolous appeals, endless delays, and moral bankruptcy. The very individuals and organizations that have created a broken system in California now want the voters to legitimize their misanthropic actions.

California's so-called SAFE Act mocks our system of crime and punishment as it attempts to give our worst criminals the very thing that they denied their victims: the right to live their lives in safety and die in peace. ■

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# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT - HELP FIGHT CRIME!

*Contributions to the KlaasKids Foundation are tax deductible.*

There are four convenient ways to donate on [www.klaaskids.org](http://www.klaaskids.org):

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3. MyBroker Donate: [www.mybrokerdonates.com](http://www.mybrokerdonates.com)
4. Checks can be made payable to KlaasKids Foundation and sent to:  
KlaasKids Foundation ~ P.O. Box 925 ~ Sausalito, CA 94966

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*Thank you in advance  
for your contribution and support!*



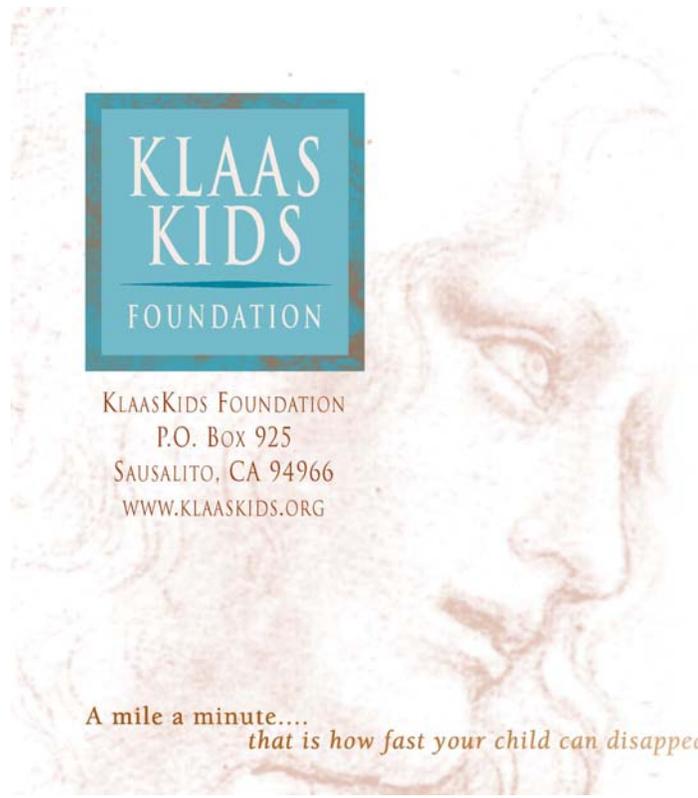
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