

REVIEW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KLAASKIDS FOUNDATION

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



A MESSAGE FROM MARC

Happy New Year and welcome to the 45th edition of the *Klaas Action Review*. While 2012 holds the promise of success and breakthroughs, we have not abandoned the unfinished business of the past. KlaasKids will continue to pursue collaborative relationships in the legislative, social, and business arenas so that we can maximize our impact as we work to protect kids from neglect, abuse, and abduction.

On February 5, KlaasKids will be in Indianapolis, IN, to participate in the fourth consecutive outreach at Super Bowl XLVI. The Super Bowl is annually marred by a huge upswing in the sex trade as pimps and traffickers from around the country descend on the host city to sell their young “merchandise” to visiting fans. Our teams routinely patrol the city and work with those in the trade to try to rescue them from the streets.

In preparation, the coalition is already monitoring several Internet sites used for commercial sex advertising. As in past years, we will work closely with the Florida

Coalition Against Human Trafficking, local children’s charities, and law enforcement to identify and rescue human trafficking victims. We will also conduct community outreach to raise awareness about the human trafficking epidemic that diminishes this iconic sports event.

On March 31st and April 1st, KlaasKids will be participating in the National Child Abuse Prevention Month kickoff in Sacramento, CA. We will join forces with thousands of volunteers, businesses, and organizations from coast to coast to raise awareness and much-needed funding. Mark Lunsford and Mark Sconce, who both lost their children to abduction and murder, will lead a motorcycle rally from California to Washington D.C. and back. Criminal profiler Pat Brown will

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A MESSAGE FROM MARC

also be on hand to raise awareness and bring attention to this important issue. Local law enforcement will be honored for their advocacy at the Heroes with Hearts gala.

We are also working with Chris Kelly's Safer California Foundation (<http://ftsblog.net/>), Californians Against Slavery (<http://californiaagainstsavery.org/>) and Motivating, Inspiring Supporting & Serving Sexually Exploited Youth (MISSEY www.missey.org), to address the double scourges of domestic sex trafficking and sex offender registration. Our goal is to collect enough signatures to put the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) Act on the November 2012 ballot. The CASE Act is designed to strengthen penalties against human trafficking and improve Megan's Law against online predators.

CASE will punish traffickers with harsh fines that will be used to fund victim services, strengthen prison sentences, and mandate law enforcement training. It will also bring Megan's Law into the 21st century by requiring registered sex offenders to include Internet identifiers as a component of the registration process.

The CASE Act will enable social networking websites to scrub relevant profiles from their online communities. If you live in California, please sign the CASE Act petition (<http://www.caseact.org/case/sign/>) today so that we will have an opportunity to pass this voter-initiated policy in November.

Your gifts and your time are greatly appreciated in this important cause. Join us in helping all our children in 2012! ■

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JOIN THE APRIL NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Get involved in National Child Abuse Prevention Month and help support the KlaasKids Foundation! Efforts are well underway for a 50-state campaign that will unite thousands of volunteers and hundreds of organizations to achieve our common goal of eliminating crimes against children.

The KlaasKids Foundation is excited to kick off National Child Abuse Prevention Month with at least ten delegates from each state who have agreed to function as a voice and a set of helping hands for kids. They are joining forces with law enforcement representatives, the justice community, social services, educators, entrepreneurs, advocates and parents – all working to make a difference in the lives of children, one meaningful moment at a time.

A series of events will kick off this coast-to-coast campaign on Sunday, April 1, in Sacramento, CA. In the morning, the Kross



Kountry-4-Kids motorcycle Journey for Justice will depart for Washington, D.C. to generate awareness and

resources for children. This epic event will be followed by a Leadership Luncheon, Family Safety Symposium, and Heroes with Heart Gala.

High-profile advocates known for stepping onto the front lines to protect children from predators will be available throughout the day. Author and criminal profiler Pat Brown, who will be releasing her new book, *How to Save Your Daughter's Life*, will be honored for her work on behalf of children at the Heroes with Heart Gala.



John Lobertini-Clear Channel Radio (left); Kathleen Moore-NCAPM Campaign Coordinator (Center) and Marc Klaas-President and Founder of Klaas Kids Foundation (right) at 2010 NCAPM opening ceremonies.

There are numerous ways that you can assist this important campaign: from helping to produce, sponsor, or support opening ceremonies to securing the involvement of businesses and community organizations. We would like to invite everyone who would like to make a positive contribution to join our National Child Abuse Prevention Month education and awareness effort.

You can demonstrate your support of and sustained interest in this important cause by simply dedicating a minimum of 30 minutes a day to the project between now and the end of April. Together, we can work toward the eradication of child abuse and neglect.

For additional information or to become involved, please contact National Child Abuse Prevention Month Campaign Coordinator Kathleen Moore at 916-259-4396 and visit the project on line at www.armyofangels.biz. ■

CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS: UNDERSTANDING THE CASE ACT

The KlaasKids Foundation, Californians Against Sexual Exploitation, and MISSEY are now in the process of collecting signatures to put the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act on the November ballot. This proposition makes significant and common sense reforms to California's laws and toughen prosecution of sexual predators and exploiters once and for all.

We have begun the effort to collect 800,000 signatures by April – a number we believe we will

reach with your help. If you live in California, please sign the CASE Act petition at <http://www.caseact.org/case/sign/> today!

Year after year, we have asked the California legislature to toughen criminal penalties and increase the fines on those who exploit women and children for profit as a form of modern-day slavery. You may also know that we have asked for a strengthening of Megan's Law to stop online predators from using the Internet as a tool for exploitation. But so far, legislators have failed to finish the work our citizens have started.

That's why the CASE Act is so critical. When passed by the voters this November, this act will:

1. Push back on the criminals who exploit women and children:

- Increase prison terms for human traffickers;
- Deter traffickers with higher penalties and fines;
- Use fines to fund victim services.

2. Protect women, girls, and boys in new and important ways:

- Protect victims in court proceedings;
- Remove barriers to prosecuting child sex traffickers;
- Mandate training for law enforcement officers.

3. Expand Megan's Law and strengthen online protections:

- Require convicted sex traffickers to register as sex offenders;
- Require all sex offenders to



CASE Act Kick-Off Press Conference in San Francisco with participants: Daphne Phung, Chris Kelly, Congresswomen Jackie Speier, Marc Klaas and Law Enforcement Leaders

disclose Internet accounts.

On Wednesday, January 11, leaders from across the state gathered in San Francisco to formally launch the campaign to pass the CASE Act. It also marked National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The gathering included Marc Klaas, along with Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Chris Kelly of the Safer California Foundation, and law enforcement representatives from Southern and Northern California, as well as Leah Albright-Byrd, a survivor of human trafficking.

At the event, Leah shared her personal story of being exploited at age 14 in San

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MISSEY: IN THE TRENCHES WITH EXPLOITED YOUTH

One of KlaasKids' partners in the petition drive for the CASE Act ballot proposition is an organization called Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting, and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth (MISSEY). Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, MISSEY coordinates services for commercially sexually exploited children (CSECs).

As explained by co-founder Nola Brantley, herself a survivor of the streets, every day some of the Bay Area's most vulnerable youth are sexually exploited for profit. They are bought and sold, beaten, drugged, hustled, molested, and raped. Ultimately, they are discarded when they no longer fetch a price.

"Through MISSEY, we're seeing for the most part 'systems-involved children' – those who are part of the foster care system, who have



Artistic expression from a commercially sexually exploited child

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Francisco and Las Vegas. She was put to work having sex with no way out and was terrified for her life. Leah also remembered a friend – Bridget – whom Leah had talked into joining her in the sex trade. Bridget was subsequently strangled to death by a john.

Chris Kelly of the Safer California Foundation also spoke about the need to close online loopholes and toughen Megan's Law. The CASE Act requires more thorough registration for all sex offenders include electronic identifiers, email address, IM handles, and other online IDs. This will allow online sites to be more effective in tracking those who have already been convicted of these offenses.

In a call for tougher fines and penalties, Congresswoman Speier spoke on commercial sexual exploitation of children, which today is both less risky and more profitable than selling drugs. In fact, a pimp selling just four children can earn more than \$600,000 per year. What does it say about our country when a person is more likely to serve time for selling marijuana than for selling a 14-year-old girl?

This event was just the beginning. Volunteers across California are already collecting signatures and we ask you to join them. Please download a petition at CASEAct.org and ask your friends, family, and everyone you know to sign. ■

<http://www.caseact.org/case/sign/>

MISSEY: IN THE TRENCHES WITH EXPLOITED YOUTH



been removed from their families due to previous abuse and neglect; or those who are part of the probation system... due to their being beyond their parents' control," Nola said in a recent blogtalkradio.com interview. "For all the children, we are seeing

poverty, lack of care and supervision, and there's a lot of previous sexual abuse."

Today, the number of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSECs) is increasing in the U.S., while their average age is decreasing. The victims are usually girls aged 12 to 13 years (though boys are trafficked as well), and are often but by no means always runaways. Buyers for their services are usually married men. Nationally, 86% of these children are abused or assaulted by their customers.

MISSEY was founded in 2007 to respond to this heartbreaking epidemic. The organization provides advocacy, specialized treatment and recovery services, education, and training and data reporting. Its programs include the nation's first intensive case management program for CSECs and a drop-in center called the SPA (Safe Place Alternative).

Advocates provide crisis response, assessment, and client stabilization. Long-term intensive case managers focus on providing a safe place to live, offering therapeutic services, and transitioning clients into a safe and healthy lifestyle. The SPA was created especially for children to receive

specialized services along with participating in life development and empowerment programs. It provides relief from the stressors of life and create a safe, reliable place to relax, learn, and grow toward a new life.

MISSEY has set six goals in its work with sexually exploited children. They include:

- For CSECs and sexually exploited youth to be recognized as victims instead of criminals. These children are victims of child sexual abuse in the form of sexual exploitation, not child prostitutes.
- For education and awareness to be brought to the issues surrounding CSECs. The commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth occurs in many forms, including child prostitution. Not every exploited child is on the streets, either.
- For a comprehensive service model and crisis centers to be established for CSECs. These children need and deserve specialized treatment, as well as non-judgmental, maternal, and innovative services provided by a youthful staff with relevant life experience.
- For CSECs to be provided with services focusing on their healing and recovery. Creating a permanent record of a child's sexual exploitation through media or any other means further exploits the child.
- A national movement that recognizes the issues of CSECs, which requires law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, and social services to respond to these children as victims instead of criminals. ■

To learn more about MISSEY, please visit the organization's website at www.misseey.org

WHY I SUPPORT THE DEATH PENALTY

On Oct. 1, 2011, Marc Klaas took part in a *New Yorker* Festival panel debating the pros and cons of the death penalty. This article is the second in a three-part series outlining the issues surrounding this controversial topic.

He is only 20 years old, slight of frame, with a receding hairline and a bad complexion. His name is Ryan Brunn and he possesses qualities that are both unique and rare to mankind. He lacks conscience and receives great joy from inflicting pain and suffering upon others. Such great joy, in fact, that his most recent bloodlust was only satisfied after he had kidnapped, bludgeoned, raped, stabbed, and murdered seven-year-old Jorelys Rivera. He disposed of her remains by tossing her into a dumpster, compressing her tortured little body in the dumpster compactor and hoping that his crime would not be discovered. But it was.

Brunn was not regurgitated from Hell into the apartment complex in Canton, GA, on a Thursday so that he could attack little Jorelys on Friday. He had been preparing for his moment for two decades. As the authorities retrace the steps of his life, they will no doubt uncover other victims who were able to escape the full wrath of his budding sadism.

Unfortunately, as they do so these unfortunates will be forced to relive their own pain, suffering, and extreme victimization. The animal victims will not. Perhaps it was while torturing and killing animals that he first became sexually aroused. He would not be the first, as this is a common trait among sexual sadists.

Jorelys is not dead simply because Brunn wanted to eliminate witnesses to his rape. If it were that simple, he could have strangled her to

death. Instead he leveled incalculable violence upon her little body in the form of blunt force trauma and stab wounds. It was only in the throes of this massive perversion that he was able to achieve the sexual release that was the goal of his attack. Had he not been captured he would have repeated this scenario again... and again... and again.

It is the memory of little Jorelys that will sustain him for the next several decades. He will sit in his cell and relive his greatest triumph through dreams, masturbation, and other facets of his twisted



Murder Victim, Jorelys Rivera

imagination. It is only his death that will finally free Jorelys from her ongoing victimization.

How do I know these things to be true? Fifteen years ago I spent six months sitting in a courtroom as prosecutors built the case against my daughter Polly's killer. I listened to psychiatrist after psychologist detail the mind of a sexually sadistic psychopath. Their arguments were so convincing that he was sentenced to death. He still sits on death row and, as he told psychiatrist Lewelen Jones, he "masturbates twice daily and thinks of tying up female victims of past crimes."

I can think of no better justification for the death penalty. ■

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:

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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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