

501 (C) 3 nonprofit organization

LRC Staff:

Bob Walcutt, Director
Dawn Davis, Senior Case Manager
Suzanne Slavin, Community Education

LRC Board Members:

Bob Smither
Gay Smither
David Dannemiller
Carlos Canseco
Jo LaBrecque French

The SPOTLIGHT

Contributor Recognition

Recent Contributors:

- Bryan & Robert B., UT
- David & Karen B., TX
- Linda G., TX
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- John & Becky T., TX
- St. Paul's United Methodist Church, TX
- Pasadena P.O.D., TX
- Joseph & Liulma M., TX
- Orange County's United Way, CA
- Kroger
- TAP Connected to the Community Giving Campaign, NJ
- Suzanne B., TX
- Shadycrest Elem. PTA, Pearland, TX
- Silvercrest Elem. PTA, Pearland, TX
- Milsap Elem. PTO, Cypress, TX
- Henry Bauerschlag Elem. PTA, League City, TX
- Constance & David B., Friendswood,

Volunteer Recognition

May Weekend Phone Volunteers:

- Kimberly Stoeck
- Susan Jennings
- Suzanne Slavin
- Brenda Rogers

Kudos for Suzanne

Suzanne Slavin, an LRCF volunteer, is a natural teacher. On May 9th she taught six Choices classes to students attending Manvel Jr. H.S. She said that it was a challenge to remember what she told the current class versus the previous class. She did an outstanding job. That is a lot of work for one person, but she did it. That is not all that she accomplished in May. She helped present a total of 17 programs including 10 SKATE programs, 6 Choices programs, and an Internet program. Thanks Suzanne!

Bob Walcutt

May Report

# Programs:	
SKATE	27
Choices	6
Presentations	2
Safety Fair	2
Other	2
# Participants:	
Children	4665
Adults	212
# New Cases	13
# Cases Resolved	10

Note: The numbers of cases resolved and new cases may not represent the same cases.

Missing Teen Houston, TX



Martha Ramirez was 15 when she disappeared on Dec. 30, 2006, while picking up donuts for her family in Houston. It is believed that Martha left with an older man going by the name of Robert and was for a time living in Katy, TX. Sadly, in two years Martha has never made contact with her family. Where is Martha today?

Upcoming Activities

June

- 13 SKATE Program, Kruse Elem., Pasadena
- 16 SKATE Program, Communities in Schools, Pasadena
- 16 SKATE Program, South Houston Elem., South Houston
- 18 SKATE Program, Bailey Elem., Pasadena

Case Update



Nicholas Garza

Sadly, Nicholas Garza's body was located in a creek on May 29, 2008. Based on the autopsy, police do not suspect foul play.

2008 Possibilities Conference

Bob Smither presented a two hour workshop on how to engage the community in searches for a missing child to the 2008 Possibilities Conference held at Western New England College May 29 – May 30 in Springfield, Massachusetts. The conference was well attended with representatives from local law enforcement agencies, non-profit organizations, the FBI, and families of missing children. See www.onechildatatime.net.

Spotlight on Runaways:

NEVER ASSUME IT CAN'T HAPPEN TO YOUR FAMILY

Recently, I talked with an aunt of a 15-year-old girl who disappeared three days earlier. The girl slipped out of her home in the dead of the night and vanished. It took several days of very good detective work by her family to find her. In this case, law enforcement in their hometown failed her family. The police felt she was just another runaway and didn't take her disappearance seriously. She was a runaway but with a twist. The man she was meeting drove 11 hours from his home in Michigan to pick her up.

The girl never told anyone, not even her very best friend, about the man she met online and was going to meet. Luckily, she had a family that didn't take no for an answer. They moved and moved fast to run down every lead they had on her and finally ended up with enough information to call the police in Michigan. The Michigan police did take the report seriously, drove to the man's house, and picked up the girl. The man was taken into custody and his computer was confiscated. He is now under investigation for his role in getting this young lady to leave her home.

Can it happen in your family? Yes, and it can happen very suddenly and unexpectedly. As a parent, unless you know your child very well you may not be as lucky as this family. They knew their daughter, and they didn't just sit back and wait. They immediately contacted the police and all of her friends. They documented all their contacts and started to track her down. Her computer, notes, and other things provided valuable information that helped them determine who she might be with. They followed up on those leads and found her. But what if they hadn't found her? Would the police have gotten more involved? Would she be coming back home, or would she have become another statistic and another missing child woven into the tapestry of so many missing children in America?

How well do you know your children? Do you sit down with them every day and talk with them? Do you know their friends and their families? What do they like to do, and where do they hang out? Do you know if they are talking with someone online? If so, who? Parents, you should never let down your guard because you may not be as lucky if your child is a runaway!

Bob Walcutt

Executive Director