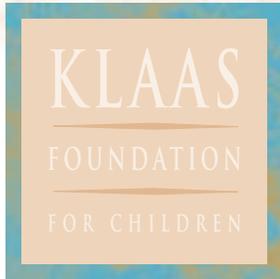


KLAAS ACTION REVIEW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MARC KLAAS FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN



A MESSAGE FROM MARC

In the recent techno-crime movie, *The Net*, Sandra Bullock instantly accesses her forged criminal history, complete with photo, on a computer monitor. It's a technology we see constantly in movies and on TV, and I think most of us assume that it must be based in reality. But if it is, why were Sonoma County Sheriff's deputies unable to access the criminal history of Richard Allen Davis the night they had him in custody—the night beautiful 12-year-old Polly was abducted and murdered?

Unfortunately, the answer is simple—there was no super computer system to aid Polly that fateful evening. In fact, until quite recently, access to comprehensive histories of known felons existed only in theory. In some states, a violent felon can cross county lines and effectively erase his criminal history. This makes it almost impossible to adequately investigate, charge, or prosecute repeat felons, leaving them to prey on an innocent and unsuspecting public.

Art Becomes Reality

However, the technology to access this vital information does now exist: California's experimental Violent Crime Information Network (VCIN) gives law enforcement abilities equal to those imagined by film makers. It allows them to effectively track and monitor

violent predators through many diverse criteria—by name, physical description, vehicle registration, identifying body marks, tattoos, etc. The VCIN would have prevented Richard Allen Davis from evading law enforcement for 65 days while we were looking for Polly.

Vital Data Cheaper, Faster

The VCIN uses information from the DMV database, the Department of Justice sex offender registry, probation files, federal offender files, and local and regional systems. Information can be downloaded directly to patrol cars, giving officers a better tool for protecting themselves and the public. Police and incident reports are entered directly into the system, circumventing much paperwork. And it does all this without requiring changes to existing databases, making it cost-effective as well.

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DOCTOR HITS TOP SPEED FOR KIDS

By Joe Klaas

A drag race purse donated by a chiropractor is one of the most unusual and welcome gifts to the Klaas Foundation for Children.

Dr. Richard Brophy, a champion race driver on weekends—who on weekdays treats chiropractic patients in Oakland, Fresno, Brentwood, and Mountain View, California—turned a \$1,000 prize he won in a driving demonstration of his “Final Countdown Jet Dragster,” an 8,000-horsepower, 6,000 pounds-thrust jet dragster, over to Marc Klaas to help in the struggle for child safety throughout the United States.

The presentation by “Doc” Brophy took place before 50,000 cheering fans of the national Hot Rod Association Autolite Nationals at Sonoma’s Sears Point Raceway.

“Sears Point Raceway is proud to be associated with him,” the track’s Director of Community Affairs Rob Lopez said in commending Doc and his jet dragster “for providing thrilling and highly entertaining shows for all age groups.”

Countdown to Speed

Brophy’s “Final Countdown” is a 280-inch Hedebeck & Segal prepared jet chassis, powered by a Westinghouse J-34 turbo jet engine. It is the quickest and fastest J-34 dragster in the world, posting a 5.71-second track time and a speed in excess of 290 miles per hour.

Since 1983, Brophy has been drawn to speed. He began his racing career in 1985 driving drag boats,

advancing to the “comp hydro” class in 1987 and finished second in the nation to be nominated for Driver of the Year.

In 1988 Doc moved from water to land in the quickest and fastest “Super Eliminator” category, in which he finished second and was named “Rookie of the

Year” and became 1989’s “Super Eliminator Champion.”

Again named Rookie of the Year in 1991 by the California Independent Funny Car Association, he began driving Top Alcohol Funny Cars in 1992–93 and soon was piloting his world’s fastest 290-miles-per-hour Final Countdown in 1994 to post an impressive 88.2% win record.



Top Speed for Kids: “Doc” Rick Brophy’s 290-miles-per-hour “Final Countdown” championship dragster, a winner for the Klaas Foundation for Children.

“I want to help Marc Klaas in his crusade to protect children,” Brophy says.

“It’s Something that Needs to be Done”

“I want to help Marc Klaas in his crusade to protect children,” Brophy said. “It’s something I don’t have time to do, but that needs to be done. God bless Marc for doing it for all of us.”

Brophy holds a degree as a chiropractic physician from Palmer Chiropractic College West. His four-city practice flourishes along with his racing career. ■

© 1996 by the Klaas Foundation for Children. 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. Editorial: Freeman Communications, Berkeley, CA. Design Concept: Blackburn Design, Petaluma, CA. Printing: Lively Printing, Novato, CA.

“KLAASKIDS” HOME PAGE CRAWLS ONTO THE WEB

The Foundation announced the development of “Klaaskids,” a new home page for the Klaas Foundation for Children, in early February. Designed to become the nation’s definitive Internet resource on children’s protection issues, the web site will also feature commentary on the Polly Klaas murder trial as soon as jury selection is complete.

Klaaskids contains a welcome message from Klaas and information about the Foundation, as well as a section called “Alert” with the latest news on the “Kids Off Lists” campaign to remove names of children from commercial databases (see page 6 for some startling details).

“In order to create a safer society for America’s children, we need to have a national dialogue on these issues,” Klaas said. “We will be using this Internet site to campaign for more effective ways to monitor and punish predators who target children. We are creating a network that links parents and organizations to share information on ways to protect our kids.”

To be found on the Web as <http://www.klaaskids.inter.net>, the site is still under construction. Several new elements, such as “Speak Out”, “Legislative Update,” a national directory of resources on children’s issues and a poster contest for kids will go on-line during the spring. ■

MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR CHILDREN

The Klaas Foundation for Children is working with sister nonprofit Stand for Children to implement a march on Washington, DC’s Lincoln Memorial on June 1, 1996.

This historic gathering is a call to action for America’s children, with a focus on the steps that every American can take to ensure that no child is left behind. Organizers plan to bring the same high profile to vital social issues as did the “Million Man March” last year.

For more information please call 1/800-233-1200 or 202/234-0095, and look out for more in the spring issue of *Klaas Action Review*. ■

GOMES IS CONTRA COSTA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Janice Gomes, coordinator of the Foundation’s National Community Empowerment Program, has won the 1995 Volunteer of the Year Award from the Office of the Sheriff in Contra Costa County, California. She was also recognized for having donated the most hours ever to that community, and for having worked over 900 hours on youth-related programs. The awards were given at a ceremony held in Martinez, California, in December.

“It’s a tremendous honor to have received these awards,” Gomes said. “I was so surprised, since I don’t think about what I do in terms of recognition. I was shocked to learn that I was recommended by Lt. Hunt of the Sheriff’s Office.”

Gomes’ work includes setting up 60 Neighborhood Watch programs in

the town of Oakley, and coordinating a total of approximately 95 groups for the Klaas Foundation for Children.

“My role is to educate citizens on becoming proactive to crime in neighborhood situations,” she said. “Police are by definition usually reactive. We teach everyday people to work together to prevent crime, rather than just relying on law enforcement to respond to it.

“We live in a day and age where people are getting discouraged,” Gomes added. “Often, citizens want to know what police are going to do about crime. But they need to realize that it’s got to start at home. A lot of children don’t feel that they have a future. We try to get out and educate people to take away that fear factor for their kids.” ■

MARC’S MESSAGE (CONT.)

Calling for Citizen Support

That’s the good news. Unfortunately, California is strapped for cash, and is unable to adequately fund this vital project. Currently, the VCIN is being implemented very successfully on a pilot project basis in San Mateo and San Diego Counties. But the United States deserves a fully implemented model from which to pattern similar programs throughout the country, meaning that both state and federal dollars are needed. I encourage citizens of all states to contact their legislators drawing attention to this important innovation and urging support of VCIN.



ASSURING THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

By William J. Clinton

One of the most prominent readers of the Klaas Action Review is America's President, Bill Clinton. In this issue, he outlines recent federal changes that have strengthened America's response to crimes against children.

It is a great honor to write a column for the *Klaas Action Review*. Let me begin by commending my friend, Marc Klaas. I admire Marc's unbridled passion to protect America's most precious resource, our children. His courage and resolve to prevent child abduction are helping to give all parents additional ways to maintain their children's safety. No parent should suffer the tragedy he experienced with the loss of his daughter, Polly.

What Has the Federal Response Been?

The federal government must do all it can to help state and local law authorities solve child abduction cases. That is why, in response to the Jimmy Ryce case in South Florida, I issued the Memorandum on Missing Children on January 19, 1996. The Memorandum directs federal government buildings and facilities to provide space for the posting of missing persons or children notices in

One of the latest pieces of legislation is the Memorandum on Missing Children, which directs federal buildings to provide space to post notices about missing children.

public and other appropriate places. This is a small but important step in the right direction in assisting parents in their efforts to find abducted children.

The nation owes Marc a great deal for his outspoken efforts to help break six years of Congressional deadlock and bring about passage of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. He came to

Washington on several occasions to push for the bill,

and he stood at my side when I signed it into law. More commonly known as the "Crime Act," this legislation is the toughest and smartest anti-crime legislation ever enacted. The Crime Act places 100,000 new community policing officers on our streets, bans deadly assault weapons, and makes "Three Strikes and You're Out" the

law of the land. The Crime Act also does much more to protect the safety of our children.

Protecting Children Against Sex Offenders

The Crime Act also contained the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, which provides states with a financial incentive to adopt effective registration systems for convicted child molesters and other persons convicted of sexually violent crimes.

It further permits community notification concerning the location of registered offenders when it is necessary for public safety. In addition, the Crime Act established the Morgan P. Hardiman Task Force on Missing and Exploited Children Act, comprised of law enforcement officers from every federal agency who will coordinate resources to assist state and local authorities in investigating the most difficult cases of missing and exploited children.

The Justice Department has several other existing programs and operations dedicated to child protection issues. For instance, the Child Abduction and Serial Killer unit (CASKU), a rapid response element in the FBI, devotes its technical and forensic expertise to the investigation of the abduction or mysterious disappearance of children. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), within the Justice Department, annually provides training and technical assistance to approximately 4,500 local law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, and professionals who investigate missing children cases.

National Center Sees Strong Success

OJJDP coordinates its efforts with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a nonprofit organization funded in part by the Justice Department. The Center serves as a national resource for information on missing and exploited children issues. One of its most important services is a toll-free hotline for missing children reports—the number is 1/800-THE-LOST. The Center also possesses a dedicated staff that works around the clock and uses advanced technology to bring our missing children home. The Center should be commended for successfully recovering about 78% of the children that



President Clinton signed an executive order on Jan. 19, 1996, mandating that federal buildings allow space to post missing child notices. The President was joined at the signing in the Oval Office by Americans who have been victims of this crime, including (left to right): Don and Claudine Ryce, Marc Klaas, Colleen Nick, Adam Croote, and Linda Koerner. They were joined by Representative Peter Deutsch (D-FL), to the right.

they have endeavored to locate. The Center also created Project Alert, which trains retired police officers to respond to state and local law enforcement requests for assistance on missing children cases. The Administration

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has successfully recovered about 78% of the children that they have endeavored to locate.

for Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services coordinates its National Runaway Switchboard, which is a national hotline for both young people and for parents to call if their child is missing.

How Has the Klaas Foundation Helped?

The Klaas Foundation for Children is serving an integral role in providing greater safety to children across the country. Recently in the San Francisco Bay Area, 3,000

children were fingerprinted and photographed with Child Safety Packets developed by the Foundation. The Foundation has distributed thousands of these packets to local communities throughout the United States. In addition, along with MTC Partners, the Klaas Foundation introduced the Family 800 CallHome Card. This will allow any child to call home at any time without coins.

Our nation's children, their safety and welfare, is a top priority of my administration. They are our future and must be protected. We are doing all we can at the federal level to assist state and local authorities to bring missing children home; but we can never do enough. All of us must face this challenge together and work to create the safest environment for our children, to provide them the future they deserve. ■

METROMAIL PROFITS BY ENDANGERING KIDS

By Blair Richardson, Attorney-at-Law

When we think of protecting our children, we tend to think of guarding them against molesters, teaching them ways to deal with bullies, and how to say no to drugs or rides with strangers. It doesn't occur to us that U.S. companies are actively peddling information about our children—including names, ages, addresses, and phone numbers—to any stranger who asks. But it's true. One such company is Metromail Corporation, which stands out for engaging in irresponsible dissemination of data about our children, in ways that should alarm every parent.

900 Number Gives Out Data

Metromail Corporation, a subsidiary

Cherish the time you spend with me—there are no guarantees I'll be here tomorrow

Help me to grow up with values that I can be proud to pass on to the next generation

Imagine all the people living life in peace"

Lead the way to making my community safe so I don't have to be afraid

Dream of the day when all children can be free from abuse

Respect me for who I am, not who you want me to be

Explore the possibilities of teaching others how they can make a difference

Never forget the children lost to crime—their stories will stay with me a lifetime

—Alissa Carrie, Age 15

of \$6.4-billion printing giant R. R. Donnelley & Sons, is a large database compiler with over \$200 million in annual sales. It gathers and sells information about consumers and their children to marketers, the government, and individuals. It also sells information on children through mailing lists, and its advertising boasts of "3,200 innovative sources" for information on babies.

It recently came to light that Metromail has been selling information about children over a 900 number and online. It has been possible for anyone to call the company and ask for the address of an individual child by name, or to ask for addresses of a group of children, for \$3.00 per minute. It has even been possible to call Metromail with just an address, and have them tell you the name, age, and phone number of the child who lives there.

Convicts Process Information

Far worse, some of Metromail's consumer surveys—including information about children—were provided to Texas prisoners in 1994 for keypunching. Among them were rapists and other sex offenders and violent criminals.

The results of this project? One woman has been terrorized by an inmate who wrote to let her know he knew where she lived, what she liked, and what he wanted to do to her sexually. Another inmate was quoted as saying that "inmates saw information that was so private, it would motivate them. It motivated them to the point where they were on a natural high...." The project was cancelled following a petition drive from a Texas victims rights group.

Metromail Defends Its Abuses

Metromail and Donnelley have never apologized to the woman who was victimized, nor notified the parents of children whose data was provided to the sex offenders. Metromail has defended the online and 900-number services as legitimate, but was forced to cancel them just recently because of exposure from a competitor and the press. The company has since attempted to blame the whistleblowers for suggesting ways to misuse the service.

Metromail was also caught selling voter registration data for unlawful purposes throughout the '80s and early '90s. Its response to the *Wall Street Journal* was that the laws protecting these voters were just not on the company's "radar screen."

Let Donnelley Know How You Feel

Metromail and Donnelley's unwavering stance does little to dispel concern about the company's ethics concerning children's safety. The Klaas Foundation for Children has urged R. R. Donnelley to use its considerable resources and influence to support legislation to protect data on children. Until this is accomplished, however, the Klaas Foundation and a growing number of citizens feel that this company has forfeited the right to maintain dossiers on American children.

The first step toward protecting our children is to deny child molesters access to information. Let R. R. Donnelley know how you feel by sending your letters to: **77 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL, 60601.** Ask them what they have on your child and where they got it. Then tell them to remove your family's data. They will get the message. ■

3,000 KIDS ARE SAFER IN SONOMA

Clowns, toys, and rockin' good music marked the Klaas Foundation's Safety Days for seven weekends in November and January at the Santa Rosa, California, Downtown Plaza Mall. More than 3,000 kids were photographed and fingerprinted for safety I.D. kits provided free to their parents.

White-face clowns Carol Stone and Vickie Ott of Larkspur, Mary Kuder of Mill Valley, and Claude Gipson of Healdsburg kept children and parents laughing.

Albany Detective Sergeant Bill Palmimi, in a gleaming Elvis costume, sang rock-beat safety songs composed by his accompanist, fellow police Sergeant Art Clemons. Eight-year-old blues prodigy Sean Erickson and his group, which includes sister Nicki, Mallory Andrizzi, and Phillip Fraser—all pupils of Windsor Schools—belted out their catchy rhythms.

The long-term Safety Day event was co-sponsored by Bank of America. Staffer Diane McDowell



Children's fingerprints are an important part of their Polly Klaas I.D. kits.

and her team from the Bank of America snapped the identification pictures, while a play area sponsored by Discovery Toys was set up to amuse the toddlers.

The Klaas family and volunteers from the Foundation handled the fingerprinting, assisted by volunteer

policemen and firemen from local departments.

Sonoma County's schools will carry on the child identification program with 50,000 Polly Klaas ID kits, funded by last year's highly successful Charlie Musselwhite benefit concert in Santa Rosa. ■

KLAAS FOUNDATION STARS IN THE MEDIA

The past months have seen Foundation representatives carrying the message of child safety and awareness to the public on a number of TV news and talk shows.

- The Foundation's CallHome Card was recently featured on *A Current Affair*, in a segment produced by Marc Klaas. The show resulted in at least 8,000 telephone queries about the prepaid calling card, which allows children to call home from a pay phone without money. **For more information, call 1-800-206-2600.**
- On Feb. 9, Marc Klaas spent an

hour discussing child safety issues on "Larry King Live." He also recently taped a *Donahue* program about California's "three strikes" law and two *Rolanda* shows on child safety issues.

- To raise public awareness, Klaas also filmed a segment for *American Journal* on seven-year-old Morgan Nick, abducted on June 9, 1995, and still missing from Alma, Arkansas.
- Klaas's father, Joe Klaas, recently taped a *Leeza* show on the U.S. trial system.
- The Feb. 6 cover story in *USA*

Today was an extensive article on "Keeping Polly's Promise." This in-depth analysis analyzed the Foundation's goals and accomplishments.

- As a response to the Amber Hagerman tragedy, Marc Klaas addressed politicians and the public at a town hall meeting on child safety in Arlington, Texas, sponsored by WFAA-TV. On Feb. 6, Klaas spoke to the Comstock Club, in Sacramento, California, about children's rights in America from a historical perspective. ■

JOIN THE FOUNDATION AND HELP FIGHT CRIME!

To join the Klaas Foundation for Children, please fill out this form and return it to the address below. Your tax-deductible membership costs just \$15.00 per year, and will entitle you to receive:

- The quarterly *Klaas Action Review*, with news and information, practical tips, events, and more.
- Regular *Klaas Action Update* sheets, alerting you to the latest happenings as they happen in the field of child safety.

Please check your areas of interest:

- I would like to receive information on starting a National Community Empowerment program.
- I would like to receive more safety information for my children.
- I would like to become more informed about how to support legislation against crime in my state.
- Other: _____

As a member, you will receive a 15% discount on all conferences, seminars, speaking tours, and events; and will be listed as a donating member in the Foundation's annual report and brochures.

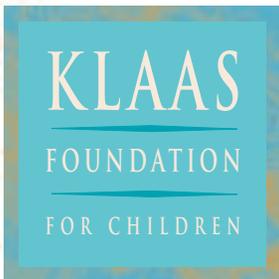
As a personal gift, you will also receive the Children's Identification Packet and a beautiful "Polly, We Love You" pin, in memory of our inspiration, Polly Klaas.

Love your children. Keep them safe.

Enclosed please find my tax-deductible donation of \$_____. All gifts are gratefully accepted on behalf of America's children.

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