



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
Ph (408) 277-5339 / Fax (408) 286-0923

May 25th, 2005 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 Conference Room 314 at 9:00 AM on Wednesday May 25, 2005.

With the recent events and media coverage on various child abductions across the country, it is important to inform the public and our children of not only the issue of missing and abducted children, but also of the preventive measures being offered to children and adults to ensure their child's safety. Missing Children's Day is an opportunity to help out in the search for missing and abducted children by paying close attention to the posters and pictures of missing children and report any sightings. It is also a chance to learn about child identification and safety so that future abductions can be prevented.

The Vanished Children's Alliance and San Jose Police Department will be holding a joint press conference to recognize National Missing Children's Day and raise awareness about the serious issue of missing and abducted children. Speakers will include San Jose Chief of Police Rob Davis and Executive Director and Founder of the Vanished Children's Alliance, Georgia K. Hilgeman-Hammond. We will also be recognizing the efforts and hard work of Officer Brian Spears.

DETAILS:

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

BY: Sgt. Nick Muyo
DATE: 05-25-05

TIME: 9:00 AM

AUTHORIZED BY: Chief Rob Davis

DATE: 05-25-05

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

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.

The 2005 Missing Children's Day Press Conference is a result of efforts by Officer Brian Spears, an eight-year veteran of the Police Department. While recovering from an on-duty injury, Officer Spears was so moved by the news coverage of child abductions across the country, he immediately began looking for ways to address the issue of missing and abducted child in his local community.

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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