

# update

A publication of Gabriel's Gifts / Summer 2004

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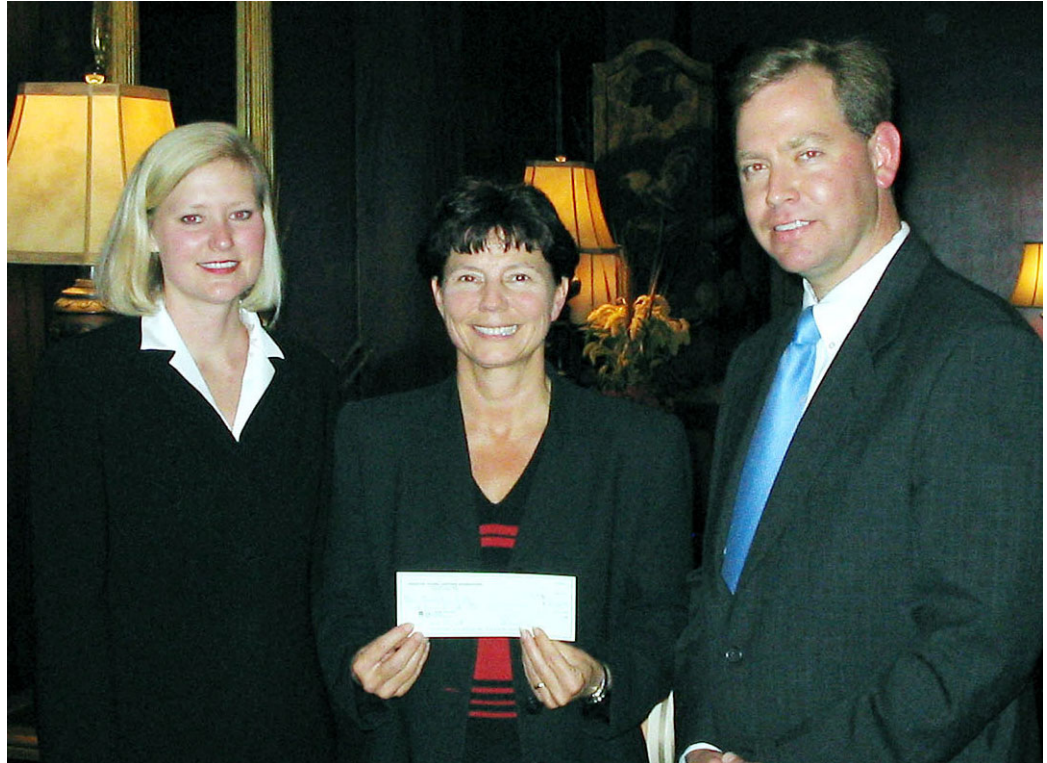
Beth Alberts  
*Chief Executive Officer*

## Gabriel's

G I F T S

Missing Children's Organization

a 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to  
helping families locate missing  
and abducted children.



From left: HYL A President Julie Baumgarten, Gabriel's Gifts CEO Beth Alberts and Richard Kroger, HYL A Grants Committee Chairman. The foundation arm of the Houston Young Lawyers Association provided Gabriel's Gifts Missing Children's Organization a \$2,000 grant at their recent awards ceremony.

## Visit SCOTLAND

### & Benefit Gabriel's Gifts!

Carlson Wagonlit Travel is offering a travel special to Gabriel's Gifts supporters. A donation will be made in your honor if you book a trip with them. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

## Save this date!

Sunday  
April 17, 2005

for  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Champagne  
Brunch

at  
Crapitto's  
Cucina Italiana

## Look at what's inside...

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Amber Alert News

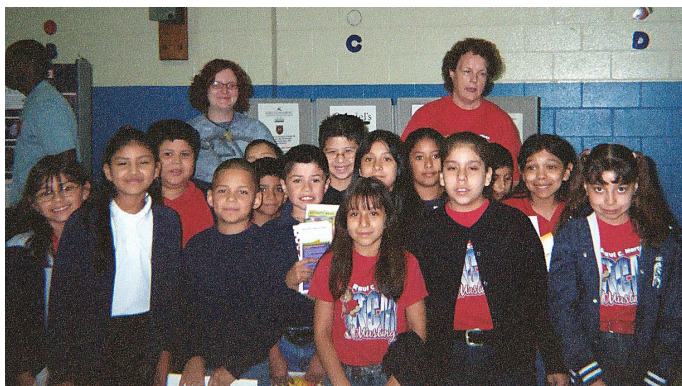
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## Program Activities

Go to [www.gabrielsgifts.org](http://www.gabrielsgifts.org) for complete details on recent happenings and upcoming events.



We saw 200 kids and parents at Raoul Martinez Elementary School's health and safety fair.

### Child Safety Events were held at:

- Madres de Madres' Back to School Event at Moody Park on August 13 - 300 people
- Baytown Department of Health Health and Safety Fair on August 13 - 250 people
- Community Resource Showcase 2004 on August 16 - 200 people



MRC Volunteers seated from left, Suzanne Touchet and Tina Deen work an information booth at Jones Methodist Church.



Program Coordinator Kimberley Dougan talks to kids and parents at the "Dreams for the Future" 9th Annual School Days Community Health Fair.

## Spotlight on Volunteers

In a 1955 letter to his son, Nat Goldsmith said, "For many years I have believed that the only real and lasting happiness we get is from unselfish service..."

This month Gabriel's Gifts is spotlighting volunteers. If you have not signed up to volunteer, go to [www.gabrielsgifts.org](http://www.gabrielsgifts.org) and select Volunteer Central. Review the volunteer opportunities and then complete the registration form. You'll be entered into the online volunteer system and will receive emails about upcoming events. All volunteers who complete 8 hours get a GG T-shirt and those who complete 40 hours will get a polo shirt.

Is it true that the family who volunteers together, stays together? Maybe, maybe not, but the Shepley / Lorange family sure knows how to make volunteering a family affair! Three generations volunteer with Gabriel's Gifts Missing Children's Organization. Ann and Frank Shepley work tirelessly on our behalf, their daughter Stefani Lorange volunteers as much as her schedule will allow, and her daughter Taylor became our youngest volunteer at seven years of age. She turned ten this summer and shows no sign of slowing down. They have volunteered more than 300 hours during the last two years!

We are so lucky to have all of our dedicated volunteers. We hope you'll join us soon!

## Fundraising Activities:

- The **Hamill Foundation** recently provided a \$15,000 grant to Gabriel's Gifts! As you may recall, they funded us in 2003 with a grant in the amount of \$10,000. We are so grateful for their continued, and increased, support of our efforts.
- **Employee Charitable Campaigns:** August 15 was the kickoff for the fall employee fundraising campaigns. We are busy making plans to work with the City, State, and Federal Employee Charitable Campaigns. If you or someone you know works for a city, state, or federal agency contributions may be made via payroll deduction to Gabriel's Gifts in any amount. All of our numbers are listed on the back of the newsletter.
- **Medical Research Consultants** has also set up a payroll deduction contribution for Gabriel's Gifts. Currently, we receive a \$250 check monthly from the company!
- Even though the **Shell Houston Open** was negatively impacted by the rain, the **Houston Golf Association** went above and beyond their commitment to participating charities. They made contributions far exceeding what we would have earned as a percentage of concession sales. We are so grateful for their commitment, not only to Gabriel's Gifts, but to all local children's charities in our community.

## Annual Conference Slated for September

The Department of Justice will convene the Second Annual National Amber Alert Conference in Columbus, Ohio September 8 – 10. We have accomplished so much since we met for the first time in August 2003 in Dallas, but so much is left to be done. We need to continue to forge ties across our state, national and international borders so that the gaps between programs are closed and abductors are apprehended before they do further damage.

## Houston Conducts Amber Alert Training

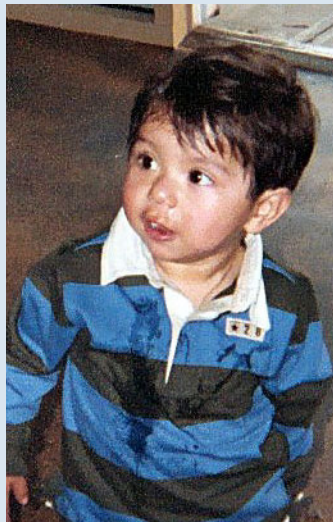
CEO Beth Alberts will be training law enforcement officers from the 13 county region in why, when and how to issue regional Amber Alerts. Classes are being held at the offices of Medical Research Consultants in the Chase Bank Building at 6330 W Loop South on September 21 and October 20 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

## Did you know...

The National Child Search Assistance Act of 1990 states that law enforcement agencies may not observe a waiting period before accepting a missing child report and that each missing child that is reported to law enforcement must be entered immediately into the state law enforcement system and National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Established in 1967, NCIC is a nationwide computerized system that provides law enforcement officers with ready data regarding wanted persons, stolen property, and other information.

## An Amber Alert Success

*Ray Cabrerra, pictured in a 2003 photo, was abducted when he was four days old, and located and returned safely within 24 hours due to the Amber Alert issued in May 2001.*



## SBC and Kay Bailey Hutchinson Announce \$1 Million in Grants

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX) joined SBC Communications, Inc. Chairman and CEO Ed Whitacre on August 3rd as the

...new network  
paging system will  
send Amber Alerts  
to SBC technicians  
in the field.

company announced a donation through the SBC Foundation of \$1 million to provide technology grants to enhance law enforcement's management and dissemination of Amber Alerts.

SBC Communications worked with 13 states to organize a new network paging system that sends these alerts to SBC technicians in the field. SBC has pledged its support to statewide alert plans in Texas, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin, and the company is working to initiate the program in Indiana and Michigan. The company is further supporting the Amber Alert system through the national \$1 million SBC Excelsior Amber Alert grant from the SBC Foundation. This program is invitational and intended for law enforcement agencies in each of the 13 SBC states with responsibility for the Amber Alert programs. The participating states may receive funds for projects that use technology to disseminate and manage Amber Alerts. (from a press release issued by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson and SBC)

## Crimes Against Children Conference held in Dallas

Gabriel's Gifts CEO Beth Alberts attended the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center's Crimes Against Children Conference held in Dallas August 22 – 25. Among presenters was Supervisory at Special Agent Jim Beasley who gave Ms. Alberts a tour of the

FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia in 2002.

Mr. Beasley provided an overview of his latest research involving the in-depth interviewing of child abductors/serial killers. This research has resulted in findings that could provide key

## Houston Issues 30<sup>th</sup> Amber Alert Since Inception

Recently, the Houston Regional Amber Plan issued its 30th Amber Alert. Luckily the young girl who was abducted returned home safely the same day and the Houston Police Department arrested the abductor shortly thereafter.

Houston has recovered all but three children who were the subjects of Amber Alerts. We celebrate this 90% success rate but mourn the loss of the children we were unable to save.

## Alerts Broadcast To Cell Phones

"The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), Nextel Communications Inc., and Communications Laboratories Inc. announced the pilot of a wireless Amber Alert solution that extends the reach of Amber Alerts to mobile phone users through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Nextel, the first and only wireless carrier to work with state Amber Alert coordinators and NCMEC towards the development of a wireless text message alert that is timely, unaltered and geographically targeted, asked the rest of the wireless industry to unite in this important effort.

(From "Government Technology" June 2004 Issue)

investigative points for future law enforcement investigations.

Additional workshops covered parental kidnappings, international kidnappings and an overview of the national Amber Alert strategies currently being developed and implemented.

# Summer Scotch Club Meetings Benefit Gabriel's Gifts

July: Our first Scotch Club event on July 17th was very successful! A record-setting 75 people braved the July heat to join us at McCormick and Schmick's in the Uptown Park.



Standing center: Gabriel's Gifts CEO Beth Alberts with volunteers Mark Church and Cathy Ross. Seated from left Gabriel's Gifts Board Member Judy Carnahan-Webb and friend Toni Bennett.

Major George Sturgis of the Harris County Sheriff's Office joined us as did Gabriel's Gifts' Board Members Ron Dalton and Judy Carnahan-Webb and MRC staff Holly and Chris

Robertson, Johnny Gonzales, and Suzette Harris. MRC staffer Cathy Ross, who serves as a charter member of the Scotch Club, arranged for Gabriel's Gifts to be

sponsored at the summer events.

August: On August 18, we did it again! We broke the attendance record again when more than 100 people joined us for a special scotch tasting at McCormick and

Schmick's featuring the Texas debut of Dewar's new Signature Scotch.

Plan to join us on September



Pictured at the August tasting are MRC staff and Gabriel's Gifts volunteers and staff: (front) Doug Chan, Gabriel's Gifts Board Member; Cathy Ross; Beth Alberts, Gabriel's Gifts CEO; Ann Shepley, volunteer; Patty Caceres; Kim Dougan, Gabriel's Gifts Program Coordinator; (back) Cliff Carson; DeEtte Harrington; Patty Cardwell Swords, supporter; Frank Shepley, volunteer; and Robin Owen.

21 at 5:30 p.m for our next event, we'll set a new record and go out with a bang!

## Gabriel's

G I F T S

Missing Children's Organization

### DONOR FORM

**Yes, I want every child to be safe.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please accept my gift of:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ This donation is in honor / memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a matching gift form from my company. \_\_\_\_\_

(check our website at [www.gabrielsgifts.org](http://www.gabrielsgifts.org) to see if your employer matches contributions!)

**I want to volunteer.** Please call me. \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to Gabriel's Gifts**

MasterCard  VISA  Discover

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### CITY, STATE OR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

You can contribute to Gabriel's Gifts via payroll deduction by choosing our charity. Our numbers are:

2416  
Houston's Combined Municipal Campaign

334163  
State Employee Charitable Campaign

4140  
Combined Federal Campaign

#### GABRIEL'S GIFTS

6330 West Loop South • Suite 105 • Bellaire, Texas 77401  
[www.gabrielsgifts.org](http://www.gabrielsgifts.org) 713.521.2694

**All donations are tax deductible**