



# Laura's Legacy

*Lighting the way home . . .*

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**Laura Recovery Center Newsletter**

**July 2006**

## **The Coyote on the Porch**

*by Bob Walcutt*

Recently, I lost a young puppy to a coyote who snatched her right off our back porch. Were we negligent? No, we were 15 feet away. Are we bad people? No, we loved and cherished that little puppy even though she had been with us only a few days. Anyone who's ever lost a pet knows how I feel.

Can you imagine the depth of pain, heartache and sorrow a parent of a child that has been taken by a predator must feel? A predator that walks on two legs and is as uncaring as that coyote, lives among us. We meet them every day, we talk to them, we may even be related to them. But, they are as deadly and dangerous to your child as is a coyote to your pet. Given the opportunity, they will strike. It only takes an instant, a distraction and a child is gone.

As parents you must never let down your guard. Know your children, their friends and their activities. Where are they, who are they with, when will they be home? Is your home secure? Do you have good solid exterior doors and windows? Do you have rules for answering the door? How secure are your windows? And what about your rules for children on the Internet? Do you make it a rule to check the computer periodically to see who they are in contact with? Do they have a blogg on MySpace.Com or some other similar site?

Do your children know they can always call home for

help? Will you be there for them or have you built a wall to block them out? Many parents don't realize it but, their children are the most important thing in this world. Don't believe me? Ask any parent who's ever lost a child to a predator and they will tell you how important that child was to them. They were and are the very air they breath. Life is never the same without them.

You see, that coyote can be just outside your door or talking to your child in the Internet. Either way, he's waiting!

## **“Operation Sundown” is Evolving**

*by Bob Walcutt*

We are looking forward to a busy fall with “Operation Sundown”. September through December we plan on having the Mobile Recovery Center (MRC) out each week with the missing child display. Operation Sundown can only be done at night -- once the sun goes down, we are on. We have a 10 ft by 12 foot screen hung on the side of the MRC. In a shopping center parking lot, with the use of a projector and lap top computer, we can project photo's and flyers of missing children on the screen. Operation Sundown will help generate greater community awareness and help the families searching for their children.

When a child goes missing, Operation Sundown can be put into operation on short notice. We can have a missing child's photo up on display the same day

the child disappears. Once we have permission from the family, we can quickly prepare the child's flyer for display. Our 10 ft by 12 ft. display draws a lot of attention. This is only the first step in development of a display that can be used to reach a much larger audience.

Come join us - if you are interested in taking part in Operation Sundown, call the Center at 281-482-5723. Lets talk, you might find this can be very interesting and a lot of fun.

## **LRC 2006 – January - June Review**

### **Missing Children**

- Cases: 67 (Flyers: 65; Resolved: 51; Unresolved: 16)
- Missing Persons Recovered Alive: 47

### **Education**

- Skate Programs: 116 sessions; 24,453 children; 1040 adults
- Law Enforcement Training Classes: 4
- Teen Choices Programs: 35 sessions; 1900 teens
- Approx. 4,000 ID Kits distributed

### **Special Programs**

- La Marque Rotary Club
- Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser
- Pearland Exchange Club
- Seabrook Rotary Club
- Shell Houston Open - Birdies for Charity

## **Flyer Volunteers Needed!**

*by Bob Walcutt*

When a child is missing time is of the essence. A child who may be a runaway may not get the attention needed to help their family find the child. People often assume they come home after a short time. But what if they don't? Are you willing to help? Identify an area near your home or job where you could post flyers, then call us. If you live within a 50 miles radius of Houston would you

commit to posting flyers within a specific radius of your home or work or just at your office? If you live outside that 50 miles radius, how large an area could you cover? Once we have your information we will map out the areas of coverage and prepare to send out notification when we have a missing child we need immediate coverage on. We will send you a personal email with the name of the child and instructions. When the child is recovered, we will email you again to let you know the child is back home. E-mail us with any questions at [info@lrcf.net](mailto:info@lrcf.net).

## **Thank You to Our Generous Volunteers and Donors!**

Please submit any articles you would like to see in the next issue of our newsletter to Janice Liggett at email: [janiceliggett@lrcf.net](mailto:janiceliggett@lrcf.net) or fax the information to the Center at 281-482-5727.

## **On Line Calendar**

Please check our on line calendar for opportunities to volunteer with us. The calendar is linked from our home page (<http://www.lrcf.org>) under News and Events.

## **Donations**

Your donations are gratefully accepted by the Laura Recovery Center which is supported solely by voluntary contributions. You can donate on line at (<http://www.lrcf.org>)

## ***Laura Recovery Center***

*for missing children*

[www.LRCF.org](http://www.LRCF.org)

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