



906 Anna Lane  
Friendswood, Texas 77546  
281-482-5723; 866-898-5723  
[www.LRCF.org](http://www.LRCF.org)  
[www.MyChildID.org](http://www.MyChildID.org)

Contact: Gay Smither – 281-482-5723; 713-443-0134 (cell)  
For Immediate Release: Friendswood, Texas – September 20, 2009

## **Marc Klaas to Highlight Laura Recovery Center "Lighting the Way Home" Gala**

Nationally recognized missing child advocate Marc Klaas will be the keynote speaker at the third annual Laura Recovery Center (LRC) "Lighting the Way Home" Gala. The Gala will be held at Space Center Houston on October 2, 2009.

Marc's daughter Polly Klaas was abducted at knife point from her bedroom in Petaluma California on October 1, 1993. In announcing the formation of the non-profit KlaasKids Foundation in September, 1994, Mr. Klaas said, "We can give meaning to Polly's death and create a legacy in her name that will be protective of children for generations to come by pursuing the singular mission of stopping crimes against children." Marc has remained steadfast in his defense of children and works tirelessly to stop crimes against them.

The Laura Recovery Center and KlaasKids Foundation share a strong belief in the importance of community volunteers when working to recover missing children. When Marc decided to expand the work of his Foundation into actively searching for missing children he asked the LRC to train the KlaasKids search director, Brad Dennis. Since then, KlaasKids and the LRC have worked together on many national searches for abducted children.

The Laura Recovery Center Gala was canceled last year when the Center became the clearinghouse for missing persons in Galveston County following Hurricane Ike. The funds raised at this year's Gala will be crucial to the ongoing work of the Laura Recovery Center.

The community is invited to attend the Gala and to hear Marc's presentation. Details are available at the Laura Recovery Center website ([www.LRCF.org](http://www.LRCF.org)) or by calling the Center at 281-482-5723. Tickets are available for purchase at the LRC web site.

*The Laura Recovery Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was founded in Laura Smither's memory. The Center focuses on Education, Search, and Prevention in the area of missing children, has offered free abduction prevention programs to over 180,000 children throughout the greater Houston area, worked with over 1,400 families with missing loved ones, and has organized 90 community searches for abducted children nationwide. The Center trains law enforcement at the Houston Police Department training academy and other agencies in Texas, and distributes educational materials and child ID kits.*

###