



# ***Laura Recovery Center***

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## **VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER**

December 2004

Happy Holidays to all, and thank you for being a volunteer with the Laura Recovery Center for missing children. It's been a busy year for all of us, unfortunately, with many missing child cases, but your hard work continues to make a tremendous difference. We are humbled and grateful for your support.

## **UPDATE ON CASES**

One of many tragic cases this year concerned the disappearance of seven- year old Araceli Trevino of Alvin. Hundreds of LRC volunteers aided in the search for little Araceli, who wandered away from home October 21<sup>st</sup> and was discovered drowned in a neighbor's swimming pool two days later. The LRC is grateful for the compassionate and thorough work of Chief Mike Merkel and the Alvin Police Department and for the generous support of Pastor Bruce Peterson and the South Park Baptist Church for serving as a Recovery Center. We honored Chief Merkel and Pastor Peterson with Triangle of Trust Awards on November 18<sup>th</sup>, for their meritorious efforts on behalf of missing children.

Meantime, 13- year old Katy Wilkerson of League City remains missing after police believe she ran away with a 22- year old Washington man she met on the Internet. LRC volunteers have been providing support for the family, posting flyers and publicizing the case since Katy left her home October 25<sup>th</sup>. Paul Lance Cameron Bennett is charged with felony kidnapping in the case.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS**

Bob Walcutt and Dawn Davis traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, in October to attend the annual conference for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. They attended seminars on numerous subjects including: "Scope and Scale of Missing Adults", "Amber Alert and Child Recovery Planning", and "Team HOPE: Help Offering Parents Empowerment" (Our founders are both Team HOPERS – Bob Smither as a volunteer and Gay Smither as a Team Captain). In addition to the training received by all the attendees, the Association of Missing and Exploited Children Organizations held their annual meeting, voting on new board members.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The City of Friendswood hosts its Annual Fun Run – the Holiday Hustle, with all proceeds benefiting the Laura Recovery Center. The run will be on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning and ending in Stevenson Park, Friendswood, Texas. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Holiday Hustle Fun Run and Walk this year. Details are on our home page. We are hoping some of you who are not running or walking might volunteer to staff the event. Please call the LRC if you would like to help out. Thank you! The City of Friendswood is still looking for donations for door prizes for participants. Please let us know if you can contribute anything.

### **ONLINE CALENDAR**

We would also like to ask all of you to please continue to monitor our online calendar for opportunities to volunteer with us. You can find the calendar under News and Events on the LRC Home Page.

### **DONATIONS**

As always, your donations are gratefully received by the LRC, which is supported solely by voluntary contributions. You can donate online at [www.LRCF.org](http://www.LRCF.org)

*May you and your family have a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.*