



National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Missing Children Success Stories

On October 22, 1999, a Las Vegas, Nevada, woman allowed her estranged husband to take their three children to a movie theater, but they never returned home. **After four years**, an anonymous call came into the NCMEC Hotline. The caller stated that she had recognized the three children from a NCMEC missing children poster on a Wal-Mart bulletin board in San Diego, California. She provided an address in Mexico where the abductor and children were living. NCMEC's International Division translated the abductor's arrest warrant and the custody order and forwarded them to Mexican authorities. The children were located and safely reunited with their mother.

In July 2002, a social services employee instructed a Jamestown, Indiana, couple to take their malnourished 8-month-old child to the hospital for treatment. After the parents failed to seek medical treatment for their child, a court order instructed Child Protective Services to take the child into immediate custody. When the social services employee went to the family's home to retrieve the child, she found the house abandoned. NCMEC Case Analysts began AutoTrak, Accurint, and ChoicePoint database searches on the father's social security number. The search continued to turn up a trail of former addresses and places of employment. One search revealed an address in Owensboro, Kentucky. Case Analysts sent posters to the Owensboro Police Department with a note attached explaining the abductors' last known address as well as the address from the database search. When Owensboro authorities received the posters an officer was sent to check the address.

On June 26, 2003, the abductors were apprehended at the address provided and the child was safely recovered.

On May 20, 2003, a 16-year-old girl left her mother's home in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, after stating that she would return shortly. She was reported missing when she did not come home. NCMEC distributed missing child posters to the areas she was believed to have gone. Her picture was also posted to the NCMEC web site. **On December 2, 2003**, an anonymous lead came into the NCMEC Hotline reporting the child to be in Marion, Illinois. The caller had met the child, thought her story to be suspicious, and accessed the NCMEC web site, where the caller found the child to be listed as a runaway. NCMEC forwarded the lead to local authorities, and the child was safely recovered.