



### Abducted From Within



This photo of Kenneth and Samuel Connelly was placed on milk cartons in the early 80s.

inaccurate this belief is. Ken is the founder of a new Dallas-based organization (**Abducted From Within**) dedicated to fighting the myths surrounding the estimated 200,000 parental kidnappings each year in the United States.

Kenneth and Samuel Connelly were abducted by their father from an apartment complex in Orange County, California, on October 10, 1980, and were brought to Texas.

Their father was apprehended on November 26, 1983 and the case was groundbreaking. The

father was discharged and released under Texas State Law and then retried under Federal Law and convicted as a felon.

It was the first case in California or Texas history where a state law was overturned and then a conviction obtained under Federal Law.

Texas Center for the Missing is happy to partner with Ken in his pursuit to seek justice for children abducted by parents and to establish the rights of children to obtain advocates under the law.

Most people dismiss parental kidnappings with the thought "the kid is with a parent, how bad can it be?" But Ken Connelly will tell you how

#### The Texas Center for the Missing is:

- **A Gathering Place** where those delivering services to the families of the missing find peers, share knowledge, and form collaborations.
- **An Incubator** of new training, technology, methods, organizations, programs, and projects.
- **A Rainmaker** mobilizing new resources to expand the capacity of organizations to find missing persons and support their families.
- **A Think Tank** scanning the horizon for new advancements, analyzing their potential applications, and communicating these to community partners and the public at large.

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www.thetexascenter.org

## Donor Form

All donations are tax deductible.

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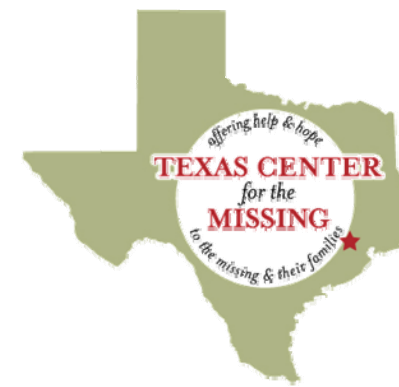
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# update

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### You're Invited to a Champagne Brunch!

Texas Center for the Missing is hosting its 6th Annual Champagne Brunch and Silent Auction. This year's honoree is **FBI Special Agent Glenn Gregory** for his incredible dedication to missing children and other law enforcement officers in our community.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, from noon to 3:00 p.m. at Crapitto's Cucina Italiana at 2400 Mid Lane in Houston. The event, a brunch and silent auction, helps raise almost 20% of Texas Center for the Missing's annual budget.

Continental Airlines and Southwest Airlines have donated roundtrip tickets for the silent auction. Other silent auction items include: a condo for one week in beautiful Sedona, Arizona; an overnight stay and round of golf for two at Barton Creek Resort and Spa; sports

tickets; Persona Day Spa Gift Certificate; Starbucks Coffee Gift Basket; and many more great items!

We hope you can join us at this fun and charitable event. You should have received the invitation pictured to the right of this article. If not, please contact Melissa Hulin at 713.314.3673 to receive your invitation.

Tickets and sponsorships are available now! All proceeds will benefit the education and search services provided by

Texas Center for the Missing, including Internet safety and abduction prevention programs. We hope to see you on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Crapitto's Cucina Italiana.



### Kendrick Jackson Disappeared One Year Ago.

On April 7, 2006, three-year-old Kendrick Jackson was reported missing by his father. After an extensive investigation and community-wide search, Kendrick remains missing to this day. Kendrick was last seen wearing a white t-shirt and shorts with baseballs and footballs on them.

It is believed that his father, Roderick Fountain, is responsible for Kendrick's

disappearance and murder. On Saturday, April 7, 2007, CrimeStoppers partnered with Texas Center for the Missing to host a press conference in the hopes that Kendrick's location will be revealed.

Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and charging of any suspect or suspects involved in this crime.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477). All callers remain anonymous.



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Formerly known as Gabriel's Gifts, Texas Center for the Missing is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit offering help, and hope, to the missing and their families.

#### Houston Regional Amber Plan



## DON'T Mind Your Own Business!

**We can't afford to "mind our own business" anymore.**

by Beth Alberts

It seems that we must learn some lessons over and over again. In January this year, Shawn Hornbeck was located after having been missing for more than four years when the search for newly-abducted Ben Ownby led police to the home of Michael Devlin in Kirkwood, Missouri. Shawn disappeared in October 2002 and most people had given up hope that he would ever be located, let alone found alive.

While it is a miracle that both boys were located and returned to their families – could Shawn's trauma have been alleviated?

When interviewed after the recovery, neighbors of Michael Devlin reported they had felt there was "something wrong" at the apartment. Does this

sound familiar? After 9/11, neighbors of the terrorists said the same thing. Haven't we heard this over and over, after the fact?

Minding our own business is a luxury we can ill afford. We *must* be courageous enough to get involved or more children will be victimized and terrorists will have more freedom to wreak havoc. It does take courage to stand up when no one else does, but for our children, and our country, we must.

Thousands of years ago we survived largely on instinct, but, logic, technology and the attitude that what you do is nobody else's business took over. At Texas Center for the Missing, when we talk to children about keeping themselves safe, we talk about listening to that inner voice, that instinct that helps guide us. As adults we also have to listen, and then act!

When you observe suspicious behavior, especially if a child is involved, pay attention! Gather information, call 911 – do something! Child sexual predators have, on average, 117 victims prior to their first arrest and I suspect this is due, in some part, to the *laissez faire* attitude that "it's not my business unless it's affecting me and mine."

This attitude and continued course of action leaves all of us vulnerable and our children at even greater risk. Be observant, learn more, and get involved or it will eventually catch up to you and someone you know will be victimized.

Action can be taken anonymously. If you believe you have witnessed a crime, contact your local CrimeStoppers: [www.crime-stoppers.org](http://www.crime-stoppers.org) or 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## Texas Center for the Missing's Board is Growing!

**Texas Center for the Missing is pleased to announce several newly elected board members.**

Lt. David Sauer with the Houston Police Department has worked closely with Texas Center for the Missing in his previous assignment to the Juvenile/Missing Persons Unit. Lt. Sauer's current assignment is the Burglary and Theft Division. We look forward to working with David as a board member.

Manual "Alex" Aguilar has been elected as Treasurer for Texas Center for the Missing. Mr. Aguilar previously served as Vice President at Bank of Texas and is now working on a new venture—Oasis, a bank serving the Hispanic population of Houston. Mr. Aguilar will provide leadership to our outreach efforts to better serve the Spanish-

speaking population in the Greater Houston Area.

Mr. Kelley Chisholm is the Vice President of Sales at American Business Machines. Mr. Chisholm is a proud supporter of The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the Houston Golf Association. Mr. Chisholm will be serving on the fundraising committee of Texas Center for the Missing's board.

Mr. Dan Lehane currently serves on the Board of Directors of Medrano & Lehane Holdings, Inc., and is The MedLeh Group's Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Lehane has served his community by serving on many committees as a volunteer including: The Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Junior Achievement, and The Young Entrepreneurs Organization. Mr. Lehane will also be serving on the

fundraising committee of Texas Center for the Missing's board.

If you are interested in serving as a board member for Texas Center for the Missing, please send your resumé with a letter of interest to Melissa Hulin at [mhulin@tcftm.org](mailto:mhulin@tcftm.org) or fax to 713.522.7386.

## Volunteer Corner

*Spring is here and that means lots of volunteer opportunities.*

Visit [www.thetexascenter.org](http://www.thetexascenter.org) and select the calendar to see what events are scheduled at locations near you.

Contact Melissa Hulin at 713.314.3673 or [mhulin@tcftm.org](mailto:mhulin@tcftm.org) to learn how to volunteer.

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

### Recent and Upcoming Events

#### Southeast Texas Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Holds First Deployment Training

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Southeast Texas CART held a tabletop training exercise. Houston Police Department representatives led by Lt. Murray Smith and Lt. Wendy Zeller provided the case scenario and valuable leadership for the successful training. Captain Richard Ricks from the Harris County Sheriff's Office served as CART Incident Commander. Forty people representing 20 different agencies attended the training and worked together to "investigate" the case.

*"There is something remarkable and unique about Texas Center for the Missing... The training provided to law enforcement officers... is essential, and the organization and coordination of the various search and rescue assets is indispensable." Captain Bruce Zenor, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office*

#### U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales Visits Houston

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Attorney General Gonzales convened a meeting to promote Project Safe Childhood in Houston. Texas Center for the Missing CEO Beth Alberts made a brief presentation at the event.

Last fall, the Houston US Attorney's office formed a coalition of Houston-area partners representing law enforcement, victims' advocates, prosecutors, and child service providers to provide leadership for a comprehensive, coordinated effort to attack computer crimes against children from every angle.

Project Safe Childhood aims to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. The threat of sexual

predators soliciting children for physical sexual contact is well-known and serious; the danger of the production, distribution, and possession of child pornography is equally dramatic and disturbing. The response to these growing problems must be coordinated, comprehensive, and robust. It must aim to investigate and prosecute vigorously, and protect and assist victimized children. At the same time, it must recognize the need for a broad, community-based effort to protect our children and to guarantee for future generations the opportunities of the American dream.

The first Project Safe Childhood Training was held in Houston at the Dominican Sisters Conference Center on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

To learn more about Project Safe Childhood, visit: [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

**The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children** announced that it is opening a regional office in Austin, Texas. The kick-off fundraiser was April 4, 2007, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. Texas Center for the Missing is excited about this new resource for missing persons and their families.

#### I'm Too Pretty to Go to Prison

On April 5, the Harris County Child Abuse Task Force of Houston sponsored *I'm Too Pretty To Go To Prison: The Female Sex Offender* at DePelchin Children's Center.

#### National Missing Child's Day

May 25<sup>th</sup> is the nationally recognized day in honor of missing children in our country. Use this day as an opportunity to educate yourself and your children about the dangers in life and on the Internet. ALWAYS have an up-to-date

photo of your child(ren) on hand. A good headshot is the best tool to recover a child quickly and safely.

#### Ante Up for Amber Alert

Texas Center for the Missing will host its first annual charity poker tournament, **Ante Up for Amber Alert**. This Texas Hold 'Em Tournament will be held on June 2 at the Hornberger Conference Center in the medical center. The grand prize is a \$10,000 entry into the World Series of Poker Tournament in Las Vegas.

Sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are available. For more information, visit our website at [www.thetexascenter.org](http://www.thetexascenter.org) or contact Melissa Hulin at 713.314.3673 or [mhulin@tcftm.org](mailto:mhulin@tcftm.org).

According to the Alzheimer's Association, 6 out of 10 people with Alzheimer's will wander and become lost. If not found within 24 hours, up to half of those who wander will risk serious injury or death.

If you are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's, contact Texas Center for the Missing for tips on how to keep your loved one safe and how to find them if they do wander. Contact us at 713.314.3644 or [support@tcftm.org](mailto:support@tcftm.org).