

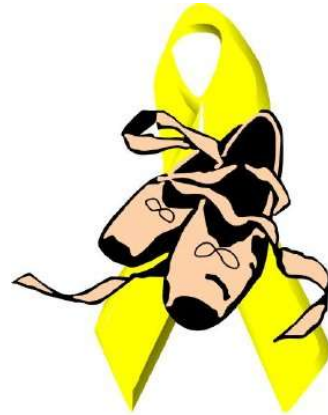
# *Laura Recovery Center*

- for missing children -

501(C)3 Non-profit organization EIN # 76-0565291

## ANNUAL REPORT 2005

*In loving memory of Laura Kate Smither*



*"Remember Laura"*

Primary Exempt Purpose:

Abduction Prevention Education  
Recovery of Abducted and Missing Children  
Law Enforcement Education

# LRC Program Service Accomplishments for the Year 2005

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The Laura Recovery Center is a member of AMECO.

AMECO - Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organization. Website: [www.amecoinc.org](http://www.amecoinc.org)



Mr. Bob Walcutt, Executive Director of the Laura Recovery Center was elected to a 3 year term to the AMECO Board of Directors, in 2005, by the membership.

Bob and Gay Smither, Co-Founders of the Laura Recovery Center serve on the AMECO Visibility Committee.



## **Laura Recovery Center contact information:**

603 W. Edgewood, Friendswood, Texas 77546  
Email: [info@lrcf.net](mailto:info@lrcf.net) [Website: www.LRCF.org](http://www.LRCF.org)  
TOLL FREE NUMBER : 866-898-5723  
Telephone: 281-482-5723 Fax: 281-482-5727

## **Laura Recovery Center Staff**

**Robert Walcutt**, Executive Director

Primary presenter of the abduction prevention (S.K.A.T.E.) program.  
Instructor of Law Enforcement Child Abduction First Responder course.  
Education Program Manager and Case Manager Supervisor  
Search Director of the following searches:  
Fredrick Webber, Kelli Meek, Jessica Lunsford.  
Board of Director, AMECO – Association of Missing & Exploited Children's Organizations

**Dawn Davis**, Coordinator - Part time employee (20 hours per week)

Office Manager and Program Coordinator.  
Presenter of the CHOICES education program.  
Senior Case Manager  
Administration Manager and Historian for the following searches:  
Fredrick Webber, Kelli Meek, Jessica Lunsford, Aaron Brooks

## **Laura Recovery Center Board of Directors:**

Gay Smither: Co-Founder, President  
Bob Smither : Co-Founder, Secretary; Search Director : Aaron Brooks  
David Dannemiller: Treasurer  
Ruben Garcia : resigned in 2005 (work related)  
Suzanne Boase : resigned in 2005, (health problems)

## **Core Volunteers:**

Evelyn Walcutt, Suzanne Slavin, Bonnie Alcancia, Janice Liggett, Terry Arnold

## **Laura's Legacy Committee 2005:**

The Laura's Legacy Committee is charged with raising funds for the Laura Recovery Center. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Laura's Legacy Golf Tournament on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 held at Magnolia Creek Golf Links, League City, Texas.

Golf committee 2005:

Gay Smither, Dawn Davis, Lisa Abel, Lori Wrinkle, Lisa Dannemiller, Suzanne Slavin, Jane Canseco, Lori Allen

# LRC Search Operations 2005

## ◆ 4 Ground Searches in 2005.

*(TOTAL TO DATE: 73 ground searches; 1076 cases as of 01/24/2006)*

The Laura Recovery Center will organize a volunteer community search when:

- we are contacted by the family of the missing child or the responding law enforcement agency.
- we believe an abduction has occurred, and we believe our efforts will help recover the child.



In 2005 searches were conducted for the following missing children:

### **Texas:**

Fredrick Webber (age 4 months) – Missouri City, TX – recovered alive

Kelli Meek (age 17) – Pasadena, TX – recovered alive

### **Florida:**

Jessica Lunsford (age 9) – Homosassa, FL – recovered murdered

### **California:**

Aaron Brooks (age 15) – Galt, CA – recovered murdered

- ◆ **Assisted 141 families** with missing children and loved ones in the year 2005, through telephone consultations, flyer creation and website display and distribution, and searches. (1076 families assisted to date).
- ◆ **123 Missing Person Flyers** were created in 2005 – Production and distribution of missing person flyers for all case work (see [www.LRCF.org](http://www.LRCF.org) for current flyers).
- ◆ **Laura Recovery Center Manual** is distributed (see [www.LRCF.org](http://www.LRCF.org)) All law enforcement agencies that were involved in the above listed ground searches received the Laura Recovery Center Manual. All law enforcement agencies trained by the Laura Recovery Center in Child Abduction received a Manual.

# LRC Abduction Prevention Education 2005

S.K.A.T.E. (Safe Kids Are Taught Early) – this is a child abduction prevention program. It is taught to schools and community organizations. The 40 minute program is designed to teach children and their parents about the dangers of child predators, in a non-threatening and memorable way. The program focuses on the child lures used by predators in order to abduct children, and teaches the children ways to escape from an abductor.

- ◆ **123 S.K.A.T.E. Programs** were presented in 2005.  
*(Total to date: 456 programs sessions to 85,752 children)*

The SKATE program was presented in 2005 at 75 different locations. This 40 minute child abduction prevention program was presented to 20,000 children and 1,000 adults in 2005.

Presenters: Mr. Bob Walcutt; Ms. Suzanne Slavin



- ◆ **2 Choices Programs** were presented in 2005 by Dawn Davis.  
This is a new abduction prevention program that teaches junior high and senior school students about the dangers of running away and the ramifications of this choice.
- ◆ **4 Adult Education events** were held to bring awareness to the issue of missing children and educate parents on sexual predator activity in our area.  
*(TOTAL TO DATE: 100 adult presentations)*
- ◆ **10-20 Abduction Prevention programs** were presented to elementary and Junior High School students by the Friendswood High School HOSA students (Health Occupations Students of America) of Friendswood Independent School District, Texas, in cooperation with the Laura Recovery Center. 6 students are assigned to this program, putting in 30 hours per month, during the school year.

# LRC Law Enforcement Education 2005

LRC presents a Law Enforcement Training on Child Abduction. This course is a TCLEOSE Texas State certified training course for Law Enforcement. The officers receive in-service training hours for taking this course. It is aimed at the first responders – the men and women who are the first on the scene of a child abduction.

This course is presented monthly at the Houston Police Department Training Academy by Bob Walcutt and Gay Smither.

◆ **16 Law Enforcement Education Programs were taught in 2005, training 424 officers.**

◆ **Houston Police Academy:**

- ◆
- 01/25/2005 – 11 officers
- 02/17/2005 - (Mandatory class) – 64 officers
- 03/22/2005 – 14 officers
- 06/16/2005 – 62 officers (2 CADET training sessions)
- 07/20/2005 – 55 officers
- 11/29/2005 – 62 officers (2 CADET training classes sessions)



◆ **Bay Area Police Departments**

06/21/2005 - 34 officers

◆ **San Antonio – Bexar County Sheriffs Department, Texas**

02/22/2005 – 12 officers

- 03/29/2005 – 21 officers
- 04/26/2005 – 15 officers
- 05/31/2005 – 18 officers
- 07/26/2005 – 24 officers
- 08/23/2005 – 14 officers



◆ **FBI National Academy Associates, Corpus Christi, Texas (Bob Smither presenter)**

04/08/2005 – 18 officers

**TOTAL: 424 OFFICERS TRAINED, 16 COURSES TAUGHT in 2005.**

*TOTAL TO DATE: 67 courses taught to 2,483 law enforcement officers.*



# LRC Community Outreach 2005

- ◆ **10 Speaking Engagements** were made to community organizations focusing on proactive prevention and emergency preparedness on behalf of missing children. We promote the Triangle of Trust (a spirit of cooperation) among Law Enforcement, the Community & the Family of the missing child.

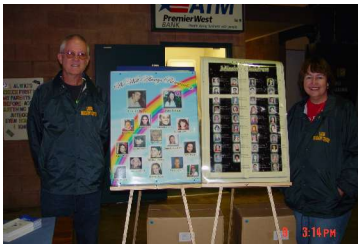
Presenters: Gay Smither, Bob Walcutt and Dawn Davis

Gay Smither was this year's National Speaker on missing children, presenting the Key note address for the national observance ceremony for National Missing Children's Day at the Department of Justice, Washington D.C.

- ◆ **20,000 Child Identification Kits** were assembled and distributed in the Greater Houston and Galveston area under our Operation KidSafe Program. (80,000 Child ID Kits to date)



- ◆ **10,264 Abduction Prevention Education Materials** were produced and distributed (4,711 LRC educational materials; 323 educational materials from the Polly Klaas Foundation; 5,230 educational materials from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children). Approximately 50,000 abduction prevention education materials distributed to date.



- ◆ **Mobile Recovery Center** – used in search work and on 3 occasions it was used as a billboard to display missing children photographs at Bay Area Wal-Marts.



◆ **HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF MISSION:**



Father Tommy gets the keys to the MRC

Pictured left to right: Carlos Canseco, David Dannemiller, Bob Smither, Father Tommy, Calvin Arnold, David Smither

2005 was a terrible year for hurricanes. The Gulf coast was particularly devastated by Hurricane Katrina which came ashore and devastated the Louisiana and Mississippi coastal areas. We made a trip to Mississippi to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We delivered the Laura Recovery Center's (LRC) Mobile Recovery Center (MRC) and about 3000 pounds of supplies (donated by the Houston Christian Alliance) to Father Tommy at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Hattiesburg is about 70 miles from the coast. Father Tommy used the MRC to deliver supplies to outlying areas that got less attention than Hattiesburg, Little towns like Hot C offee received their first help following the hurricane from Father Tommy and the LRC MRC. He used the MRC to haul supplies, and as a base of operations.

Finally, we are once again heartened by the good that people do - from Steve who filled our propane tank, to the company that weighed the MRC, to Christian Alliance who donated supplies, to the gentleman who gave us his last \$2, to Janet and Karl who put us up for the night, to Father Tommy who organized aid to those hit by Katrina. We see this all the time in searches we organize for a missing child. Some from the community donate food and water. Some can only donate time. Some can only donate <insert anything here>. When everything is put together, great things happen. Our motto remains :

T Together  
E Everyone  
A Achieves  
M More

**Billboards for the missing** The Laura Recovery Center provides billboards to Law Enforcement at reduced cost, and as funding permits.

2 Billboards for Ricky Holland in Michigan. (confession by the parents following billboard installation, led to the recovery of Ricky's remains)

200 billboards for Michelle Prasek courtesy of Ron Carter Autoland – Gulf Coast of Texas.



- ◆ **5 Health and Safety Fairs** (51 Health and Safety Fairs to date).
- ◆ **24 Hour Hot Line:** 281-482-LRCF (5723), Toll Free 866-898-5723
- ◆ **Laura Smither Scholarship** LRC awards one \$3,000 merit based scholarship annually to a Friendswood resident graduating from High School, in memory of Laura Kate Smither. 2005 Recipient was Jennifer Robicheaux.
- ◆ **Website [www.LRCF.org](http://www.LRCF.org) :**
  - The Laura Recovery Center Manual – How to Search for a Missing Child.
  - Missing Child Flyers – which can be faxed and e-mailed from the website.
  - What to do if your child is missing information.
  - Public flyer creation tool. Anyone can create their own flyer.
  - LRC Mapping Tool
  - Additional Search Ideas – what to do after the ground search concludes.
  - Child ID Kit
  - Texas Law on missing persons.
  - Laura Smither Scholarship.
  - Events Calendar

# Laura Smither Scholarship 2005

*In loving memory of Laura Kate*

*Smither*

**2005 Recipient –Jennifer  
Robicheaux  
Attends Trinity University.**

Previous recipients:

2004 Michael Giordano (University of Houston)  
2003 Olivia Bartlett (Rice University)  
2002 Rachel Kyle (Rice University)  
2001 Tiffany Eppelheimer (Georgetown University)  
2000 Jared Bourgeois (Brigham Young University)  
1999 Laura Byrne (Wheaton College)  
1998 Kathryn Klima (Duke University)



The Laura Smither Scholarship is a \$3,000 merit scholarship that is awarded to one individual annually. The scholarship is given in loving memory of Laura Kate Smither.

The scholarship committee reviews all the applications and determines the recipient based on the merit of their application. This is decided according to the high school transcript, SAT and/or ACT scores, the applicants essay, letters of recommendation, and the description of their community service work, awards and honors. All applicants must reside in the city of Friendswood. They may have attended any private, public or home school, but must be a high school graduate.

Eligibility is based simply on Friendswood residency. The population of Friendswood is approximately 35,000. No other restrictions are considered. The Laura Smither Scholarship is not based on employment status. It is based on Friendswood residency and the meritorious quality of the application. The committee members conduct themselves according to the honor system, and recuse themselves from the committee prior to the selection process if a known relative is planning to submit an application.

The scholarship committee releases the scholarship monies in the amount of \$3,000 ONLY when a letter of acceptance to the University/College is received by the committee. The check is cut in the name of the institution for the benefit of the scholarship recipient.

# LRC Volunteer Participation Report 2005

## **LRC Board of Directors:**

- ◆ **Gay Smither**, Co-Founder and President of the Board of Directors  
10 hours per week. 520 volunteer hours.  
Law Enforcement Education Program Hours: 45 Education hours.  
**TOTAL HOURS = 565 HOURS**
- ◆ **Bob Smither**, Co-Founder, Web Site Master, Board of Directors – Secretary  
15 hours per week. 780 volunteer hours.  
Law enforcement education = 4 hours  
Search Hours: Search Director for the search for Aaron Brooks (3 days)  
72 Search volunteer hours.  
**TOTAL HOURS = 856 HOURS**
- ◆ **David Dannemiller**, Board of Director – Treasurer.  
25 hours per month. 300 volunteer hours.  
**TOTAL HOURS = 300 HOURS**
- ◆ Suzanne Boase and Ruben Garcia had to resign from their positions as directors on the board early in 2005 due to sudden illness and extenuating circumstances that prevented them from continuing their service. Resignations were regrettably accepted by the Board. The 2 positions were successfully filled in 2006.

**TOTAL BOARD OF DIRECTOR VOLUNTEER HOURS = 1,721 HOURS**

## LRC Office Volunteers 2005

### **List of Outstanding LRC Volunteers:**

**Suzanne Slavin** – 1,410.5 hours (plus weekend phone volunteer)  
**Evelyn Walcutt** – 15 hours per week = 780 volunteer hours  
**Terry Arnold** – 508 hours (plus weekend phone volunteer)  
**Bonnie Alcancia** – 431.75 hours (plus weekend phone volunteer)  
**Janice Liggett** – 170 volunteer hours  
26 periodic volunteers – 911.75 documented volunteer hours.

Youth groups from area churches and scouting groups help us assemble Child ID Kits. Approximately 50 youth and 30 adults over the course of the year have worked approximately 5 hours each in assembling the ID Kits. This totals approximately 400 hours.

**TOTAL LRC OFFICE VOLUNTEER HOURS = 4,612 HOURS**

# On-Call Telephone Volunteers 2005

## Phone Volunteers:

Bonnie Alcancia, Terry Arnold, Linda Giordano, Susan Jennings, Stephanie Reyes, Brenda Rogers, Suzanne Slavin, Evelyn Walcutt, Jennifer Zapata.

Weekend Call Duty : Friday 5PM through Monday 9AM (64 hours).

Weekend: 52 weeks x 64 hours/weekend = 3,328 weekend volunteer phone hours.

Weekday After Hours Call Duty: Monday through Thursday, 5PM through 9AM (16 hours).

52 weeks x 4 days/week x 16 hours/day = 3,328 Weekday After Hours volunteer telephone hours. (Mr. Bob Walcutt volunteers his time for this phone coverage).

**TOTAL ON-CALL TELEPHONE VOLUNTEER HOURS = 6,656 HOURS**

# LRC Search Volunteer Hours 2005

## Texas:

Amber Alert: **Fredrick Webber** (4 months) – Missouri City, TX

3 volunteers for 1 day (8 hours) = 24 hours - (recovered alive)

Other cases: **Kelli Meek** (17 yrs) – Pasadena, TX

175 volunteers for 1 day (8 hours) = 1,400 hours (recovered alive)

## Florida:

**Jessica Lunsford** (9 yrs) – Homosassa, FL

120 volunteers for 3 days = 2,880 hours (recovered murdered)

## California:

Aaron Brooks (15 yrs) – Galt, CA

150 volunteers for 3 days = 10,800 hours (recovered murdered)

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER SEARCH HOURS 2005 = 15,104 HOURS**

## Compilation of All Volunteer Hours:

Total LRC Board of Directors Hours = 1,721 hours

Total LRC Office Volunteer Hours = 4,612 hours

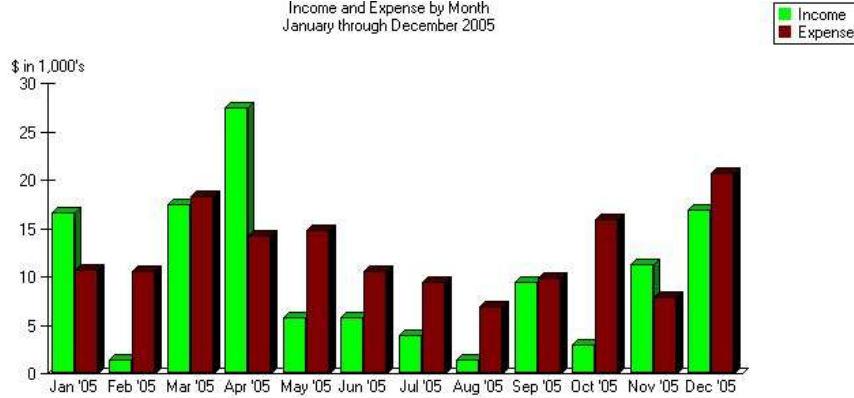
Total On-Call Telephone Volunteer Hours = 6,656 hours

Total Volunteer Search Hours = 15,104 hours

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR YEAR 2005 = 28,093HOURS**

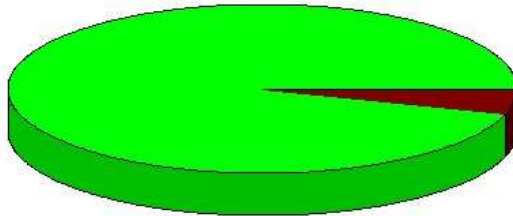
# LRC 2005 Financial Report

Income and Expense by Month  
January through December 2005

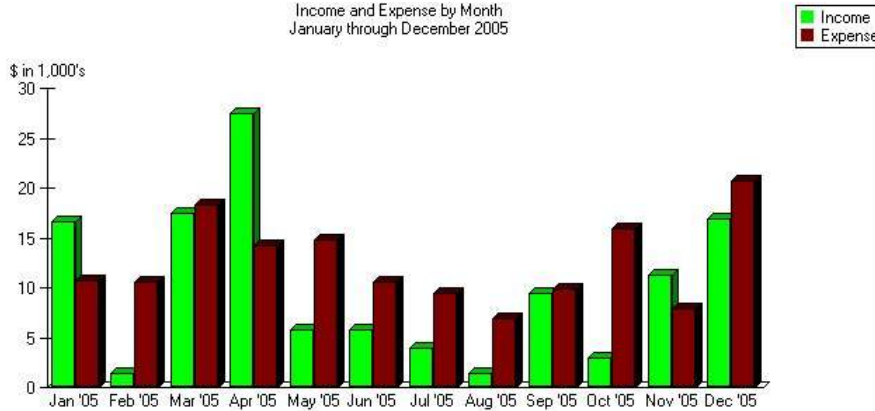


Income Summary  
January through December 2005

Contributions Income	%95.24
Investment Income	4.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$121,339.15</b>

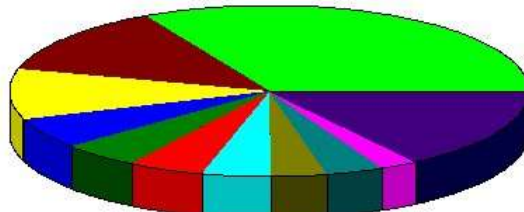


Income and Expense by Month  
January through December 2005



Expense Summary  
January through December 2005

Payroll Expenses	%34.25
Depreciation Expense	13.66
Rent	9.75
Fundraising Expenses	6.18
Insurance	5.22
Communications	4.92
Transportation	4.50
Allocated Overhead	3.66
Overhead allocated	\$-5,672.91
Supplies	2.59
Other	15.26
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$150,664.54</b>



# LRC Awards and Recognitions 2005

- Gay Smither, 2005 National Speaker on missing children, gave the Keynote address for the national observance ceremony for National Missing Children's Day at the Great Hall of the Department of Justice, in Washington D.C. for Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).



OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores welcomes participants to the U.S. Department of Justice's 22nd annual commemoration of National Missing Children's Day, held May 20, 2005, at the Department's Hall of Justice in Washington, DC. Seated are Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales; Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, Tracy A. Henke; Robbie Callaway, Founding Board Member, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC); Ernie Allen, NCMEC President; and guest speaker Gay Smither. Victim advocate Gay Smither recounts the tragic kidnapping and murder of her 12-year-old daughter Laura in 1997. Ms. Smither founded the [Laura Recovery Center for Missing Children](#), a nonprofit organization that mobilizes volunteers to search for missing children.

- Proclamation by City Council of the City of Galt, California, November 15, 2005 in recognition of LRC search work in the recovery of Aaron Brooks.
- Proclamation by Mayor Bill White, City of Houston – honored the Laura Recovery Center in April 2005, the week of National Crime Victims Rights Week.
- City of Friendswood recognized the work of the Laura Recovery Center with the proceeds of their Annual Holiday Hustle Fun Run for the 8<sup>h</sup> year in a row.
- United Space Alliance recognized the work of the Laura Recovery Center with proceeds of their Annual Golf Tournament for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row.
- The Greater Pepper Pasadena POD CASI (Chili Appreciation Society International) recognized the Laura Recovery Center with the proceeds from their Chili Cook Off Fund Raiser for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

## **Prior year awards and recognitions**

- 2004 Unsung Heroes Award from Channel WB39: Ruben Garcia, BOD.
- 2003 Texas Senate Resolution No. 597, April 10<sup>th</sup> LRC, Senator Mike Jackson
- 2003 Texas House of Representatives Resolution No. 728, April 10<sup>th</sup> LRC. Representative Larry Taylor
- 2002 Heroes Among Us Award, People Magazine: Bob & Gay Smither.
- 2001 City of Houston paving stone for LRC in Eleanor Tinsley Park, Houston
- 2001 Women of Faith Award, Gay Smither, Church of Latter Day Saints.
- 2000 Liberty Bell Award, Bob & Gay Smither, Houston Young Lawyers.
- 2000 Texas Liberty Bell, Bob and Gay Smither, Texas Young Lawyers.
- 1999 Unsung Heroes Award: Ms. Dawn Davis, Galveston Daily News.