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For Immediate Release: Friendswood, Texas – April 1, 2009

12th Anniversary of Abduction and Murder of 12 year old Laura Kate Smither

FRIENDSWOOD, TX – April 3, 2009, marks the twelfth anniversary of the abduction and murder of 12 year old Laura Kate Smither.

Laura was intelligent and full of joy, excited to be counting the days until she was a teenager. Tragically, Laura never reached that day - her life was stolen and Laura's family and community will never be the same.

Laura's community did not hesitate to act when word went out that a child was missing. Hundreds of volunteers came out the next day to search for her, and an organization quickly formed to continue the search until she was found. Seventeen days and 6,000 volunteers later Laura's remains were located 14 miles from her home.

The person responsible for Laura's murder has never been charged.

When asked what the most important lesson learned from this tragedy, Laura's parents Bob and Gay Smither replied, “The justice system in America has failed our families. Laura's life, and those of countless other murdered children, was taken by a repeat sexual offender. Can you imagine someone attacking and seriously harming a politician being released to prey again? Yet each year those that prey on our children are released or given disproportionately short prison sentences.”

The Smithers went on to say “There have been great strides made in the past 12 years on behalf of missing children – the Amber Alert, actively teaching children about safety, and the realization that communities must react quickly to organize and search for a missing child. It is now time for us as a nation to fix our broken justice system and the way it treats those that attack our children. Only in this way can our kids be protected.”

Dawn Davis, Sr. Case Manager for the The LAURA **RECOVERY** CENTER said “We must never forget a child who has been murdered or a child who is missing no matter how many months or years have gone by. Technology changes, new information becomes available, new law enforcement officers bring new eyes to cases that have been long since forgotten. Never give up hope. The answers are there we just need to keep actively searching for them.”

The Laura Recovery Center is a 501(c)3 non profit organization founded in loving memory of Laura Kate Smither, and to honor the thousands of volunteers that searched for her.

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