

OUR MISSION

To help keep children safe from sexual predators in America.

WHO WE ARE

Special Operations is a community-based charitable organization that vets, trains and deploys private investigators to identify, locate, and recover kids who may be vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. We collaborate with other community-based organizations, law enforcement, educators, social services and aftercare organizations to keep kids safe in their communities.

THE PROBLEM

Hundreds of thousands of children are reported to police as missing each year in our country. It is believed that many more vulnerable runaways are never even reported as missing. While most runaways eventually do return home, what happens to them while they are missing is often unknown. Studies reveal that many of them become exposed to commercial sexual exploitation. Other studies have shown that up to 55% of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) are being trafficked while still attending school. Of the children who are trafficked for sex, less than 1% are ever identified as victims, or rescued.

Law enforcement does not always have the resources to conduct complex online and field investigations into runaway or vulnerable youth, unless there is clear evidence that a crime has occurred (e.g. a kidnapping, or trafficking). It takes a public-private collaboration between law enforcement and the community to solve this hidden crime.

FINDING KIDS

Information for
Law Enforcement



P.O. Box 1395
Los Altos, CA 94023

info@findingkids.org
findingkids.org

EIN: 81-2874951



WHAT WE DO

- We begin the investigative process immediately to bring the child to safety, and identify the predators. If they have been exploited, we work to identify their predators and present the evidence to law enforcement.
- We pass along the forensic evidence and information gathered from our search to law enforcement for use in their criminal investigation.
- Collaborate with law enforcement, child welfare, educators, and other anti-trafficking and community-based organizations.
- Liaise with CSEC-specialized aftercare facilities throughout the country to provide survivors both emergency and long-term care, protection, trauma-informed counseling, and other rehabilitative services including legal assistance.
- Vet, train, and supervise licensed Private Investigators to conduct search activities relating to CSEC, including on-line, field surveillance, witness interviews, and other intelligence gathering activities.
- Our services are funded by generous community members. Survivors, their families, and law enforcement bear no cost.
- Where needed, we can provide training to local law enforcement on the specialized investigative techniques necessary to identify and locate missing or exploited children.
- We are professional, ethical and efficient. We operate within the state-defined legal parameters to assist law enforcement agencies where needed.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Founded in 2017, Special Operations is a non-profit dedicated to keeping kids safe from sexual predators in America. The result is a safer community for us all.

Learn more: findingkids.org or email us directly at info@findingkids.org

To receive timely case updates, please sign up for our newsletter at findingkids.org

For more information, contact our Director of Investigations, Vic Lacey at [530-570-4774](tel:530-570-4774) or vic@findingkids.org

VICTIM SUPPORT

Once a child is recovered, we work with partners to provide direct assistance to the victims — emergency housing, trauma counselors, long-term aftercare, legal help, mentor support— so that they can begin their healing journey. When victims feel safe and are empowered to testify, traffickers go to prison.

The result is a safer community for us all.

“ Law enforcement needs Special Operations. ”

DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE WAGSTAFFE
SAN MATEO COUNTY

ALEXIS met a boy online during the pandemic, whom she assumed was her age. She ran away to be with him and told her parents, “I’m going to Santa Barbara for the weekend with a friend, don’t bother to look for me.” Her father was searching Santa Barbara with the help of local law enforcement. Our investigators continued to interview her mother and discovered Alexis had bought an airline ticket to Miami. We immediately called our federal agent partners who pinged Alexis’ phone and found her. She was returned home within 48 hours.