# **VISION**

To live in a society where **every child** is safe and thriving.

# **MISSION**

Find missing and exploited youth, help them heal, and make our communities safer.

## BELIEF

We believe that America's success depends on **keeping our children safe**, that every child has value, that we must proactively and with urgency look for missing children, that ridding our communities of predators is imperative, that law enforcement needs our help, and that a **safe America is everyone's responsibility**.

Special Operations | Finding Kids is a charitable organization that hires private investigators — at no cost to parents — to help find missing youth, especially those with a heightened vulnerability to exploitation.

Our team of parent and survivor advocates play a vital role in ensuring that both parents and youth receive the services and support they need to begin their healing journey.

"Every day our youth and families show us how the human spirit can triumph and rise above even the most adverse experiences of life. Despite the painful pasts they have endured, they refuse to give up. All we need to do is continue to show up!"

Michelle Guymon, Director of Aftercare, Policy & Community Engagement

# FINDING KIDS

For Caregivers and Community Members

FINDING KIDS

P.O. Box 1395 Los Altos, CA 94023

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#### **SUPPORT FOR PARENTS**

#### **Parent Advocacy**

Parent Advocates provide trauma-informed support to families in crisis so they do not have to navigate the challenging experience of having a missing and vulnerable child on their own. Parent advocates have personal, lived experience with missing children. The Advocate addresses the immediate needs of the family, provides information and emotional support and resources, and can serve as the liaison with Finding Kids' private investigators and law enforcement where necessary.

### **HOPE – Helping Others through Personal Experience**

HOPE is a 10-week workshop designed to educate and empower parents and caregivers of victims and survivors of sexual exploitation. The knowledge they gain equips them to guide their children towards recovery and prevents further exploitation.

#### **Weekly Support Groups**

Our weekly parent support groups in English and Spanish provides a sense of community, opportunities for parents to learn coping strategies and self-care techniques, access to valuable resources and information, and a space for parents to express emotions without judgment.

#### **Restoration Funds**

Restoration funds can be made available to address the immediate and practical needs of the family, including housing stability, mental health services, and vocational training.

It takes a community. It doesn't just take one individual, or one agency or organization to help someone heal and begin to get their life back. Thank you for your support and encouragement – it has made all the difference to our family.

- Parent

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD GOES MISSING

The first 48 hours following the disappearance of a child are the most critical in terms of finding and returning that child safely home. Use this checklist immediately.

 Dial 911. Immediately report your child as missing to your local law enforcement agency.
 Let them know if you believe your child is at risk to themselves or to others. Document the case number, name and phone number of the assigned detective.

#### Ask Law enforcement to:

- · Issue an Amber Alert.
- Enter your child's information into the NCIC Missing Persons File.
- Issue a a Be On the Look Out (BOLO) bulletin.
- · Involve the FBI in the search for your child.
- · Contact local media to spread the word.
- Ask law enforcement about spreading the word to the media.
- Call NCMEC at 800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678) to ask for help with photo distribution.

Contact Finding Kids at findingkids.org, and complete the online Case Intake Form.

Begin to document everything you know about your child: what clothes they were wearing, their online social media accounts, personal items they may have with them, a list of friends and their contact information, and any suspicious recent behavioral changes etc.

Designate one person to answer the telephone. Keep a notebook with you to write down your thoughts or questions.

Take good care of yourself - your child needs you.

## YOUTH ADVOCACY AND COACHING

Our professional Youth Advocates empower youth by identifying and addressing their unique needs, supporting their goals, and promoting their overall well-being and recovery. Youth advocacy also includes support for those youth who have been impacted by exploitation. All Survivor Advocates have lived, personal experience and can relate to what the child has gone through.

#### **RESTORATION FUNDS**

Restoration funds are used to address the practical resources needs of the youth and facilitate their recovery and reintegration into society. This may include mental health treatment, foster care support, education, training and extra-curricular activities.



I was so used to people dropping my case when I went missing. Finding Kids never gave up on me. That was the last time I was letting the trauma cycle run my life.

Survivor

#### **CONTACT US**

info@findingkids.org or fill out the Case Intake
Form at findingkids.org