

update

A publication of Gabriel's Gifts / Spring 2004

Gabriel's Gifts Board of Directors

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Beth Alberts
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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.



Bidders look over the silent auction items.

3rd Annual Champagne Brunch is Big Success!

After the storm the day before, the weather on Sunday, May 2nd couldn't have been better.

More than 100 people attended our annual fundraising event, a brunch

and silent auction held at Crapitto's Italian Cucina. Chef Extraordinaire, Frank Crapitto, provided delicious food, and the restaurant served as a wonderful backdrop for friends of Gabriel's Gifts to gather to visit and

bid competitively on more than 120 items. This year's event raised almost \$20,000 for **Almost \$20,000 was raised for Gabriel's Gifts missing child programs.**

Gabriel's Gifts missing child programs. Many thanks to all of those who donated, attended or provided auction items. See the enclosed list of generous supporters.



Paul Wahlberg, Chairman of the Houston Golf Association's Charities Selection committee, Frank Shepley, Gabriel's Gifts volunteer and CEO Beth Alberts at the third annual Champagne Brunch at Crapitto's.

Board and Staff News

In March Gabriel's Gifts Board of Directors elected new Officers. They are Chairman Doug Dickey, Chair-elect Doug Beatty, Treasurer Adrienne Bond and Secretary Sydney Greenblatt. We are grateful for the commitment our new officers have made to provide guidance and leadership as we continue to grow and serve more people.

Many, many thanks to our outgoing Board officers, Chair Lisa Fielder, Treasurer Doug Dickey and Secretary Ron Dalton. This first set of officers



Kim Dougan

led us through our critical, first three formative years.

In March Gabriel's Gifts got a new staff member. Kim Dougan joined us part-time as Program Coordinator.

Shell Houston Open

Even though the Shell Houston Open suffered from spring showers, Gabriel's Gifts volunteers managed to sell pretzels and lemonade to anyone who stood still long enough to hear the pitch. Thanks to our volunteers!

Doug Beatty
Donna and Len Bordelon
Debbie Brueckner
Lori Dougan
Chris Lane
Diana Randolph
Ann Shepley
Cisco Tucker-Kolkmeier



Presentations and Child ID Events:



Eagle Scout Candidate looks on as a young girl gets her completed Child ID Kit.

Eagle Scout Project: We prepared laminated photo ID cards for 65 children at the Houston International Church of Christ. More than 40 volunteers showed up to help. Eagle Scout Candidate, Alex Hammond, did a great job of coordinating the entire project.

Kiwanis Club: CEO Beth Alberts made a presentation to the Kingwood Kiwanis Club on Friday, February 19th.

APCO Conference: CEO Beth Alberts made a presentation to the Texas Chapter of the Association of Public-safety Communications Officials at their Annual Conference in South Padre Island February 29 – March 3



Volunteers fingerprint children at the Houston International Church of Christ.

DEM Conference in Waco: CEO Beth Alberts made a presentation to attendees at the Texas Department of Emergency Management Annual Conference in Waco on March 9.

Girl Scouts: In March we provided child safety presentation and child ID cards to two Girl Scout troops – one in Baytown and one in Houston. The Baytown Girl Scouts will hold a child ID event of their own at their local Fourth of July festival.

Executive Women in Texas Government: CEO Beth Alberts made a presentation to the Executive Women in Texas Government on April 8th.

Alamo Elementary: Volunteer Shelley Swedlaw provided a child safety presentation to 97 parents at Alamo Elementary in Goose Creek ISD.

EA Jones Elementary: Kim Dougan distributed more than 200 child ID kits and child safety info to parents and kids at this Fort Bend ISD school.



Gabriel shows off his new laminated Child ID Card at the Northwest YMCA's Healthy Kids Day.

YMCA Healthy Kids Day: We prepared 115 laminated ID cards for kids at the Northwest YMCA's Healthy Kids Day and distributed ID kits and child safety brochures to 100 children and 55 parents at the MD Anderson YMCA's Healthy Kids Day.

Houston Area Women's Center: Kim Dougan produced photo ID cards and distributed ID kits and child safety info to 45 kids and parents at the Houston Area Women's Center Health and Safety Fair.

Employee Payroll Contribution Campaigns Approved for Autumn

Gabriel's Gifts Missing Children's Organization has recently been approved to join the City, State and Federal Employee Campaigns again this fall. The successful 2003 awareness and fundraising efforts resulted in over \$8,000 in contributions for our child safety programs.

City employees can contribute by selecting Gabriel's Gifts #2416 in the Combined Municipal Campaign.

State employees can contribute by selecting Gabriel's Gifts #334163 in the State Employee Charitable Campaign.

Federal employees can contribute by selecting Gabriel's Gifts #4140 in the Combined Federal Campaign.



Birdies Campaign Will Net \$26,000

Gabriel's Gifts was ranked the number four charity in the Birdies for Charity Campaign this year. This honor enabled us to have a booth at the 2004 Shell Houston Open and seek additional Birdies sponsors. We added several new sponsors and substantial dollars to further our cause. Our final Birdies Campaign will net almost \$26,000!

Additional Dynamic Message Signs Coming to Texas



The Texas Department of Transportation has received a grant from the Department of Justice to install additional Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) around the State. These signs not only facilitate traffic management but serve as a very successful tool in alerting the public to a child abduction. The use of the DMS has actually resulted in the recovery of several young people including Tamara Brooks and Jaqueline Marris who were rescued from a California roadside in August of 2002.

National Amber Alert Celebrates One Year Anniversary on April 30

April 30th marked the one year anniversary since the President signed the Child Protect Act of 2003 providing for the creation of a national Amber Alert system and we've made a great deal of progress. In 2002, there were 27 Amber Plans around the country.

Now there are 96; 48 stateside plans; 32 regional plans; and 16

Gabriel's Gifts Hosts NASAR Conference In Mid-October

A regional conference of the National Association of Search and Rescue will be hosted by the Southeast Texas SAR



Alliance and Gabriel's Gifts Missing Children's Organization. The conference will be held October 15 – 17, 2004 at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe and will have three tracks: one for search and rescue personnel and volunteers; one for law enforcement and fire and safety personnel and one for canine search and rescue teams. NASAR testing for the SAR-Tech III will be provided as will TCLEOSE credits for eligible law enforcement officers. Check the website at www.gabrielsgifts.org for more info and the registration form.

[Amber Alert Plans save lives of 134 children throughout country.](#)

local plans credited with saving the lives of 134 children. Our challenge now is to connect these independent systems to ensure consistent application and interstate dissemination when appropriate.

The Department of Justice has convened two national conferences to determine best practices from local, regional and state Amber Alert systems and later this year Texas will hold a statewide conference to ensure that each region around our vast state has its own Amber Alert System. This local ownership will provide for more effective use of the Amber Alert, and that system oversight is provided by those most affected.

Southeast Regional Conference To be Held in West Palm Beach

In June, Amber Plan representatives from the Southeast United States will meet in West Palm Beach to discuss progress made since the last National Conference held in Memphis in December. The Houston Regional Amber Plan has been undergoing some changes. We have updated our written plan, including slight modifications to our criteria so that they match the Texas Amber Alert Criteria. We are drafting an After Incident Review Form to be completed by the issuing law enforcement agency after each Amber Alert.

Amber Alerts to be Disseminated In Shopping Centers Nationwide

On Thursday, April 1st, General Growth Properties announced that their portfolio of Malls will serve as "Amber Alert" Sites. The Houston Regional Amber Plan will provide the alerts from our thirteen-county area directly to the malls and law enforcement or Beyondmissing.com will provide alerts from other areas.

"Chicago-based General Growth Properties (GGP), the country's second largest shopping center owner, developer, and manager, announced today its 172 shopping centers in 41 states have joined the list of location sites for local Amber Alerts. Approximately two billion shoppers pass through General Growth Properties' portfolio of centers every year. These numbers are crucial when it comes to the search for missing children. The mall's public safety team will post the alert in a high-traffic area within the mall. General Growth's three public safety contractors, Advanced-Tech Security Services, Allied Security and Valor Security, were instrumental in implementing each mall's participation in the Amber Alert program. General Growth will implement the Amber Alert initiative at its malls over the next three months."

General Growth Property Malls in the Southeast Texas area include Baybrook, Brazos, Deerbrook, Memorial City, First Colony, The Woodlands, and Willowbrook Malls.

Record Numbers of MRC Staff Volunteer

Gabriel's Gifts continues to benefit from the generosity of the employees of Medical Research Consultants. This spring, they have volunteered in record numbers by working the House Beautiful Show, the Shell Houston Open and our Champagne Brunch. They also contributed significantly to our Silent Auction and donated over \$1,300 in honor of Gabriel's Gifts founder Doreen Wise's birthday! This summer, a second generation carries on the tradition! Several MRC employees are bringing their children to volunteer in the Gabriel's Gifts office.

Participating in House Show Proves Beneficial to Families

The semi-annual House Beautiful Shows continue to be two of our biggest events. These booths, graciously donated to Gabriel's



Gifts and the Houston Regional Amber Plan by DMG Media, provide an opportunity for us to reach many,

many families each spring and fall.

We distributed child safety information, child ID kits and produce laminated Child ID Cards for approximately 500 families. Many thanks to our volunteers:

Tina Deen	Lori Dougan	Elizabeth Farrar
Alex Gordon	Daylah Guptaell	Stefani Lorange
Taylor Lorange	Camille Lovins	Melinda Pigford
Ann Shepley	Suzanne Touchet	Cisco Tucker-Kolkmeier

Gabriel's Gifts Has Moved!

On Monday, March 29th our sponsor company Medical Research Consultants moved to the Chase Bank Building at the West Loop South and Bissonnet in Bellaire. We were fortunate to be able to make the move with them.

Please note our new address:

**6330 W. Loop South
Suite 105**

Bellaire, TX 77401

Our phone: 713.521.2694

and fax: 713.522.7386

remain the same.

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 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 713.521.2694

All donations are tax deductible