



Candlelight Gala 2011



Proudly Hosted By:



Thank you

to everyone who supported our Candlelight Gala.

This year we raised a net of over \$65,000, an increase by \$10,000 from the previous year. Highlights from the moving and uplifting event included our "Light The Way Home Sponsor" Poynt, leading our 220 guests in a candle lighting ceremony, the rousing "Heads and Tails" game hosted by Spira Data, and the musical performance by Nate Hall and Ryley Donalson.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our special guest Judy Peterson for sharing her journey in the search for her daughter, Lindsey Nicholls. Like you, we will never stop searching for Lindsey.

Thank you also to Northgate Aviation for their three year commitment as our host sponsor.



On Saturday, July 9th, we were thrilled to take part in the inaugural "Craig Conroy Street Hockey HOME GAME", a private event in support of MCSC.

As a Board Member of MCSC, Mr. Conroy donated his time to spend an afternoon playing a game of street hockey with 20 kids. He even brought his own net!

The Home Game event was offered as a silent auction item at our annual Candlelight Gala this May. The item was generously purchased by Rob and Julie Jepson, who hosted the afternoon of street hockey at their home. Parents and neighbors gathered to cheer on the players - and even sneak in on the action!

Rob and Julie also invited their friends to support MCSC through making donations, raising \$2800 for MCSC. It was a fantastic afternoon enjoying the great weather and meeting many new friends. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers (Jason, Sue and Beth) for making the day run so smoothly.

We can't thank Craig Conroy enough for being so warm and welcoming. Many lifelong memories and fans were created that day! **For more photos, visit our Facebook page!**



25th ANNIVERSARY MISSING CHILDREN SOCIETY OF CANADA

Reuniting families since 1986



SUMMER 2011

The Missing Children Society of Canada is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the active search for abducted and missing children.

Since 1986, MCSC has assisted law enforcement and searching families through professional investigations, public awareness and family support programs.

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FEDERAL FUNDING URGED FOR NATIONAL DNA DATABANK

On June 2nd, our Executive Director Amanda Pick was in Ottawa to take part in a consultation workshop coordinated by the RCMP. Amanda was invited to attend the workshop to provide input on what can be done to better support the investigation of Missing Person (MP) cases and Unidentified Remains (UR) cases across our country.

In cooperation with police, coroners and medical examiners across the country, the RCMP has been tasked by the federal government with improving the ability for these groups to investigate MP/UR cases. They plan to achieve this through setting up a MP/UR support centre for police - the National Police Support Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NPSCMP).

This centre will implement a national DNA database, create specialized services for MP/UR investigators, and improve processes to increase sharing and facilitate comparisons of MP/UR information between police, coroners and medical examiners across Canada.

These resources will also be available to similar regional police support centres where they exist, and the offices of Chief Coroners and Chief Medical Examiners across Canada. These groups will support coroners, medical examiners and police in their MP/UR investigations. The NPSCMP infrastructure will also support the current work of the National Missing Children's Service.

Understanding that police and coroner investigations are only part of the picture when it comes to Missing Persons cases, the NPSCMP recognized the need to consult with other organisations working in the field with families of Missing Persons.

The workshop held in Ottawa this June aimed to solicit input and dialogue from interest groups and service providers dealing with missing persons and their families, specifically relevant to the scope and goals of the NPSCMP.

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**HELP US CONTINUE THE SEARCH
DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.MCSC.CA**

TEAM EFFORT SEES VALOR HOWELL REUNITED WITH FATHER

On May 29, 2011, Garrett Taylor received the incredible news that his son Valor had been found. The boy had been missing for nearly 7 years - abducted by his non-custodial mother at the young age of 3 years old.

In the days that followed, the world learned the incredible circumstances of Valor's location. The boy was discovered when his mother was arrested in Arizona for causing a disturbance in a laundromat. The police identified that the woman was wanted on a Canada-wide warrant

for abducting her son almost 7 years earlier. One week later, the boy was reunited with his family and back at home in Kelowna, BC.

On the surface, the reunification seemed to go quickly and smoothly. In reality, it was an extremely complicated ordeal - one that involved an incredible amount of assistance from many organizations.

MCSC investigator, Wendy Christensen, describes the team effort that took place.

"Four days after Valor was located, MCSC was contacted by the BC Central Authority on The Hague Convention and by the Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations (AMECO) with a request to help facilitate the reunification process. **While we were not involved on an investigative level in this case, our team took action to connect with networks in Canada and the US to begin streamlining Valor's entry into Canada.**

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STILL MISSING



SHAEL RANBIR SINGH ARORA
Date of Birth
October 29, 2008
Eyes..... Brown
Hair..... Brown

Missing Since
May 16, 2010
Missing From
Calgary, AB



TAMRA KEEPNESS
Date of Birth
September 1, 1999
Eyes..... Brown
Hair..... Brown

Missing Since
July 5, 2004
Missing From
Regina, SK



PEARL GAVAGHAN DA MASSA
Date of Birth
April 6, 2004
Eyes..... Green/Brown
Hair..... Brown

Missing Since
December 6, 2008
Missing From
Manchester, UK
(Last seen in Toronto)



MISSING CHILDREN
SOCIETY OF CANADA

WWW.MCSC.CA
1-800-661-6160

THANK YOU TO OUR SEARCH PARTNERS



Valor Howell reunification (continued from page 1)

Thanks to WestJet – a long-time Search Partner of MCSC - we were able to immediately coordinate transportation for Garret to fly to Arizona to pick up his son and for them to return to BC.

We connected with the RCMP and other organizations involved letting them know the flights had been arranged. Concerns were then raised as to whether Valor, now 10 years old, would be able to return to Canada as it was believed he only had an expired passport. While we continued to liaise with our partners and various government contacts to work out Valor’s paperwork, we contacted WestJet again to let them know about this possible roadblock.

The WestJet team jumped in again, connecting us with contacts that were invaluable to making this reunification possible. The WestJet team became involved on a level that I can honestly say was amazing.

There were so many challenges that weekend, I questioned whether we could make things happen. Without WestJet’s Jenifer Van Meenen, Mack Cyrgan and John Watts, it could not have. They reached out to contacts that I was unaware that they had and made a very

Valor Howell was reunited with his father and sisters in June 2011. Valor had been missing for nearly 7 years, abducted by his non-custodial mother.

problematic and challenging case almost seamless.

They even took care to ensure that WestJet staff were available to provide the two with anything that they needed during their trip. The selfless and caring acts that they performed that weekend leave me feeling humbled to say the very least.

Our thanks and appreciation is also extended to the RCMP, the Central Authority in BC, Canada Border Services, the Association of Missing and Exploited Children’s Association (AMECO), the Canadian Consulate, Child Protective Services in the US, the police department in Chandler, Arizona and their Victims Services Unit, and US Department of State and the Canadian and US Airport Authorities.”

Welcome home Valor!



LIGHT THE WAY HOME 2011: ENGAGING 1 MILLION CANADIANS WITH HOPE / ACTION

WestJet Cares for Kids Program goes beyond the gift of flight.

WestJet has been a long-time supporter of our Light the Way Home campaign. This year, we were thrilled to partner with WestJet in an awareness campaign that reached Canadians through the act of caring.

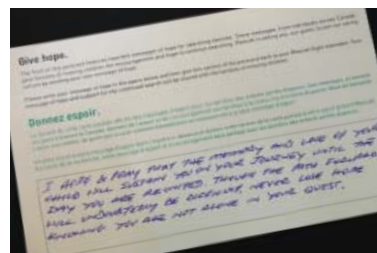
For one month, starting on May 25th, National Missing Children’s Day, WestJet invited all their guests on domestic flights longer than one hour to join their caring culture by writing a message of hope to a family of a missing child, as well as make a personal “I STOP” pledge to end child abduction. Postcards were distributed to guests and the messages were collected and given to MCSC to share them with the families they serve and support. Special thanks to the WestJet Inflight and Airports teams for their pivotal role in this campaign.

Along with seatback ads and a full page feature in the inflight UP! Magazine, the “Give hope. Take action” campaign engaged thousands of WestJetters and an estimated 1 million Canadians.

The campaign was kicked off on May 25th at an event in WestJet’s head office campus. WestJet CEO Gregg Saretsky presented the first message of hope on behalf of WestJet along with his personal “I STOP” pledge to stop child abduction. (Gregg’s Message of Hope is shown in the photos to the right.)

Canadian singers Nate Hall and Ryley Donalson performed several songs for the occasion, including Nate’s debut single “Things”, a song he has dedicated to the MCSC “I STOP” movement. 100% of proceeds of downloads of Nate’s song “Things” on iTunes will be donated to MCSC.

We would like to thank Jenifer Van Meenan and Liz Praticante for their incredible support and assistance in making this such a meaningful campaign.



Below: WestJet CEO Gregg Saretsky chats with MCSC Investigator, Wendy Christensen.



POYNT PARTNERS WITH MCSC TO PUSH CHILD SEARCH ALERTS TO 7.6 MILLION USERS

Poynt to Push Geo-Relevant and Timely Child Search Alerts to 7.6 Million User Base Worldwide

On May 25th, National Missing Children’s Day, we were thrilled to announce our new partnership with Poynt Corporation. Poynt, a leading provider of mobile local search services, has integrated a push geo-targeted Child Search Alert system into the Poynt App to aid in the timely recovery of missing children.

As part of MCSC’s National “I Stop” campaign, Poynt’s innovation marks the first geo-relevant push alert system of its kind.

Through this push system, we will be able to quickly notify Poynt users within a relevant, geo-targeted area with our Child Search Alerts on breaking developments of an active missing child investigation.

“Geographically targeting notifications based on information provided by MCSC regarding a missing child’s case is a game changer in the search for missing children,” said Andrew Osis, CEO & President of Poynt Corp.

“There are numerous apps out there to inform the public about missing child cases. What makes this tool vitally different is our ability to geo-target breaking updates to our established user base of 7.6 million people worldwide. This is a partnership that Poynt is proud to be a part of.”



Left: Margaret Glover-Campbell and Jeff Davidson of Poynt join Alix Woods of MCSC in tweeting out the exciting news. Right: Amanda and Margaret are all smiles about the new partnership.

“Being able to notify people in the immediate area where we are conducting an investigation in a child’s case or where a missing child has recently been sighted will be extremely helpful in our active investigations,” said Amanda Pick, Executive Director of MCSC. “Everyone – every single Canadian - has the ability to help bring an end to child abduction in our country. This partnership with Poynt gives people the powerful possibility of being part of the team that brings a missing child home.”

“Increasingly, our investigators are working child abduction cases that cross international borders,” continued Pick. “Having the ability to connect with Poynt’s existing, engaged 7.6 million users in countries around the world is a huge asset to our investigation team. Most importantly, it’s a huge asset to our searching families.”

In addition to developing technology to support MCSC in our search for missing children, Poynt was also a generous sponsor of our Candlelight Gala held in Calgary, Alberta on May 26th 2011.

As our newest Search Partner, Poynt Corp. will continue to be involved in various awareness initiatives with MCSC, and we are thrilled to have them on board!

The push system is scheduled for launch in September 2011 in conjunction with a newly designed website and mobile-website.

For more information about our push alerts through the Poynt app, please contact us at info@mcsc.ca.



John Dooks, President of the Calgary Police Association, congratulates Margaret Glover-Campbell of Poynt on the new partnership with MCSC.

We were honoured to have Mr. Dooks take part in our official announcement and receive his commendation for the Child Search Alert push system.

Below: Amanda gets in on the photo opp with Mike Cavilla (right), Detective with CPS Homicide Unit and Ward Stene (left) of the Calgary Police Rodeo Association.



Also on May 25th, the Calgary Police Rodeo Association recognized MCSC’s 25 years of helping missing children and their families by presenting our organization with a cheque for \$10,000.

The generous donation was proceeds from the 2010 Calgary Police Rodeo.



National DNA Databank (continued from page 1)

We were pleased to be able to provide the NPSCMP with our insights at this workshop, and to be at the table with many other respected groups from across our country including Crime Stoppers, Cyber Tip, BC Victims Services, Missing Adults Ontario, Enfant Retour Quebec, Child Find Saskatchewan, Child Find Nova Scotia, the Native Women’s Association of Canada, the Assembly of First Nations, and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

Also in attendance was Judy Peterson – mother of Lindsey Peterson and the driving force behind “Lindsey’s Law.” For over a decade, Judy has lobbied the federal government to establish a national

DNA databank of missing persons and unidentified remains. We are encouraged to see the steps being taken by the NPSCMP toward this goal. We believe this development is in large part due to Judy’s perseverance. (For further information on Lindsey’s Law, please visit www.lindseyslaw.com.)

We call on the federal government to follow-through with this important stride forward by committing funding for the addition of MP/UR indices into the National DNA Databank.