

**national child protection task force**

CREATING BETTER OUTCOMES FOR MISSING, EXPLOITED, & TRAFFICKED CHILDREN

**IMPACT REPORT 2024**

## 2024 IN REVIEW

# A YEAR OF BETTER OUTCOMES FOR MISSING, EXPLOITED, AND TRAFFICKED CHILDREN

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2024, a showcase of a remarkable year of progress in helping locate missing, exploited, and trafficked kids in communities across the U.S.



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# 172

MISSING CHILDREN LOCATED

# 44

SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED

# 197

CASES WORKED

# 5,469

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINED



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

### Hey Partners, Protectors, & Friends—

As 2024 came to an end, marked by the recovery of numerous missing children, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible strides we have made this year and share our vision for 2025.

Our mission has always been *to work alongside law enforcement to locate missing, exploited, and trafficked children*. While that remains the heart of what we do, our mission has grown to reflect our commitment to not just finding them, but understanding the root causes of their disappearance and helping create the opportunity for them to have a better future.

OUR MISSION

**We are creating better outcomes** for missing, exploited, & trafficked children.

### The Why

Since the beginning of time, our primary responsibility as adults has been to protect OUR children—**and yes, they are all OUR children**. This fundamental task is the driving force behind everything we do at the NCPTF. When a child goes missing, they are endangered; it may be immediately or eventually, but the danger is looming. Our mission is to intercept and mitigate that danger before it can cause irreparable harm.

### Hope

Knowing that this problem is fixable gives me hope and fuels my energy. The solution, in its simplest form, is to find them, understand why they went missing, and provide the necessary help.

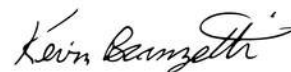
While this may sound straightforward, generations of neglecting our missing children as mere nuisances, “just a runaway” or “throw-away child,” have created deep-seated challenges that require an unwavering commitment to overcome.

### Find—Listen—Help.

Our focus remains on finding them. Our commitment is to collaborate with others to find, listen, and help. Our Missing Child Rescue Operations are based on this foundation. 2025 will be a year that lights the flame of change with four more of these incredible operations.

I look forward to sharing this journey with you and hearing more of your ideas. Together, we will continue to make a profound difference in the lives of countless children.

Thank you for your invaluable support.




Kevin Branzetti  
CO-FOUNDER & CEO  
[kevinb@ncptf.org](mailto:kevinb@ncptf.org)

OUR MISSION

We are creating  
better outcomes for  
missing, exploited,  
& trafficked children.



# NEW FACES, BIGGER IMPACT

## HOW NCPTF IS GROWING TO SERVE EVEN MORE COMMUNITIES

**At the heart of the National Child Protection Task Force is a simple, yet profound belief: every child deserves to feel safe, loved, and supported.** It's a belief that drives our mission, challenges us to innovate, and calls us to take bold action. This year, that calling became even clearer as we expanded our team to answer the growing need for better outcomes for missing children across America.

What makes this milestone even more special? Each of the extraordinary individuals we're introducing today started their journey with NCPTF as volunteers. They believed in our mission before they ever held a title. They've stood with us in the trenches, showing up with their skills, their hearts, and their determination to make a difference. And now, they've stepped into leadership roles to help us create a safer future for the children who need us most.

### **Al Rollins** | Director of Law Enforcement Partnerships

Al Rollins brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience to NCPTF, with a career built on expertise in intelligence, leadership, and collaboration. As the former Director of the Central Florida Intelligence Exchange, Al has worked at the intersection of law enforcement and innovative solutions, focusing on victim-centered strategies.

In his new role, Al is here to strengthen relationships with law enforcement agencies across the nation, enabling NCPTF to deploy Missing Child Rescue Operations and rapid 911 responses when every second counts. His leadership will amplify our partnerships with law enforcement nationwide, ensuring that every missing child's case is approached with the urgency, precision, and compassion it deserves.



**AL ROLLINS**



**KAIT RICKARD**

### **Kait Rickard** | Lead Investigator

Kait Rickard's passion for protecting vulnerable populations shines through in every aspect of her work. A talented private-sector investigator who contributed to NCPTF's work for years as an active volunteer, Kait brings more than a decade of investigative experience and a relentless drive to uncover the truth.

Now, as our Lead Investigator, she brings the full power of her passion and expertise to helping us deliver better outcomes for even more missing, trafficked, and exploited children.

→ CONTINUED

**Melissa Kaiser** | Director of Advocacy

Melissa Kaiser's career is a testament to the power of compassion and collaboration. A licensed social worker with over 15 years of experience, Melissa has dedicated her life to supporting survivors of trauma and helping create systems of care that work.

At NCPTF, Melissa's role is vital to improving the outcomes for children once they've been located. Her focus is ensuring that no recovered child slips through the cracks, helping to connect them with community resources that support their long-term safety and stability. By empowering communities to create innovative and sustainable solutions, Melissa is building stronger systems that ensure vulnerable children have opportunities to heal and *thrive*.

**MELISSA KAISER**

This growth would not have been possible without the extraordinary support of the **Tim Tebow Foundation**. We are a small team with audacious dreams, and since the beginning, they've been beside us every step of the way, asking us to dream even bigger. This summer, they asked ***What could you do to create even more impact in 2025?*** When we shared our vision of expanding our investigative team to support more Missing Child Rescue Operations, they didn't hesitate. They stepped in, took action, and made it happen, supporting us in adding two critical team members. There are moments in life when gratitude feels too small a word, and this is one of them. The Tim Tebow Foundation's support and collaboration in vision, strategic planning, operations, and so much more, enables us to keep finding better solutions for the vulnerable children who need us most.



As adults, it's our job to step up for kids. It's our responsibility to create systems where they feel safe, valued, and cared for. At NCPTF, we believe that when we work together—with law enforcement, with community leaders, with passionate individuals—we can create a ripple effect of hope, safety, and change. This team expansion represents more than just growth; it represents our unwavering commitment to that belief. It's a reminder that we're not just solving cases—we're changing lives. And none of it would be possible without you.

**Thank you for believing in this mission, for standing with us, and for helping us build a future where every child has the chance for safety.**

To learn more about how you can join us in this work, visit [NCPTF.org](https://www.ncptf.org).



# THE GROUNDBREAKING CHILD RECOVERY EVENT IN BUFFALO, NY

In 2024, NCPTF launched a groundbreaking Missing Child Rescue Operation (MCRO) in Buffalo, NY, in collaboration with Missing Persons Clearinghouse at the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, local law enforcement, and partners across the private-sector, nonprofits, and advocacy organizations.

Over just three days, this intensive effort located 47 missing children, addressing not only their immediate safety but also the underlying factors that led them to go missing. This operation showcased the power of collaboration and remarkable results when dedicated individuals commit to creating long-term solutions for vulnerable children.

**Here, we offer perspectives from some of the individuals involved in this monumental effort.**



There are really no words to describe the energy I felt in Buffalo’s Child Advocacy Center during the 3 days of our operation. Honestly, it was electric.

***To watch this group of nearly 60 dedicated, focused, and determined professionals meld into such a massively powerful child rescue focused force defied everyone’s greatest expectations, my own included.***

I’d be lying if I said I didn’t have doubts. 50 cases? 3 days? How much of an impact could really be made? The answer reaffirmed everything I know about the power of bringing together groups of determined people... no problem is too big when we all come together.

Looking ahead, I am beyond inspired when I see the people and plans we have in place to grow this area of NCPTF and make real change for our children.

Griffin Glynn

CHIEF INVESTIGATIONS OFFICER  
National Child Protection Task Force



“What we achieved together in Buffalo has fundamentally reshaped how missing child cases are approached in this community, creating change that will ripple forward for years.

The true success lies in the way Buffalo now tackles these cases—with urgency, innovation, and a renewed ability to protect vulnerable children. That shift will benefit children and families for years to come, and it’s why we do this work.

This operation wouldn’t have been possible without the trust Buffalo showed in us. Their willingness to embrace a bold, innovative approach for the sake of their missing children was deeply humbling.

***It’s proof that when communities are willing to think differently and work together, incredible change can happen.***



Heather Dark

CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER  
National Child Protection Task Force

## Buffalo transformed my understanding of the phrase *"It takes a village"*

I arrived with expectations of working on 25 cases, hopefully finding some children, and fostering collaboration.

Instead, I witnessed an extraordinary gathering of sixty people from various agencies and perspectives, working tirelessly on fifty cases **and successfully locating 47 children.**

This operation broke down silos, forged new friendships, and equipped us with invaluable knowledge. Most importantly, it marked a significant shift in how we support our missing children. It was an honor to witness this village at its very best.

**KEVIN BRANZETTI**

CO-FOUNDER & CEO  
NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION TASK FORCE

For me, collaborative efforts have ALWAYS been a force multiplier when protecting our most vulnerable, especially when so many agencies and orgs place themselves on an island, or they believe that they are the only ones in the fight. This always leads to information silos, or falling short of your mission. In Buffalo, this wasn't the case.

We committed to collaboration and partnerships early on, and we stayed the course. **That speaks towards the values of our organization.**

I was assigned to Team #2, which consisted of NCMEC, FBI, HSI, New York State Missing Persons Clearinghouse, Buffalo Police Department, and Amherst Police Department. My "eye opening" moment was how quickly we bonded as a team, and how each of us felt ownership to the cases we were assigned.

***We never met the children, but we knew we had to help them. We became quick friends and co-workers with a shared interest of finding "our" kids and getting them home or off the streets.***

We are all currently on a text group and we communicate regularly with each other. That is the "force multiplier" of bringing together people and organizations who genuinely care about finding these children and helping them out of whatever situation they are currently in.



Al Rollins  
DIRECTOR OF LAW  
ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS  
National Child Protection Task Force

It was a privilege to represent the **LexisNexis® Risk Solutions Special Investigations Unit** as an analyst at the first ever Missing Child Rescue Operation in Buffalo, NY together with our partners at the National Child Protection Task Force (NCPTF) and the NY State Division of Criminal Justice Services Missing Persons Clearinghouse.

***Witnessing the dedication of the 50+ law enforcement personnel, investigative analysts and support staff was deeply rewarding and the impact profound.***

Together we were able to safely locate, bring home and provide long-term resources to 47 missing children in just three days. When we combine our passion to serve, expertise, and resources like this, it is truly incredible what good we can accomplish - I was honored to have played a small part in it.

Katie Murphy  
SR. FRAUD DATA ANALYST  
Public Safety, Special Investigations Unit



“**I think the term *runaway* can be dangerous.**

Just because a child ran away doesn't mean they're not endangered... it just means they willingly left.

The unfortunate thing with missing person cases, *you're playing catch-up from the start.*

If you treat it as a runaway and then you realize it's more serious, it's even harder to play catch-up.

Nobody realizes a child is endangered until they *know* they're endangered.

Again... why is a child willing to leave?

There's still a level of endangerment there.

**ZACHARY WARRINER**

INVESTIGATIVE SPECIALIST  
NEW YORK DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
SERVICES MISSING PERSONS  
CLEARINGHOUSE



On behalf of Penlink, it was an incredible honor to support the Missing Child Rescue Operation in Buffalo, New York, organized by the National Child Protection Task Force and the Missing Persons Clearinghouse.

***This operation was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career.***

Walking into that room the first day to find local, state, and federal agencies, along with nonprofits and private sector companies coming together was awe-inspiring. No egos, no silos—each of us simply offering up our skills and resources to focus solely on one mission: recovering missing children. As the numbers of recovered children rose each day, so did the passion and hope of every person in the room.

***This event reaffirmed my belief in the power of collaboration across sectors and the positive change we can all bring when we work together. This experience has inspired me to continue working tirelessly to protect our most vulnerable and to foster partnerships that make such impactful work possible.***

Christine Talley  
INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

PENLINK



The Buffalo event was a profound experience for me, going beyond a simple child rescue operation. It was an opportunity to engage with and learn from a diverse array of professionals - detectives, vendors, child advocates, and social media experts. While our primary focus was on finding missing children, the collaborative process of sharing techniques and capabilities was often just as important.

***I vividly remember sitting around a table, brainstorming how our group could take a single piece of data and leverage it across multiple systems and platforms. It was a truly eye-opening experience, working alongside the talented members of the task force and witnessing their dedication and innovative approaches. This collaborative effort allowed us to maximize our chances of locating the missing children.***

The Buffalo event was transformative, expanding my understanding of the complexities involved in these critical operations. It highlighted the power of bringing together diverse skillsets and perspectives to tackle a shared challenge. This experience has left a lasting impact on me and the way I approach similar situations in the future.

Micah Hoffman  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS  
National Child Protection Task Force



# MISSING CHILD RESCUE OPERATIONS

## OUR PLAN TO HELP MORE MISSING KIDS IN 2025 THAN EVER BEFORE

**At NCPTF, we believe that every missing child deserves to be treated as endangered, because they are.** Our Missing Child Rescue Operations are built on this foundational truth. These operations dive deep into each case, prioritizing urgency, uncovering hidden patterns, and finding solutions that help children achieve safety again.

The 2024 operation in Buffalo, NY revealed what's possible when communities come together, and as we prepare for four more Missing Child Rescue Operations in 2025, we are committing to locate more missing children than ever before.

These operations are not just about finding kids; they are about transforming the way cases are handled across the United States. By reinvigorating the systems that serve vulnerable children—from law enforcement and child protection professionals to nonprofits and advocacy organizations—we are building a child-centric solution that prioritizes safety, healing, and long-term success.



### WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Over the course of our work, we've learned an important truth: finding missing kids is the easy part. The real challenge lies in understanding why a child went missing in the first place. What factors pushed them out of their home, or what forces pulled them toward danger? Addressing each child's unique history and circumstances is where the greatest work lies.

#### PUSH & PULL FACTORS

Many children run away due to **push** factors like abuse or neglect and **pull** factors like the promise of freedom or being lured by traffickers.

Recognizing these forces is key to interrupting cycles of endangerment & exploitation

Locating a missing child is only the first step. The real work begins when we help the systems around them create pathways to safety, stability, and long-term support.

**With every operation, we refine our approach to meeting the unique needs of rescued children and empowering the dedicated professionals working tirelessly to protect them.**

The evolution of our Missing Child Rescue Operation model is a testament to the power of partnership, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to doing what's right for kids.

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## A COMPLEX, COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

Producing an Missing Child Rescue Operation is no small task. These events begin six months before the intensive week-long operation and require meticulous planning, resource investment, and collaboration. We spend months building a strong network of stakeholders—law enforcement, social services, nonprofits, and community leaders—all deeply committed to the success of each child involved.

**This effort isn't quick or simple, but it is one of the most effective solutions to a problem that plagues communities across the U.S.** With no federal funding or large government grants, NCPTF relies entirely on the generosity of our supporters to make these transformative operations possible.



## A VISION FOR 2025

This year, NCPTF is ready to expand the reach of our Missing Child Rescue Operation, bringing this powerful model to four new communities. These operations will focus on the same relentless dedication and collaboration that made Buffalo a success. The year ahead represents not just a continuation of our mission but an evolution—one that has the potential to reshape how communities across the country respond to missing children.

We invite you to join us on this journey. The work is hard, but the reward is immeasurable. Together, we can ensure that more children are found, supported, and given the opportunity to thrive. This is the work that defines us, and we're honored to have you alongside us as we make 2025 a year of remarkable impact.

## SUPPORT MISSING CHILD RESCUE OPERATIONS

[NCPTF.ORG/DONATE](https://ncptf.org/donate)

**Join us in transforming lives:** your support will help fund **four** Missing Child Rescue Operations in 2025, bringing teams of experts to communities to help locate missing children and foster their support and safety.

**Every dollar makes a difference—be a part of this life-saving mission today.**





## PARTNERSHIP, PURPOSE, & ACTION

### MAKING A BIG IMPACT WITH THE TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION



The Tim Tebow Foundation (TTF) has been a steadfast partner to NCPTF for years, providing critical support while always encouraging our small nonprofit to focus on what matters most—**servicing vulnerable children**. Their generosity goes beyond financial contributions; **TTF is a true powerhouse that invests deeply in our success**. And this year, they've opened the door for NCPTF to share with their tremendous following how we make impact together, spreading awareness about our shared mission to protect missing and exploited children.

In 2024, TTF extended their strategic and operational support even more by coming alongside NCPTF with professional media production. As a small nonprofit, this resource is invaluable—they've helped create awareness and connection with even more people who care about making a difference.

**To the team at the Tim Tebow Foundation, thank you for standing with us in this fight. Together, we're proving what's possible through partnership, purpose, and action.**

**Thanks to TTF's support, we've been able to focus even more resources on directly supporting our mission, while their team leverages their time, talent, and resources to help amplify our voice and impact on a much larger scale!**

Last Fall, we returned to New York to share the success of our Buffalo Missing Child Rescue Operation on camera along with our friends from the New York State Missing Persons Clearinghouse and Detectives Garland and Wilson from Buffalo PD.

The Tim Tebow Foundation, The Tebow Group, and creative consultant Edward Tommasi brought our story of impact to life with such care and dedication. The media produced will continue to help raise awareness about our important mission all year long. **We are so grateful for their intense dedication to ethical storytelling.**



We're proud to partner with the National Child Protection Task Force because what they do really matters. Time and again, they step up for vulnerable kids and families, using their skills and big hearts to support local law enforcement.

**We've seen their integrity, their passion, and their willingness to go all-in close up.**

It's an honor to stand with them, helping ease the weight of what they carry so they can keep showing up and making a difference.

**AMY BUTLER**

GAP RELIEF



WHAT IS A

# MISSING PERSONS CLEARINGHOUSE?

**Missing Persons Clearinghouses activate alerts to quickly share critical information when children and vulnerable adults go missing. These alerts can mean the difference between hope and heartbreak for families desperate for answers.**

The Missing Persons Clearinghouse is a lifeline for families and law enforcement searching for missing individuals. While every state has one, their services and operations vary.

This year, NCPTF partnered with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Missing Persons Clearinghouse, a national leader in the search for missing kids. Together, this partnership is helping to locate missing children and secure better futures for them.

**We are proud to partner with the Clearinghouse, combining expertise, resources, & networks to bring more missing kids to safety.**

A special thanks to **Cindy Neff**, Manager of the NYS DCJS Missing Persons Clearinghouse, whose dedication and tenacity helped bring Missing Child Rescue Operations to life. Cindy and her team's remarkable efforts have set a new standard for protecting New York's missing children.


CINDY NEFF AND KEVIN BRANZETTI  
BUFFALO, NY MISSING CHILD RECOVERY OPERATION



WE ARE SO PROUD OF THE INCREDIBLE WORK OUR  
TEAMS HAVE DONE TOGETHER THIS YEAR AND READY  
TO MAKE AN EVEN BIGGER IMPACT IN 2025!

SEPTEMBER 2024

# 47 KIDS LOCATED IN BUFFALO NY



**47** Missing children  
were brought home.



# DEDICATED TO THE MISSING

## THE LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NEW YORK

In 2024, NCPTF had the honor of working alongside the dedicated officers of the **Buffalo, Amherst, and Cheektowaga Police Departments** during New York's first-ever **Missing Child Rescue Operation**. For three days, their detectives worked tirelessly—re-examining cases, pursuing new investigative strategies, and collaborating with experts to **locate 47 missing children**. Their commitment didn't end when the operation was over; they have continued to elevate missing child cases as a high priority, ensuring that vulnerable kids are not overlooked.

This success would not have been possible without the exceptional team at the **Missing Persons Clearinghouse at the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services**. Their expertise and dedication provided crucial investigative support, accelerating case resolutions and strengthening collaboration among agencies. A special acknowledgment to **Tim Williams, Andrea Pavelock, Alan Lapage, Christopher Farina, and Zachary Warriner**, whose hard work helped ensure that every missing child's case was treated with urgency and care.

We are especially grateful to **Cindy Neff**, Manager of the Missing Persons Clearinghouse, whose leadership and commitment made this groundbreaking operation possible. Her coordination and dedication, alongside a region deeply invested in prioritizing missing children, helped lay the foundation for an initiative that is now serving as an innovative model for other communities.

Additionally, **Lieutenant David Mann** of the Buffalo Police Department played a pivotal role in welcoming our team, trusting our process, and ensuring that every effort was made to give these cases the attention they deserved. His leadership, along with the dedication of every officer involved, is creating lasting change for missing children in New York and beyond.

These operations are a true partnership, bringing together law enforcement, child protection agencies, and investigative experts to transform the way missing child cases are handled. The success of the Buffalo operation is proof of what's possible when communities come together with a shared mission: to bring missing kids home and create better outcomes for their future.

## MATCHING HOPE THE JENSEN PROJECT'S GENEROUS GIFT

In 2024, the National Child Protection Task Force embarked on an exciting journey with The Jensen Project through our very first matching gift campaign. Unlike traditional matching campaigns that rely on pre-pledged donor dollars, this opportunity came with a unique challenge: we wouldn't receive the funds unless we raised them ourselves.

The Jensen Project offered to match up to **\$50,000** raised by July 31, 2024—and thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our team, we successfully met the full match just in time!

This extraordinary campaign marked a significant milestone for NCPTF, enabling us to grow and serve more communities nationwide. Matching gift campaigns like this one don't just raise funds; they amplify impact. Every dollar raised doubled in power, helping us provide the tools, expertise, and rapid response needed to protect vulnerable children.

We are deeply grateful to The Jensen Project for believing in our mission and challenging us to rise to the occasion. Their support fuels our fight against human trafficking and strengthens our ability to create better outcomes for children in crisis.

**The Jensen Project proudly partners with the National Child Protection Task Force to fuel the fight against human trafficking—a complex issue that demands innovative solutions and strong collaboration. NCPTF's dedication to leveraging advanced technology and nationwide partnerships to locate and protect vulnerable children inspires us to strive for a safer, brighter future. Together, we are empowering communities and protecting those at risk.**

—The Jensen Project

To everyone who gave, shared, and cheered us on: thank you. Together, we're building a future where every child has the opportunity to grow up safe, loved, and free.



## WHAT 47 MISSING KIDS REVEAL ABOUT A NATIONWIDE CRISIS



Heather Dark  
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER  
heatherd@ncptf.org

When people hear that **we helped locate 47 missing kids in Erie County, New York**, the first reaction is often disbelief. **"How is that even possible? Why wasn't I aware of 47 missing kids?"** These are valid questions—I've asked the same ones, myself. And the answers are rooted in the complexities of how missing child cases are handled, reported, and prioritized across the country.



### ***New York State's First-Ever Missing Child Rescue Operation Results in Successful Location of 47 Children Reported Missing in Western New York***

Let's start with a fact that surprises many: **Amber Alerts are issued for less than 1% of missing children.** To qualify, the case must meet strict criteria, including a reasonable belief by law enforcement that an abduction has occurred, that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death, and that there is enough descriptive information about the child, the abduction, or the suspect to assist in the recovery effort. This narrow scope ensures that Amber Alerts remain targeted and effective, cutting through the noise to mobilize immediate action.

But it also means that most missing child cases—runaways, children who leave home voluntarily, or circumstances that don't meet the criteria—don't receive the same level of public awareness.

This isn't to say Amber Alerts don't work—they do, and they are a vital tool in the fight to protect children. However, the reality is that even children with Amber Alerts need more help. Alerts are only the beginning of a larger effort to bring missing kids home safely. And for the thousands of cases that fall outside the Amber Alert system, we must ensure these children don't slip through the cracks simply because their cases lack the visibility or urgency an alert provides.

And here's the hard truth: **in most communities, the number of missing children isn't readily available to the public.** It's a glaring gap that makes it easier for these cases to be overlooked. Underreporting is alarmingly common. Too often, when children run away, their cases aren't treated with the same urgency as those involving suspected abductions. The dangerous assumption we make is that they'll come back on their own, eventually.

But every time a child goes missing—whether they ran away, were lured away, or were abducted—**they are endangered.**

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Statistics paint a stark picture of the challenges we face. Over the past five years, more than **90%** of missing child reports received by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) each year involved runaways. Even more alarming, **1 in 7 of these missing children are likely victims of child sex trafficking**. In 2024 alone, an estimated **29,000 children** were reported missing in the United States, underscoring the urgency of addressing this crisis.

These numbers are not just statistics; they represent real children—each with a name, a face, and a family desperately hoping for their safe return.

**So, how does this happen? How do kids slip through the cracks?** The truth is, our systems aren't built to treat every missing child case as urgent. And that's where NCPTF saw an opportunity to make an even bigger difference than we ever have before.

This year, we collaborated with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Missing Persons Clearinghouse to conduct a first-of-its-kind Missing Child Rescue Operation in Erie County, New York. Over three days, this initiative brought together law enforcement agencies, technology experts, and children & family support services to tackle 50 active missing child cases.

The results were extraordinary: **47 missing children were located!**

What made this operation so impactful? **NCPTF doesn't ask whether a child is in danger—we operate as if every missing child is endangered. Every time.** Our approach is rooted in the belief that every missing child deserves experts searching for them with urgency and precision.

These operations do what NCPTF has always done best: dig deeper than surface-level details to uncover the unseen. These operations empower compassionate professionals to not only locate, but to figure out the underlying reasons why a child went missing in the first place. Is there instability at home? Exploitation? Lack of support? Is there a need for mental health support or housing? These answers inform long-term solutions to help ensure the individual child's safety moving forward.



**Missing Child Rescue Operations are not just about locating children—they're about restoring hope.** These operations give communities the tools, technology, and collaborative support to find missing kids faster. They also shine a light on systemic gaps that exist so that we, the adults, can begin to find better solutions to help kids thrive in safety.

**At the heart of this work is a simple yet profound why:** every child deserves a future filled with possibility. It's not just our mission—it's a profound responsibility we hold as adults to ensure that the most vulnerable among us have the opportunities they need to thrive. Every missing child—whether they've run away, been trafficked, or abducted—deserves the unwavering commitment of compassionate adults who are searching, advocating, and fighting for their safety.

Supporting NCPTF means joining a community that is dedicated to safeguarding our future and the most vulnerable in our communities—*our children*.

I stand behind their mission to not only fight against trafficking and exploitation, but also the dedication to educate families and further train law enforcement.

**I am proud to be considered a "Protector" and will always look to be involved with this passionate organization.**

VINNY C

PROTECTOR







## HONORING **BARBARA JEAN WILSON**

A PILLAR OF STRENGTH AND ADVOCACY

**"Barbara teaches with a quiet presence that commands a room... when she talks, people *listen*."** — NCPTF Co-Founder & CEO Kevin Branzetti

We are lucky to be guided by individuals whose courage, wisdom, and compassion remind us of the profound impact one person can have. Barbara Jean Wilson is one such individual—a cornerstone of our early growth and a lasting influence on our work to protect children.

Barbara Jean's contributions to NCPTF run deep, especially in our formative years. As an establishing member of our Advisory Board, her insights and guidance helped ensure that our work remained steadfastly child-centered. During a period of rapid growth and change, Barbara Jean's influence kept our focus clear: the children we serve and the futures we strive to help them secure.

Reflecting on Barbara Jean's impact, Kevin Branzetti shares:

**"Barbara Jean Wilson is my hero among so many heroes.** When I met Barbara several years ago, I was immediately struck by her strength, intelligence, and warmth. In that first meeting, she shared a story of unimaginable pain and extraordinary forgiveness, leaving me in awe.

As a cherished member of the NCPTF family, Barbara has been a profound influence on our team. Personally, she has made me a better man, father, leader, & human overall.

→ CONTINUED

Barbara Jean's ability to inspire action and transform perspectives is unmatched. At the 2024 NCPTF Conference, she delivered a presentation that earned the room's only standing ovation—a moment many attendees described as life-changing. Her powerful storytelling moved hearts, shifted mindsets, and reminded us all of what's possible when courage meets conviction.



Although her formal role with NCPTF has concluded, Barbara Jean's legacy continues to guide us. As a survivor leader and fierce protector, she has dedicated her life to equipping communities and experts worldwide with the tools to address child trafficking and support victims. A passionate advocate for shining a light on familial trafficking—one of the least discussed yet most pervasive forms of exploitation—Barbara has amplified the voices of countless survivors and challenged systems to do better.

Her journey—from overcoming the pain of childhood exploitation to becoming an internationally recognized advocate—is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the power of purpose.

Reflecting on Barbara Jean's impact, Kevin Branzetti shares:

"Barbara pulled me aside and said, **'Kevin, you don't know who is safe.'** She explained that we don't know who in the audience is a survivor, a victim, or has been deeply affected by exploitation or violence. She urged us to ensure our presentations are mindful and protective, safeguarding the vulnerable from unnecessary pain.

Her words stopped me in my tracks, reminding me that we have a responsibility for the emotional safety of all of the people we serve—children, families, and law enforcement alike. I have not given a presentation the same since that day."

→ CONTINUED

Barbara Jean’s legacy is not ours to tell—it is hers to live and share with those fortunate enough to hear her speak or read her books. Her published works, **Mute But Now I Speak** and **Blessings After Going Through the Valley**, offer a glimpse into her remarkable journey and the transformative power of faith, resilience, and advocacy.

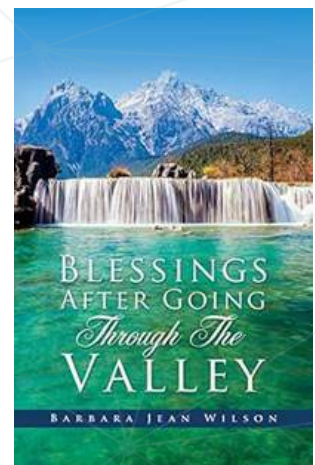
Barbara Jean serves as Chairwoman of Anti-Trafficking International and is an active board member and advocate for several organizations combating human trafficking and supporting survivors. Her decades of service, from presenting at the United Nations to mentoring survivors, reflect a remarkable commitment to making the world a safer, more compassionate place.

To know Barbara Jean is to witness the embodiment of strength, compassion, and courage. She is more than a leader; she is a force for change. At NCPTF, we remain profoundly grateful for her contributions and the enduring inspiration she provides.

Barbara, thank you for being a light in the fight for justice and protection. Your courage inspires us, your wisdom grounds us, and your passion continues to create lasting change for survivors. **Thank you for being such a powerful force for good.**



Barbara Jean Wilson’s Books are available on **Amazon.com** & **BarnesandNoble.com**.





“I began volunteering in the AHT space around 6 or 7 years ago. Through those years I have worked with many groups and have made it a point to research each group before deciding which type of support I could lend to their specific cause.

**In a space where poetic phrases and flashy marketing campaigns dominate the landscape it can sometimes be daunting to discover who is actually doing verifiable good. NCPTF is doing just that!**

I don't have to worry about where my donations are going, because I know they are going directly to the efforts that discover and recover missing and at-risk youth and bring them to safety.

The work being done at NCPTF speaks to the heart of my personal passion in this life. Signing up to be a Protector in their monthly giving campaign was a must for me.

I know that my donations are going to find missing and at-risk children, and I can't think of a better place to donate to than NCPTF!”

**JEREMY**

PROTECTOR

CHECK OUT THAT NCPTF STICKER

## TOGETHER, WE RIDE NWA BIKE-A-PALOOZA MAKES AN IMPACT FOR KIDS

Sometimes, the most remarkable opportunities begin with a simple act of generosity. That's exactly how NCPTF found itself as one of the beneficiaries of **NWA Bike-a-Palooza 2024**, an independent cycling event organized by an extraordinary group of individuals in Northwest Arkansas.

**This passionate team approached NCPTF with an opportunity:** a weekend of cycling that would bring a community together and make a difference for vulnerable children. Proceeds from the event were split equally between NCPTF and **Pedal It Forward**, an Arkansas nonprofit providing bicycles to those in need. The result was nothing short of inspiring!

Because of the support of these caring individuals and the hundreds of riders who participated, **NCPTF was able to directly support Arkansas law enforcement on over 100 cases in 2024.** That's more than 100 opportunities to change a child's trajectory—100 chances to protect, support, and bring hope where it's needed most.

This event was more than a fundraiser; it was a powerful reminder of what happens when people rally together for a shared purpose. The organizers didn't just see the need for another cycling event—they built something to make a big impact in their local community. They asked, *"How can we help?"* and then followed through in a way that created ripples of change far beyond the finish line.

To the event organizers, riders, and supporters who made NWA Bike-a-Palooza a reality: we are endlessly grateful. Your belief in our mission fuels us! Your action reminds us that hope is never out of reach. And your kindness proves that even the smallest pedal forward can create waves of change for children who need us most.

Together, we're building a safer, brighter future—**one mile at a time.**



Through my work at MITRE, trying to help us be a better partner and connector between government organizations and impactful non-profits in the fight against crimes against kids and human trafficking, I had the privilege of learning about the National Child Protection Task Force.

One of my team members volunteers with them and suggested we partner with them with one of our events supporting non-profits.

Besides getting to know the team and appreciating the amazing and talented people that make up the organization, I got to learn more about their strategy and their mission impact... and it is HUGE.

**That impact (and the awesome humans!) is the reason I invest my donation dollars in supporting their organization and mission.**

**ADAM HAMMOND**

NCPTF DONOR



# MISSING CHILD RESCUE OPERATIONS

## HELP US EXPAND OUR REACH THIS YEAR

Each Missing Child Rescue Operation represents a bold and compassionate effort to locate missing children and provide them with the support and safety they deserve. These operations are transformative for kids, families, and entire communities, but they come at a considerable cost to produce. From months of planning to creating strong partnerships to support the safe rescue and support of missing children, every operation requires significant resources to make a lasting impact.

We want to expand this life-saving effort to even more communities in 2025, but we can only do so with the support of caring individuals like you. Your contribution helps bring expert teams into action, uncovering the "why" behind each individual child's story and helping ensure they receive the care they need to move forward safely.

Join us in transforming lives—every dollar makes a difference in restoring safety to vulnerable children and helping create brighter futures. **Together, we can make this mission possible.**

[NCPTF.ORG/DONATE](https://ncptf.org/donate)



national child protection task force

# NEW THIS YEAR SUPPORT RESCUED KIDS & FAMILIES

TOGETHER, WE CAN ENSURE MORE CHILDREN ARE FOUND,  
SUPPORTED, AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

## PETTY CASH WITH A PURPOSE

### Fund for Rescued Children and Family Support

We are thrilled to invite you to join us in supporting a new and deeply meaningful effort for 2025! This initiative provides essential resources for children and their families during our upcoming Missing Child Rescue Operations, helping to make their recovery more humane, dignified, and trauma-informed.

This fund is the only direct path of support NCPTF is able to provide for these vulnerable children and families, making their recovery more humane, dignified, and trauma-informed. From a child's first smile upon receiving a fresh backpack to a family's hope restored through counseling, your support has the power to transform lives.

Every contribution ensures children receive the critical tangible resources they need, while families gain access to vital mental health support to help them move forward.

Together, we can create a brighter, safer future for the children and families we serve.

#### IMMEDIATE SUPPORT FOR RESCUED CHILDREN

While all rescued children will receive NCMEC Hope Bags, NCPTF will use donated funds to purchase items such as clothing, toiletries, personal items, backpacks, meals, & snacks.

These tangible resources make a profound difference for children, especially in rescue operations held in communities where cases involve children who arrive at facilities with significant material needs.

#### FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AWARDS

Contributions will also help address the critical need for mental health support among rescued children and families of children who have run away and are being returned home.

This funding will be designated as an award to a regional nonprofit, ensuring that cost is not a barrier for mental health care for both children and families during their recovery journey.

#### HOW THE FUND WORKS

It is a remarkable honor to make a direct impact in the life of a rescued child and their family. **Here's how we plan to use this fund to make a big impact in 2025:**

- Contributions will be earmarked for use across NCPTF's **Missing Child Rescue Operations** in 2025.
- Funds will be used flexibly to address immediate tangible needs for children during the operation and to support kids & families through nonprofit partnerships in each operation's region.

 **2025 GOAL: \$20,000**



# THANK YOU

**Thank you to our volunteers, partners, donors, and supporters! We are able to continue making an impact because you choose to make an impact alongside us.**

In addition to your monetary contributions, we have received licenses for investigative tools, training opportunities, chances to collaborate with other organizations, and meaningful connections with law enforcement and the communities they protect.

It is because of our supporters that we can continue to stand ready to help when kids go missing. Thank you for all you do to help us create better outcomes for missing kids.

**With gratitude we continue to work to fulfill our mission: protecting #JustOneMore**



**national  
child protection  
task force**



NCPTF.ORG



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national child protection task force