

## "Have A Heart For Missing Children" Walk

- What:** "Have A Heart For Missing Children" walk to raise awareness about the missing children's issue and recognize Florida Missing Children's Day, September 9
- Who:** Child Protection Education of America, other Florida missing children organizations and parents of missing children
- When:** September 4-9, 2002
- Where:** Major Florida cities including Tampa, Zephyrhills, Clearwater, Orlando, Ocala and Tallahassee (see attached schedule)
- Details:** Over six days, parents of missing children from Florida as well as representatives from Child Protection Education of America, A Child Is Missing, Child Watch of North America, Missing Children Center, Jimmy Ryce Center, Suncoast Missing Children Project, and Voice for the Children will walk through several major cities on their way to participate in the Governor's recognition ceremony September 9

Contact

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### Have A Heart For Missing Children Walk Day 1

#### Tampa, Zephyrhills and Clearwater

**September 4, 2002**

- 8:30 a.m.** Kick-off press conference in Tampa at CPEA Office, 410 Ware Blvd, Suite 710
- 9:30 a.m.** Start walk behind Walgreen's, 128 E. Brandon Boulevard (see exact route below)
- 11:30 a.m.** Travel to Zephyrhills
- 12 p.m.** Start walk at Times Square in Zephyrhills (see exact route below)
- 2 p.m.** Free lunch at Fraternal Order of Eagles, 33710 S.R. 54 West
- 3 p.m.** Drive to Clearwater
- 4 p.m.** Start walk at Cliff Stevens Park from Fairwood (see exact route below)

**7 p.m.** Drive to Orlando to stay at Best Western Airport, 8101 Air Center Court, Orlando, FL, Phone: 407-581-2800

**Walk route for Brandon**

Walk S.R. 60 to Parsons Avenue to Clay to Kingsway to Sadie to Parsons to S.R. 60

**See attached map for Brandon route**

**Walk route for Zephyrhills**

From Times Square to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 7<sup>th</sup> Street to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 20<sup>th</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Times Square

**See attached map for Zephyrhills route**

**Walk route for Clearwater**

From Fairwood to Drew Street and back to Fairwood

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**Have A Heart For Missing Children Walk Day 2**

**Orlando**

**September 5, 2002**

**10 a.m.** Press conference at Best Western Airport, 8101 Air Center Court, Orlando, FL, Phone: 407-581-2800

**10:30 a.m.** Start walk from West Miller Street, just east of Sligh Boulevard

(see exact route below)

**2 p.m.** Lunch (location undetermined)

**3 p.m.** Drive to Ocala Stay at Best Western, 3701 SW 38<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ocala, FL, Phone: 352-237-

4848

## Walk route for Orlando

From West Miller Street to Sligh Boulevard to Columbia Street to Orange Avenue to Delaney to Cherokee to Woodland Avenue to Lake Davis Drive to East Gore Street to South Bumby to East Michigan to South Primrose to East Central to North Graham to East Jefferson to North Bumby to East Central to South Hyer to East Church to South Summerlin to Delaney Park Drive to Delaney Avenue to East Copeland Drive to Fernwood Street to Orange Avenue

### See attached map for Orlando route

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### Have A Heart For Missing Children Walk Day 3

#### Ocala

**September 6, 2002**

**10 a.m.** Press conference in Ocala at Marion County Sheriff Headquarters,

692 Northwest 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**10:30 a.m.** Walk around Marion County Sheriff's Complex

**1 p.m.** Lunch (location undetermined)

**2 p.m.** Interviews with families of missing children for media

## Note

The group will stay in Ocala at the same hotel before traveling to Gainesville the next morning.

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## **Have A Heart For Missing Children Walk Days 4, 5 and 6**

### **Gainesville and Tallahassee**

**September 7, 2002**

- 7:30 a.m.** Drive to Gainesville
- 9 a.m.** Press conference in Gainesville at Victims Park (also known as Squirrel Ridge Park), 1603 Southwest Williston Road
- 9:30 a.m.** Start walk from Victims Park (see exact route below)
- 11 a.m.** Drive past Florida State Prison in Starke
- 1 p.m.** Lunch (location undetermined)
- 2 p.m.** Drive to Tallahassee
- 5 p.m.** Arrive in Tallahassee to stay at Holiday Inn Select, 316 West Tennessee Street, Phone: 850-222-9555

## **Walk route for Gainesville**

441 and Williston Road to Southwest 23<sup>rd</sup> to Southwest 35<sup>th</sup> PL to 34<sup>th</sup> St. to Williston & back to Victims Park

**See attached map for Gainesville route**

**September 8, 2002**

**TBA** CPEA representatives and families of missing children available for interviews

**September 9, 2002**

**9 a.m.** Attend recognition ceremony with Governor Jeb Bush then participate in safety fair where literature of all charities involved will be displayed

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## **Who Is Involved?**

### **Child Protection Education of America**

This Tampa-based nonprofit missing children organization was started in March 2002 by three individuals with a combined 30 years of experience in the field. The organization's mission is two-fold. On a day-to-day basis, CPEA assists parents and law enforcement through the national distribution of pictures of the missing. It also works to better educate both children and parents about safety through a variety of programs, including ID ME NOW fingerprinting events. Contact: Vince DiNova, 813-626-3001

### **A Child is Missing**

This Fort Lauderdale-based nonprofit was founded in 1996 to create a community-based system to help locate missing children, disabled people and elderly during the first hours of their disappearance. Using high-tech telephony, their law enforcement-activated system can place 1,000 phone calls in five minutes, providing area residents with the details of a missing or vulnerable person case. Contact: Sherri Alvarez, 954-763-1288

### **Child Watch of North America**

This nonprofit, with its home office in Orlando, provides the Kidguard Safety Program, which offers parents a photo identification card of their child, both through public events and through the mail. It also post pictures of missing children and their abductors on its Web site. Contact: Lee Shaw, 407-290-5100

### **Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abductions**

This south Dade County nonprofit distributes pictures of children abducted by predators and attempts to get media coverage for the cases. It also increases public awareness of predators and predatory abductions through a variety of ways. It also helps law enforcement by providing bloodhounds in the search for abducted and lost children. Contact: Claudine Ryce, 305-864-1344

### **Missing Children Center**

This Winter Springs-based nonprofit registers and distributes photographs of missing children cases. They also provide information on child safety to the public. Contact: Joan Thompson, 407-327-4403

### **Suncoast Missing Children Project**

Started in August 1994, this New Port Richey nonprofit aids parents and law enforcement with all types of missing children cases, educates communities about child safety, and distributes fingerprint cards free of charge. The project also hosts a safety fair the first week in November in Pasco County. Contact: Barbara Rains, 727-841-7440

### **Voice for the Children**

Created in 1990, this West Palm Beach organization focuses its efforts on children abducted by non-custodial parents. It also provides information about making communities safer for children. The founder's son was abducted by her ex-husband in 1974 and has never been found. Contact: Marianne Malky, 1-800-28-HELPME

## **Who Are The Families Involved?**

### **Family of Zachary Bernhardt**

Zachary disappeared in the early morning hours of September 11, 2000, from the Clearwater apartment he shared with his mother. He has not been seen since. His case received a tremendous amount of local coverage for the first month of his disappearance, including a profile on America's Most Wanted in November 2000. Although his case is still active, little information or leads are coming to the Clearwater Police Department.

Carole Bernhardt leads her family in the search for her grandson. Other members of Zachary's family participating in the walk include: Leah Hackett, Randy and Billie-Jo Jimenez, John and Denise Simpkins, Carole-Joy Hathcox, and Matt and Denal Donnelly.

### **Family of Amanda Brown**

Amanda was criminally abducted September 11, 1998, from Seffner. Through the police investigation, enough evidence was gathered to lead to the conviction of Willie Crane, who is currently on death row. To date, Amanda's body has not been recovered.

The Arizona Supreme Court recently ruled a death sentence must be handed down by a jury and not by the judge. With the Florida Supreme Court reviewing the state's own rulings, Roy and Sylvia are lobbying to uphold these types of sentences.

### **Family of Dorothy Dee Dee Scofield**

Dee Dee disappeared from an Ocala shopping center July 22, 1976. She is still missing today though her case remains active with the Ocala Police Department.

Since her disappearance, her family has been very involved with the missing children's issue in this country. In 1981, her cousin Ivana DiNova and Ivana's son Vince attended the Florida Governor's Conference on Children and Youth, hosted by Bob Graham. As a result of the DiNova's recommendations, Senator Paula Hawkins was able to create legislation that later became the Missing Children's Act. The recommendations made were to eliminate 24-to-48-hour waiting periods to search for a missing child as well as jurisdictional boundaries that existed among law enforcement agencies. The DiNova's also pushed for the use of the media in missing children cases to assist with the search.

In March 1982, Ivana started the Missing Children HELP Center, which was designed to help families of missing children and the law enforcement agencies working those cases. This center became a model site for similar United States agencies, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Today, Vince is the executive director of Child Protection Education of America, the nonprofit missing children organization that

is organized this walk. Other members of Dee Dee's family participating in the walk include: Lena Scofield, Toni and Gary Harms, and Shelly Edwards.

### **Family of Tiffany Sessions**

Tiffany, a student at the University of Florida, disappeared from Gainesville February 9, 1989, and has not been seen since. She went for a walk that evening and vanished.

Since that time, Hilary Sessions has been an advocate for all missing children. She has appeared on many national talk shows discussing the issue and has spoken to many groups about the missing children's issue.