

A mile a minute....
that is how fast your child can disappear



A MESSAGE FROM MARC

I can neither understand nor explain the verdict in the Caylee Anthony case. Although there is no smoking gun proving conclusively that 25-year-old Casey Anthony murdered her toddler, it is very difficult to ignore the totality of the evidence. Her failure to report Caylee missing for 31 days, the stench of death in the trunk of her car, the litany of lies, the physical evidence at the crime scene, and Casey's consistently inappropriate emotional responses all seem to scream, "I did it," yet the jury acquitted her of all felonies after a mere 11 hours of deliberation.

Perhaps the only positive aspect of this judicial fiasco is the wildly popular Change.org petition (<http://www.change.org/petitions/create-caylees-law>) for Caylee's Law that will make it a felony for a parent or guardian to fail to notify law enforcement in a timely manner of a child gone missing. So far more than 1,200,000 citizens, including me, have signed this petition. You should too.

However, we are glad to be able to highlight many other important and fascinating achievements that are happening in the

world of missing persons and child safety. In this issue, Krystine Dihn, the cousin of missing nursing student Michelle Le, provides a glimpse of what it is like to exist in "the eye of the storm" that is a missing person case.

Longtime KlaasKids Foundation supporter Raegan Baker discusses how she has found a way to use her business to give back to the cause that has helped guide her life from the night that my Polly was kidnapped from her bedroom at knifepoint. Please also read the article from cell phone technology expert Ben Levitan, who shares an uplifting tale of how technology can trump evil. Finally, we explore a too-often ignored phenomenon that continues to plague our society: the tragic consequences of extreme abuse inflicted on special needs children. ■

SPECIAL THANKS TO
1 STOP PROMOTION SHOP
KATHLEEN MOORE OF KATHLEEN MOORE
COMMUNICATIONS
TAMARA DORRIS REAL ESTATE
AND WELLS FARGO BANK
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KLAASACTION REVIEW

LIVING WITH MISSING: THE MICHELLE LE CASE

On Friday, May 27, my cousin Michelle Le went missing from Kaiser Medical Center in Hayward, CA, where she was conducting her clinical rounds as a nursing student at Samuel Merritt University. At the age of 26, Michelle is looking forward to graduating in six months and starting her career of helping others – a goal she has pursued since her mother, also a nurse practitioner, passed away from breast cancer.

Michelle is from San Diego, CA, where she grew up in a large extended family. Though everyone in our family tends to stick close together, she made the brave choice to move to the Bay Area and attend San Francisco State University, before enrolling in a nursing program at Samuel Merritt University. She is often described as a “ball of sunshine.” Her positive attitude and sense of humor are contagious. She is loved by many.

When Michelle went missing on May 27, we knew our lives were going to change – and stall – until her return. With days turning into weeks, we prepared ourselves to be involved for the long haul.

However, no one is ever ready to dive headfirst into a search campaign for their own loved one. What’s the first step? How do you gain and maintain media attention? How do you proactively organize search events? How do you

keep busy, stay focused, and remain hopeful when you’re overwhelmed with a sense of urgency and helplessness?

That was where the KlaasKids Foundation stepped in with their expertise, knowledge, and resources to assist our family.

KlaasKids helped us conduct more than 40 searches in three days, with more than 100

volunteers each day. All the volunteers were trained and guided by KlaasKids Search Director Brad Dennis, who flew out to California from Florida to help. Participating family members were trained and advised in search operations and management. They helped us cover every detail, from volunteer documentation to food donations.

Perhaps the most important gift the KlaasKids Foundation has given us, however, has been their friendship, empathy, and emotional understanding – their ability to tell us that

they sincerely know how we feel.

Michelle has been missing for 43 days, but our dedication to finding her is unwavering. We will continue to fight for her until she is home with us again. For updates on Michelle’s case, please visit www.michellelemissing.com.

When a tragedy like this happens, you’ll discover that you meet friends like Marc Klaas who will stick with you for the rest of your life. ■

MISSING
\$100,000 REWARD



MICHELLE LE
NURSING STUDENT LAST
SEEN at 7:00 PM, FRIDAY
MAY 27th, 2011 at KAISER
HOSPITAL in HAYWARD, CA

AGE:
26
HEIGHT:
5-ft.-6-in.
BLACK HAIR
BROWN EYES
WEARING WHITE
NURSE SCRUBS

WWW.
michellelemissing.com

Contact:
HAYWARD POLICE
300 West Winton Av.
Hayward, CA 94544
(510) 293-5051

call 911

CELL PHONES HELP FIND THE MISSING

One day recently, at just 8:00 a.m., I received a call from Leslie Denton, the central point of contact for North Carolina Search and Rescue. A 17-year-old girl in Mebane, NC, was missing. "She's a straight-A student, in the church choir, and never goes anywhere without calling her parents to let them know that she's leaving. She didn't come home from ballet last night. Not even a call, and no one has heard from her."

I took the missing girl's cell phone number and began a process that I've repeated many times this year. By 8:54 a.m., we knew that she had been abducted, and by whom. Georgia Police had an All Points Bulletin (APB) out on the suspect's car. By 4:00 p.m., the missing 17-year-old was sitting in a Georgia Police Department waiting for her dad to pick her up. The suspect was waiting in a holding cell.

Amazing, isn't it? A textbook ending to a potentially tragic situation. But how did we do it, and what was the process that the North Carolina State Police; Mebane, NC, Search and Rescue; and the Georgia State Police used to help locate the suspect and the captured girl?

Understanding the Process

Here are the steps that any law enforcement agency can use to help quickly track down a missing person through their cell phone information:

- 1. Get the Data.** First, we obtain the missing person's cell phone number.
- 2. Determine the cell phone service provider:** Ask a parent or friend; or find a cell phone expert for this information.
- 3. Contact the mobile phone provider's emergency number.** Each cell provider has a

"Law Enforcement Only" phone number and extension that officers can use in life-threatening emergencies. (Unfortunately, many police departments are not yet aware of this capability. We therefore strongly suggest that interested citizens should have their local city councilman who is responsible for 911 and public safety create a list for service providers in your town. Once that list is created, make sure he or she distributes it to the local police department).

4. Determine last known location: Police who call the "Law Enforcement Only" number notify the carrier that they are trying to locate a missing person/child and need to know the last known location of the victim's phone and the time of that reading. If the reading is current, that will tell you where the user's phone is right then. This can lead to quick resolution.

5. Obtain recent calls and text messages: Law enforcement then requests a list of recent calls made or received by the victim. They should also ask for the most recent text messages sent and received, the content of those messages, and the general location of the victim when they sent or received the message.

6. Dig deeper: If a particular number was the last call, ask the phone company for the name of that caller. If the party is not a subscriber of the same phone company, the operator can tell police who the provider is and the number they should call to get more information. Often, the last person the victim was in contact with is the kidnapper, or at least someone who knew of the missing person's plans. Note that when police contact the last caller's phone company, they may find that the number is a landline phone. Obviously, this provides a physical address

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CELL PHONES HELP FIND THE MISSING

associated with it! Or, if it's another cell phone, the provider may be able to find out that person's address.

7. Create a list of possible suspects and witnesses: As noted, the last call made or received may potentially be from the kidnapper, or it may be someone with whom the victim discussed their plans. By calling the appropriate phone company, law enforcement can get the name of the caller and their address. Further, police may be able to get the last known location of that person, based on where their cell phone was last registered.

Quick Action Saves Girl

In the case described above, I was able to quickly determine the telephone carrier of the missing child and called its emergency number to make sure the number had not changed. I also let them know that police would be calling shortly and briefed them quickly on the situation. I then provided Mebane police with the emergency contact number for the service provider, as well as the above instructions. They contacted the phone company and found one number associated with someone who had been in contact with the missing child on the day she disappeared. They were able to get the name and a Georgia billing address for this caller. The phone company further determined that the location of his last cell phone call was in Georgia.

Police then questioned family and friends about the potential suspect. One of the missing girl's friends recognized the caller's name as a

former church camp councilor. He had been texting her steadily over the past week.

Using DMV records, the Georgia police issued an APB for his vehicle, and, just before 4:00 p.m., Georgia police pulled over the car, arrested the man, and found the girl safe. He had talked her into going to Georgia with him. Heaven knows why she agreed to go with him, but by 4:00 p.m., her father was driving from North Carolina to pick up his daughter.

This case clearly shows that a quick response to access cell phone activity can save lives. It took less than an hour to find the information and take punitive action. My wholehearted thanks go out to the police departments in North Carolina and Georgia for doing everything right.

What Can You Do?

Call your city councilman, mayor, or representative and ask them to provide police with the emergency contact number for every service carrier in your area and distribute it with this simple list of instructions. The next time someone in your town gets that 8:00 a.m. call, you can breathe a little easier knowing that a plan is in place. ■

Ben Levitan is a telecommunications expert with more than 30 years experience in the design of cellular networks and systems. He holds 27 patents, is the author of several books on Mobile and GPS and Satellite communications as well as a regular guest on HLN, FOX and NBC news shows. See more about Mr. Levitan's Expert Witness Services at www.BenLevitan.com.

© 2011 by the KlaasKids Foundation. The *Klaas Action Review* is published quarterly for Foundation members. Dedicated to the memory of Polly Klaas, the Foundation's purpose is to inform parents, children and communities about how to prevent crimes against children through personal action and support of legislation. Design Concept: Blackburn Design, Petaluma, CA.

EXTREME CONSEQUENCES: THE ABUSE OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

Zahra Baker was a scrappy ten-year-old girl with an angelic smile when she was reported missing by her father and stepmother in October 2010. Zahra had lost her left leg and much of her hearing in a childhood battle with cancer. Despite numerous reports to Child Protection Services and eye-witness accounts of severe abuse and neglect, Zahra's stepmother Elisa remained the little girl's primary caregiver during the final two years of her life. Zahra's remains were discovered, scattered in multiple locations throughout central North Carolina, on November 12, 2010. Zahra's stepmother has been charged with her murder.



Nine-year-old Edward Dylan Bryant and his seven-year-old brother Austin were adopted by Edward and Linda Bryant in March 2000.

They were considered special needs



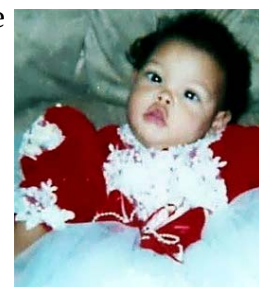
children, and the Bryants received \$1,700 per month from the El Paso Department of Human Services for the boys' care. In February 2011, authorities were notified by a stepbrother that both had disappeared. The ensuing investigation determined that Austin had been regularly beaten, starved, locked in a trunk, shocked with a taser gun, and rolled up in a blanket for hours at a time. Edward disappeared in 2001, and Austin hasn't been seen since 2003-2005. Edward and Linda Bryant have been arrested for receiving nearly \$175,000 in government payments to support the boys, who have been missing for almost a decade.

Research shows that individuals with disabilities are four times more likely to be victims of crime as the general population, and that the maltreatment of children with disabilities is 1.5 to 10 times higher than children without them. Immediate family members perpetrate the majority of neglect and physical and emotional abuse. Extra-familial perpetrators account for the majority of sexual abuse.

A child is considered to have special needs when diagnosed with a variety of disabilities such as: attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; autism; various learning disabilities; certain physical limitations; mental illness; and limited intellectual capacity. The major forms of child abuse include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as neglect.

The indicators of abuse for special needs children can be difficult to recognize. With most children, we may see physical signs, behavioral indicators, or the child may report the abuse. However, for special needs children, changes in behavior may be harder to identify, be attributed to the disability, or the child may be unable to communicate appropriately. Injuries resulting from physical abuse may also be ignored if a child has visual or physical limitations. As well, if a child has intellectual limitations, adults may assume that the child is untrustworthy or easily suggestible, especially if the report involves instances of abuse that seem unbelievable or improbable. It can therefore be difficult to communicate what happened and be believed.

Tia McShane was an eleven-year-old girl who suffered from cerebral palsy. When her custodial mother



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REMEMBERING POLLY: THE SHAKLEE CAMPAIGN FOR KLAASKIDS

The fall of 1993 started out as a promising time in my life. I had just turned 13 and looked forward to a memorable year in seventh grade. I was in love with finally being a teenager, cutting off my girlish long blonde hair in order to sport a more stylish bob. I joined in the teenage ritual of hanging out with friends at the local shopping mall every Saturday afternoon and gossiping about boys I had developed feelings for. My biggest concern was fitting in with everyone whom I deemed important during lunch hour at school.

Little did I know that the fate of another seventh grader, someone I never met and who lived on the other side of the country, would soon force me to realize there was a harsh, cruel world that existed beyond the mall and school lunchroom.

It was a Saturday night in October when the realities of evil hit me. I had wandered into my family's den to watch TV and for a few moments I mindlessly flipped through the channels.

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EXTREME CONSEQUENCES: THE ABUSE OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

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died in 2011, her father attempted to regain custody. An investigation then determined that Tia had not been seen since 2006. Her remains were discovered in a storage locker, rented in her mother's name, near her hometown of Pensacola, Florida. No one has been held accountable for her death.

Five-year-old Hasanni Campbell suffered from cognitive delays and cerebral palsy, and was reported missing by his stepfather in August 2010. There were no witnesses to his disappearance, and no leads were generated by media reports. After an extensive investigation, the Oakland, CA, police announced that they believed that Hasanni had been murdered and that his stepfather was the prime suspect. To date, no arrests have been made and the case remains unsolved.



In the general population, child victims of abuse are at high risk for multiple problems, including depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem. Consequences of abuse may be more pronounced for special needs children because of their already vulnerable physical and psychological state. Research has shown that the longer abuse has gone on, the more damage may result. Since the special needs child who is abused is less likely to be identified, he or she is likely to suffer more damage. Abuse may exacerbate existing issues and cause additional permanent disabilities.

Abuse can occur with all populations of children. If society can assimilate and process this devastating reality, it is the first and most powerful step towards preventing abuse. We therefore need to intervene before abuse and neglect can occur. Teach all children personal safety skills to discourage abuse. Recognize that the child is very dependent on the caregiver, because the caregiver is in a position to provide or withhold daily necessities. ■

REMEMBERING POLLY: THE SHAKLEE CAMPAIGN FOR KLAASKIDS

I suddenly stopped when I saw a picture of a beautiful young girl. It didn't take long for me to realize I was watching the crimefighting show, *America's Most Wanted*, and that the girl in the photograph was only a few months younger than myself. She had been violently stolen from her own bedroom while having two friends over for a slumber party. It was at that moment when the lovely seventh-grader Polly Klaas became a part of my life.

I followed her kidnapping closely, hanging on to whatever developments were reported. By all accounts, Polly was friendly, intelligent, and had a love of the theater. She was missed by her family, friends, and classmates and the entire nation wanted her case to end with her safe return. Sadly, it wasn't to be. Just two months after she was taken, a career criminal confessed to killing her.

I remember being in shock that someone so promising could be ripped away from this world so brutally. I was angry, confused, and heart-broken. I saw so much of myself in Polly, from our love of the beach to sharing a favorite childhood book, *Little Women*.

Though this fall marks 18 years since Polly's tragedy, the spirited girl with wavy brown hair has never been far from my heart. I have thought of Polly with every milestone I achieved in life. From completing high school, to moving on to college and eventually grad school, to starting my own life away from family and beginning my career, I had Polly in mind because she would have been achieving the same goals at around the same time. The realization that she is not here is something I still have trouble accepting.

Several years after Polly's death I sent a letter to her father, Marc, to let him know that I was proud of KlaasKids, the foundation he had started in her memory to prevent other children from sharing her fate. That letter, written in 1998, spurred a friendship between myself and Marc that has lasted to this day, and KlaasKids remains one of my favorite charities.

For years I wanted to do something to honor Polly, but I never knew how to go about it. However, that changed several months back when, determined to run my own business, I became a Shaklee independent distributor. I learned that as a distributor I can raise funds for non-profits through my product sales. Of course, the KlaasKids Foundation was the first that came to mind.

For half a century, Shaklee has offered families support for a healthier life. These nutritional products, based on state-of-the-art scientific research, provide pure ingredients that have been proven to be safe and effective for generations of Shaklee families. Successful weight loss plans and the household cleaning products ensure a safe, healthy home. Shaklee adult vitamins, known as Vitalizer, are well known for being an excellent source of minerals, antioxidants, anti-aging phytonutrients, omega-3 fatty acids, and probiotics. There is something for everyone with Shaklee products, no matter the age.

By purchasing Shaklee items through the website below, you will help raise money for KlaasKids. It is an excellent way to honor the young girl who continues to inspire us all. For more information please visit: <http://www.shaklee.net/klaaskids>, or call 804-339-4129. ■

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT - HELP FIGHT CRIME!

PLEASE MAKE YOUR SECURE DONATION ONLINE @
<https://secure.vwswebs.com/klaaskids/pg-help.htm>

Contributions to the KlaasKids Foundation are tax deductible.

There are four convenient ways to donate via:

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Sausalito, CA 94966

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Thank you in advance for your contribution and support!



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