



MISSION STATEMENT

The Laura Recovery Center's mission is to prevent abductions and runaways through education and to recover missing children by fostering the Triangle of Trust among law enforcement, community and a missing child's family.



FUNDING

The LRC does not charge the family or the community for their services.

Donations are greatly appreciated. The Laura Recovery Center is a 501(c) 3 organization and is funded solely through private donations and grants.

GIVING IS EASY

- Mail your donation check to the address listed below.
- Participate in your company's matching gift program, and list Laura Recovery Center as the recipient.
- Visit www.LRCF.org, and make a donation with your Visa or Mastercard or make a one-time or monthly donation through your PayPal account.



LAURA
RECOVERY
CENTER

FOR MISSING CHILDREN

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**Education.
Search.
Prevention.**

LAURA RECOVERY CENTER

LAURA RECOVERY CENTER FOR MISSING CHILDREN

On April 3, 1997, twelve-year-old Laura Kate Smither was abducted from Friendswood, Texas.

In the days following her disappearance, the community launched a nationwide search to find Laura. More than 6,000 volunteers gave their time and resources to find her. Her body was recovered 17 days later.

Volunteers found that relationships developed between law enforcement, the community and the missing child's family are key in the recovery of a missing child.

A Triangle of Trust exists when:

- The police trusts the community to do the right thing.
- The community trusts law enforcement to investigate all leads.
- The family, working together with law enforcement and the community, trusts that every effort is being made to find their missing child.

Searching for a missing child is best when there is a Triangle of Trust.



ABDUCTION PREVENTION EDUCATION

Talking to children about the possibility of an abduction is something most parents never do, even though it is every parent's worst nightmare. In an effort to help educate children and their parents, the LRC has developed the Safe Kids are Taught Early (SKATE) program. The SKATE program has been presented to over 100,000 children.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION

The LRC offers a TCLEOSE certified training course titled "Child Abduction - The First Responder" to law enforcement agencies at the Houston Police Academy and throughout Texas. An average of 600 officers are trained by the LRC each year.

DISTRIBUTING THE "HOW TO SEARCH FOR A MISSING CHILD" MANUAL

From the experiences gained in the search for Laura Smither, the volunteers recognized a need for instructions on how a community can organize a large scale search for a missing child. Together they wrote the manual "How to Search for a Missing Child."

The manual is available free of charge to any community searching for a missing child. The manual can be downloaded from our website. This manual not only provides step-by-step instructions on how to run a large scale search but includes the necessary forms to keep information gathered during the search readily available and organized.

ORGANIZING COMMUNITY SEARCHES

At the request of the missing child's family or law enforcement, the Laura Recovery Center (LRC) may help the community initiate a ground search. LRC coordinators begin to organize the search efforts while training the community on volunteer search operations. The LRC coordinators stay between 3-5 days.

MISSING CHILD FLYERS

The LRC will prepare a flyer of the missing child and post it to our website. Flyers posted on the LRC website can be downloaded, faxed or e-mailed at no cost.

In addition, through the LRC website, families may make their own missing child flyer.

CHILD IDENTIFICATION KITS

Child Identification Kits are provided to individuals and groups around the U.S. at no cost.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Case Management
- Abduction Prevention Education
- Law Enforcement Education
- Distribution of Educational Materials
- Missing Child Flyers
- Distribution of the search manual "How to Search for a Missing Child"
- Organizing Community Searches
- Child Identification Kits
- Resource Referrals