



MEDIA ADVISORY

Pursuant to CA Gov't. Code Sect. 6254(f)
San Jose Police Department
Press Information Office
201 W. Mission Street, San Jose, CA 95110
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May 25th, 2006 is National Missing Children's Day

Please join the San Jose Police Department and the Vanished Children's Alliance in recognizing National Missing Children's Day.

A Press Conference will be held at the San Jose Police Department, 201 West Mission Street in front of PAB at 9:00AM on Thursday May 25, 2006.

Between 1979 and 1981, a series of high profile missing children cases became national headlines. This widespread coverage brought attention to the seriousness of "child victimization." These abductions shocked the nation and forever changed the response by law enforcement agencies.

It was in 1983 when President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 25th as "National Missing Children's Day." May 25th was the day that 6-year-old Etan Patz disappeared from a New York City street corner on his way to school in 1979. His case remains unsolved and is an annual reminder to the nation to renew efforts to reunite missing children with their families and make protection a national priority. Since 1983, families and children's advocates nationwide have observed "National Missing Children's Day."

National Missing Children's Day is also a reminder to all parents and guardians of the need for high quality photographs of their children for use in case of an emergency and the need for everyone to pay close attention to the posters and photographs of missing children.

It is our hope to raise awareness about the power of photos and their importance in the search for missing children. Missing children have been recovered and reunited with their families as a direct result of a member of the general public recognizing the child from a photo distribution program. The goal is to have photographs of missing children printed on T-shirts and distributed throughout various communities. The T-shirts are to be worn on May 25th so that your community can look at and

BY: Sgt. Nick Muyo
DATE: 5-24-06

TIME: 7:00AM

AUTHORIZED BY: Chief Rob Davis
DATE: 5-24-06 TIME: 7:00AM

PRESS OFFICER BRIEFED BY UNIT COMMANDER (CIRCLE) **YES NO**

remember the pictures.

Along with the photographs, these T-shirts detail the child's name and actual date they were reported missing. These T-shirts will serve as a tool to help bring these children home and reunite them with their families. These T-shirts will serve as support for loving family members who continue to search for their children every day.

San Jose Officers and VCA Staff will be at the Chevy's Restaurant, Almaden Fashion Plaza, Almaden/Blossom Hill Road on Thursday, May 25, 2006 from 4:00PM to 8:00PM to fingerprint children and hand out kidnap prevention material.

BACKGROUND:

The Vanished Children's Alliance (VCA) is a national non-profit agency, dedicated to protecting all children from disappearing. To ensure children's safety, VCA educates the public and professionals about the serious issue of abducted and runaway children. VCA works to prevent, locate, and recover child victims, and reunify them with their families, in collaboration with law enforcement, communities and other credible agencies.

VCA was formed in 1980 to address the growing need for victims' parents to obtain credible, effective, and compassionate assistance in the location, recovery and reunification of their missing and abducted child(ren). VCA is the oldest and most experienced missing children's organization in the United States. VCA is a national non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization providing nationwide and overseas assistance to families in all categories of missing children: non-family (stranger and acquaintance) abductions, family abductions, runaways and otherwise missing or lost children.

Headquartered in San Jose, California, the Vanished Children's Alliance has assisted in the location, recovery, reunification and reintegration of more than 32,000 missing and abducted children. In addition to providing critically needed direct services to victim families, VCA gives equal importance to child abduction prevention and community outreach programs. VCA has provided hundreds of training sessions, prevention education classes, and workshops to schools, hospitals, criminal justice professionals, and the general public on local, national and international levels.

If you would like more information or have any questions, you are invited to contact either organization at:

The Vanished Children's Alliance, 991 West Hedding Street, Suite #101, San Jose, CA 95126, phone (408) 296-1113, or the

San Jose Police Department's Missing Persons Unit, 201 West Mission Street, San Jose, CA 95110, phone (408) 277-4786.

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