

Klaas, Marc

KLAAS FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

P.O. Box 925
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F A X C O V E R S H E E T

DATE:	May 10, 1996	TIME:	10:05 AM
TO:	Bruce Reed The White House	PHONE:	(202) 456-6515
		FAX:	(202) 456-7431
FROM:	Marc Klaas	PHONE:	(415) 331-6867
		FAX:	(415) 331-5633
		E-Mail:	klaas@cri.com

RE: Megan's Law

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

Message

Mr. Bruce Reed
Domestic Policy Advisor
President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington D.C., 20500

Dear Bruce:

Congratulations on Megan's Law. When the President signs the bill, I hope that he comments on the importance of the intent of this legislation.

1. Sex offenders pose a high risk of re-offending after release from custody.
2. Protecting the public from sex offenders is a primary governmental interest.
3. The privacy interests of persons convicted of sex offenses is less important than the government's interest in public safety.
4. release of information about sex offenders to public agencies and the general public will assist in protecting the public safety.

Certainly the safety of children must supersede the privacy rights of convicted sex felons. I have no doubt that the Supreme Court will affirm the constitutionality of Megan's Law.

There is another piece of legislation that was passed by the House at the same time as Megan's Law. Congressman Martin Frost wrote a "two strike" law for convicted child molesters. I'm sure that the President is supportive of this bill also. I just thought I would bring it to your attention.

Good luck with the election. We need President Clinton. History will portray him as one of the truly great Presidents. Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Bruce, check out our web-site (<http://www.klaaskids.inter.net>) when you have a chance. It is a great resource for parents and other concerned citizens. I am doing a daily update on the trial of Polly's killer.

Sincerely,



Marc Klaas

KLAAS FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

P.O. Box 925
Sausalito, CA 94966

F A X C O V E R S H E E T

DATE: September 16, 1996 **TIME:** 9:47 AM
TO: Bruce Reed **PHONE:** (202) 456-6515
Domestic Policy **FAX:** (202)456-7431
FROM: Marc Klaas **PHONE:** (415) 331-6867
 FAX: (415) 331-5633
 E-Mail: klaas@crl.com

RE: Dole's Polly reference

Number of pages including cover sheet: 1

Message

Bruce,

In 1982, then Assemblyman Bill Baker co-authored AB 2954. This legislation is the reason that Richard Allen Davis was allowed out of prison after serving only 50% of a sixteen year prison sentence for kidnapping.

In 1981, Baker toured the Texas state penitentiary system and discovered that Texas relied on inmate labor for support. The cost of incarceration in Texas was 1/3 less than the operating costs of incarceration in the California prison system. Furthermore, prisoners in Texas were acquiring job skills and helping to pay their own way through prison.

In the early 1980's, California prisoners were automatically entitled to 1/3 off of their sentences for good time. There were no incentives to improve themselves. In Baker's own words, "They could just lie around their cells lifting weights -- the better to bash in our skulls and earn good time off by staying out of trouble."

In 1982, Baker introduced AB 2954. The bill required our state prisons to be more self-sufficient and to make inmates work for their keep and sentence credits. It eliminated good time credits and required that inmates work or sign up for schooling to reduce their prison time. AB 2954 was strongly opposed by prisoners' rights groups. On the other hand it was supported by Police, Sheriff's, and the department of Corrections. All staunch allies of law and order.

AB 2954 gave 50% good time credits and the result is that prisoners are required to sign-up for work credits, but are not forced to work. California then had a system that automatically allowed monsters and perverts like Davis to get out of prison after serving only 50% of their systems. A system that allowed judges to impose tough sounding sentences, knowing full well that the criminals would be back-doored out of prison after serving only a fraction of their time.

■ MARC KLAAS FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN
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September 9, 1996

Mr. Bruce Reed
Domestic Policy Advisor
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bruce:

Thanks for your assistance with the convention, I had a marvelous time. Beyond offering a forum for an important message, I received a graduate course in public speaking. It was a true highlight. I'd like to do it again four years from now.

The planning and execution of the convention was superb. It was disturbing to hear the professional pundits unanimously dissing the presentation. They seem to long for the good old days when they got their heads bashed in by angry cops. Even so, the true test of success is reflected in polling and on election day. I expect a landslide and the mandate President Clinton deserves for his second term.

I was in New York watching the President's acceptance speech on television. I have been waiting for years for a vision of America based upon what is best for our children and I sat in my hotel room and literally cried throughout the night. If it's taken beyond rhetoric America will bridge the millennium with the momentum of a downhill big-rig.

Let me make two modest proposals. First, a National Child Safety Day. Companies all over America can encourage parents to bring their children to work for safety seminars on an array of safety material, from stranger danger to bike and swimming pool safety. They can then fingerprint and photograph the children. This would serve several purposes. Companies will go far toward fulfilling their responsibility to promote family values. It would go a long way towards raising awareness about the need to protect the children. It would give parents a good excuse to discuss safety with their children. It would educate children in a positive reaffirming way and give them knowledge to avoid compromising or endangering situations. Finally, it would again reaffirm the administration's commitment to our youth. I recommend January 3, Polly's birthday. If this makes sense to you, I would love to work on this project.

Secondly, and this is much more ambitious, but worth considering. A National Department of Children's Rights. This idea means the establishment of a new bureaucracy, but it also sends a very important message to the nation. Children are our most important priority. We will do whatever is necessary to protect them and ensure that they receive the tools necessary to provide that they have the opportunity to grow up into safe and productive citizens. It'll also drive the Republican's crazy. If you want to know more, let me know and I'll expand on the idea.

Finally, I will be in Washington on Thursday to testify with Marc Rotenberg on HR 3508, the "Children's Privacy Protection and Parental Empowerment Act". This is the first piece of federal legislation to come directly from our Foundation efforts.

Sincerely,


Marc Klaas





September 18, 1995

Mr. Bruce Reed
President Bill Clinton
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Reed:

This is to inform you on updates on Foundation activities. The Foundation has been keeping a low profile over the past several months at the request of the District Attorney assigned to prosecute Polly's killer. He is concerned that high profile efforts may pollute the jury selection process. Liz Ecke resigned from the Foundation in June to pursue her own path. In future, please contact either B.J. Klaas or myself. Our new address is: P.O. Box 925, Sausalito, CA 94966; phone (415) 331-6867; fax (415) 331-5633.

During September and October 1994, we distributed 500,000 copies of Polly's Guide to a Safe Halloween with the assistance and sponsorship of Safeway Stores.

In April and May 1995, we fingerprinted and photographed 3,000 children, and distributed child safety information to 10,000 children and their families in metropolitan Phoenix, Arizona with the assistance of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department.

Last Fall we were involved in a petition drive that gathered 1,200,000 signatures from around the country for Truth In Sentencing legislation.

Our Community Empowerment Program has motivated many cities in East Contra Costa County to fight community based crime by organizing Neighborhood Watch programs.

This Summer and Fall we are co-sponsoring 500 child safety days with the Child Safety Network and local Kiwanis Clubs throughout the United States.

Recent legislative commitments have taken the Foundation to New York, where we helped influence the New York State Assembly to re-consider Megan's Law. After two years of delay it finally sailed through the Assembly 140-9. New York is now the 44th State with a sex offender registry and the 27th State to offer some form of community notification.

In addition to the anti-crime legislation we sponsored in California last year, the Foundation is also working with the Federal Government to secure full implementation of the Interstate Identification Index. A voluntary, decentralized national criminal history record system established to strengthen the state repository of criminal records. The IIR ties them together into a viable interstate system that makes rap sheet information available to all law enforcement.

We are committed to Megan's Law, Truth In Sentencing legislation, tracking and monitoring systems for violent felons, and longer prison terms for predators who victimize children.

The Foundation newsletter, the Klaas Action Review recently premiered with a mailing of 10,000 copies to citizens and leaders throughout the Nation. Child safety information, a children's section, expert guest writers and updates on Foundation activities will be featured quarterly.

All of these accomplishments have cost the Foundation less than \$20,000.

As we approach the two year anniversary of Polly's tragedy and the beginning of the trial, we will redouble our efforts to establish a legacy on Polly's behalf. The Foundation is strong in commitment and resolute in desire to make a lasting and positive impact on the treatment of children in the United States.

Sincerely,


Marc Klaas



History:

During a slumber party in October of 1993, 12 year old Polly Hannah Klaas was abducted at knife-point from her Petaluma, California home. Thousands of residents from the surrounding community immediately responded with the largest manhunt in American history. Hundreds of selfless volunteers abandoned normal daily routines for 65 days. They answered countrywide calls, read thousands of letters and searched for Polly. A mass distribution of 2 billion images of Polly was sent worldwide. She had soon become a symbol of love and lost innocence.

The world froze one cold evening in December when the media reported that Polly, "America's Child," the beautiful girl with the warm brown eyes shown smiling in home videos for millions of TV viewers, was not found alive. The country was outraged. The public cried out for change in legislation and pro-action in crime prevention.

"Polly was faced with a choice few people ever have to make," said her father, Marc Klaas. "By putting herself in mortal danger to protect her family and friends, Polly has become my greatest teacher." Marc Klaas immediately dove into a campaign to put children higher on the national priority list. With no prior media, political or public speaking experience, he immediately became savvy in affecting pro-active legislation, and sought to advocate children's issues and speak out on crime prevention.

Within a year the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children was formed.

Objective:

The Marc Klaas Foundation for Children's single objective is to stop crimes against children. "This year I have witnessed our country echo my cry that there is no more time to lose. People demand answers and request leadership in the area of crime prevention, particularly, regarding crimes against children," said Marc Klaas. "How much more are we going to take?"

The mission to stop crimes against children will engage our organization in the following areas:

- **affecting state and federal legislation that will protect children;**
- **standardizing uniform laws for criminals who target children;**
- **providing communities with proactive steps for creating safer neighborhoods;**
- **promoting nationwide parental awareness and child safety tips.**

Nationally, Marc Klaas has impacted thousands of people who have subsequently created a momentum for change and action regarding children's issues, legislation and pro-action in crime prevention.

You can support our efforts by becoming aware of the legislation that is being passed, being aware of what is going on in your neighborhood, and loving your children. Let's all work together and make it possible to end crimes against children now.



What You Can Do To Help

Spread the word that we exist. Our goal is not to protect children's rights. It is to establish children's rights by affecting legislation that will protect children; providing communities with pro-active steps for creating safer neighborhoods; promoting parental awareness and child safety tips. Together we can create a safe and crime free environment for our children, and insure that the world that our children inherit from us is safer and more secure than the one we inherited from our parents.

Nothing is more important than the safety and protection of our children. The key is education and prevention. Never take children for granted. Teach them self-esteem and self-preservation. They have to realize that they can listen to their feelings, and talk to trusted grown-ups about their problems and concerns. Give them the tools necessary to protect their own safety. Teach your child the buddy system. Typically, the child that is alone is the child that is vulnerable. When you are shopping, never carry so many packages that you have to let go of your child's hand. Fingerprint your children and keep a current photo in a safe place. We must invest the resources necessary to make their lives meaningful and productive.

Adults must be educated as well. Although we are very busy people who are pulled in many directions, we cannot ignore our children's upbringing. Parents must take personal responsibility for their children's nurturing. Just because we have the ability to create a child doesn't mean that we have the right to abuse them. Please don't look the other way. Children deserve a higher place on our personal and national priority lists.

Know your neighborhood. It's one of the most important things you can do to guarantee the safety of your children. Show them the safest places to play, and areas to avoid, like dark alleys. Most importantly, know your neighbors. The more you know about your neighborhood, the safer your family will be. Work with your local law enforcement to organize a neighborhood watch program. Remember, it takes the village to raise the child.

Volunteer at your children's school, or in an after school program. When Polly was kidnapped, the entire community of Petaluma volunteered to find her. People from all walks of life proved to the world that you don't have to be rich and famous to make a difference. You can be a role model to your family and community by simply volunteering for a cause that is meaningful. There is nothing more meaningful than your children.

Telephone or write to your legislators at all levels and demand that they support laws that are protective of and designed to benefit children. Support Truth in Sentencing, sex offender registration laws that offer community notification, and data-base tracking systems. If we can secure a safe future for our children then we will create a safe nation for all innocent citizens.

The Marc Klaas Foundation for Children is seeking funding to further assist our pro-active efforts to stop crimes against our children. Contribute to our Foundation and together we can create a safe and productive future for all children.

Marc Klaas starts new foundation

By PAULA K. HARRIS

Argus-Courier Staff

Almost a year after the abduction and murder of his daughter, Marc Klaas said he is following his "destiny" in establishing a new foundation to address children's issues.

Klaas, who announced the formation of the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children at the State Capitol Building in Sacramento Thursday, said he was compelled to continue his mission within a new structure.

"What I need is a vehicle for me to do the things that are necessary for me as a person," said Klaas. "It's not to take away from the Polly Foundation, it's really more to augment that. To continue to address crimes against children but in different avenues."

"In the past there has definitely been some friction between Marc and the board. Particularly about what direction the board wanted to take and what Marc wanted," explained Maureen Dixon, a volunteer with the Polly Klaas Foundation. "He wants to be able to move forward and move quickly. It takes longer with a board, there are more people to consider."

Dixon, who has worked at the foundation since its inception last October, said members of the Polly Klaas Foundation are supportive of Klaas' decision to move on, but also heartened that he intends to remain on the board.

"That's a good sign," she noted. "We're hoping that the two foundations can work together."

Jay Silverberg, speaking for the Polly Klaas Foundation, echoed the sentiment, saying that he

wishes Klaas success and offers him support. "I expect to work shoulder to shoulder with him on the same type of issues," he said.

Klaas garnered nationwide attention for his aggressive lobbying for the need for tougher state laws dealing with kidnapping and violent crime.

Last month, Klaas was called to Washington by President Clinton and his emotional message was credited with helping to pass the crime bill.

"I've got to do this," said a driven Klaas Wednesday. "I've really got no choice personally and I need to somehow make a living, which I've not been able to do at the Polly Klaas Foundation."

Klaas has stated that he will not return to his prior job running a car rental franchise in San Francisco because he intends to devote himself to children's issues.

Klaas' new foundation will start small with a three-member board consisting of Klaas, his business associate of eight months, Elizabeth Ecke, and an attorney from the San Francisco law firm of Jackson, Tufts, Cole, and Black.

Ecke, 38, owner of a Santa Rosa executive recruiting company, said she has worked with Klaas since January, handling business affairs.

"There was just something very magnetic about Marc — his passion, his commitment. I wanted to help him succeed," she said.

The non-profit Marc Klaas Foundation for Children will work from Ecke's Santa Rosa home office.

"We don't have any money, we're using my savings," said Ecke. "We have a zillion people who want to endorse us, but we're going to be extremely selective. We're not into quick endorsements. We don't want to commercialize Polly."

She added that the new foundation has been approached by numerous businesses eager to offer their services and expertise. "We're becoming a magnet for positive, pro-active, brilliant people."

She said the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children is currently working on creating a series of Halloween safety tips which will be distributed through Safeway Stores and Chevron gas stations.

In February, 1995, the foundation will host a national crime summit in Los Angeles, titled "Beyond Politics: Justice for our Children." President Clinton has been invited to attend the summit, which plans to address the issues surrounding habitual violent offenders from all perspectives.

"The goal is to be able to take an evening walk, watch the stars and feel safe out there," said Ecke.

Klaas co-founded the Petaluma-based non-profit Polly Klaas Foundation to run the search after his 12-year-old daughter was snatched from her home by a knife-wielding stranger last October.

The ill-fated search for the Petaluma schoolgirl ended when ex-convict Richard Allen Davis led investigators to her body just south of Cloverdale in December. Davis is being held in Sonoma County Jail pending a Feb. 14, 1995 trial date.

The Polly Klaas Foundation has since been instrumental in safely recovering several missing children nationwide.

Polly's legacy: to make the state safer for kids

By MARC KLAAS

All of California expressed outrage over the kidnapping and murder of my daughter Polly. She touched the soul of the entire nation. She inspired works of art and poetry. Her beautiful face and the grace of her movement made grown men cry.

Polly's tragedy also highlighted many of the inequities of our criminal justice system and the way it relates to children. She was an innocent child, having a slumber party in the sanctity of her own home. She was stolen and murdered by a habitual violent felon who had no right being out in society.

I since have volunteered my time and energies to correct some of those inequities, and in so doing, have both raised and been the target of criticism.

Everything I have done since the night the innocence died was to make Polly proud of me. I will never abandon that goal. She was my teacher. She sacrificed for others. In the aftermath of Polly's death I dedicated my energies toward passing anti-crime legislation that is protective of and designed to benefit children.

The result of a year of hard work has been fruitful, but by no means fulfilling. After all, we can create bills from now until Armageddon, and Polly is still dead. It is the grim finality of death that drives my anger, my sadness and my energy.

Politicians, activists, news anchors, talk-show hosts and others used her as a symbol. The economics of their professions demand that they do so. I have volunteered all of my time and efforts to spare other children my daughter's tragic fate. My grief was so great in the months following her death that I did not direct much attention to the actions of others.

As my awareness returned, so did my commitment to hold on to what was no longer mine. All that was left of my daughter was a memory, and I determined that her legacy was going to be of my design. When I disagreed with others I spoke out



FILE PHOTO

Polly Klaas

"Everything I have done was to make Polly proud."

KLAAS is the father of Polly Klaas and founder of the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children in Santa Rosa, which is dedicated to protecting children from violent crime.

in a public forum.

Gov. Wilson and others used Polly's tragedy to create anti-crime legislation that protects innocent people. As a result of last February's crime conference, I have worked with the governor on a number of these laws: Assembly Bill 2500, which informs the public of the records of convicted child molesters; Senate Bill 12X, which gives law enforcement tools to protect the public; Senate Bill 26X, a "one strike" law aimed at vicious rapists and child molesters.

We created these bills to secure a safe state for our children and for all innocent citizens.

There is other legislation I do not agree with. I thought that Polly was immediately exploited for the benefit of Proposition 184, the "three strikes" initiative, and I was vocal in my criticism. I think that the California three strikes law is bad policy. The governor and most other politicians do not. I was disappointed when a more focused "three-time loser" bill failed to reach the November ballot. You can't win every battle. You can only fight them.

I have been criticized for capitalizing on my daughter's death. That is not true. I could have accepted a book or television movie deal and taken the money and run, but I am not motivated by economic gain. I sacrificed a comfortable lifestyle without regret to seize the moment and drive for legislative change before people forgot.

In my mind, there is no time to waste, because everything can change in the blink of an eye. Unfortunately, politicians are extremely deliberate in their actions. They must weigh and balance many factors. They must answer to their constituents and protect their positions. My perceptions and orientations are different. I want to change the world to protect children. I have nothing to lose in my quest.

We are waging a war against violent crime. In order to have any chance of winning, we must look toward the future and we must all work together. We must be strong in our commitment to win the war, but we must be smart as well. The future of our children is not a partisan, religious or racial issue. It is a human issue. The world our children inherit from us must be safer and more secure than the one we inherited from our parents.

Tragedy yields lessons of loss, love, unity

By Marc Klaas, Founder
Marc Klaas Foundation for Children

The people of the United States expressed outrage over the kidnapping and murder of my daughter Polly. She touched the psyche of the entire country. She inspired works of art and poetry. Her beautiful face and the grace of her movement made grown men cry.

Polly's tragedy highlighted many of the inequities of the criminal justice system. She was an innocent little girl, having a slumber party in the sanctity of her own home. She was stolen and murdered by a violent felon with an extensive criminal record who had no right being in society.

In Polly's name, America expressed outrage and demanded that children's issues and crimes against children be put at the top of our priorities. Recent events in Florida and South Carolina, however, have jeopardized any gains. In both instances, children were murdered by parents and their disappearance was blamed on fictitious strangers.

This "crying wolf" can make an already cynical society complacent the next time a young child is reported kidnapped. We must guard against that happening. The lessons from California, where the citizens of Petaluma searched for my daughter, proved that a massive response and cooperation among volunteers, the news media, and law enforcement agencies are necessary to secure a resolution to such crises.

This goal was accomplished successfully this past July in Lodi, California, with the safe return of twelve-year-old Katie Romanek within twenty hours of her disappearance. Such events have heightened our awareness of crimes against children. Unfortunately, in other cases, the deception of homicidal parents tends to blur the focus.

This is not a new phenomenon. According to the US Department of Justice, approximately 1,300 children are murdered by their parents each year.

Chris Hatcher, a clinical psychologist at the University of California, San Francisco, has studied fifteen such cases, finding that the majority of these parents are biological mothers under the age of thirty. The victims usually are girls. The scenario almost always is a carjacking or mall abduction, because this is how TV portrays kidnappings. The parent often desires a significant life change in which the child or children play no part.

The tragic case this past November of Michael and Alex Smith in Union, South Carolina, once again drew a nation together. We all wished against hope that the children would be found alive and returned to their family. Their mother, Susan Smith, betrayed her children, their father, her



community, and her country, but we mustn't become jaded by the experience. We are better people for it. Our anger at that deception must be perceived as a bonding that crossed racial and religious lines and brought us together.

Michael and Alex mobilized the community of Union. They touched lives. Ordinary people rose to heights they didn't realize were possible. They fought, searched, and prayed for the little boys. They became role models to their own children, their community, and their country simply by fighting for the lives of two little boys.

The news media focused the world's attention on the event. As the days turned like pages in a gripping thriller, the reporters doggedly pursued the story. They were sensitive to the needs of the Smith family. They realized that the best way to recover Michael and Alex was to get their images aired, keep the story alive, and focus on law enforcement's investigation. They accomplished all of this admirably.

Under the leadership of Sheriff Howard Wells, law enforcement investigated the reported abduction. The sheriff worked closely with state and federal agencies to pursue all possible scenarios and follow leads from across the country. They forgot the first rule of being good cops; they became emotionally involved. They acted as if the boys were their own.

There is a finality to death. If we are to make our society safer for this and future generations of children, we must never forget the lessons that these marvelous children and the many other unfortunate young victims of violence have left us. Those are lessons of love, unity, commitment, and loss.

Their gifts have been wasted. Their contributions to society will never be known in life. So let us learn from them in death. Michael and Alex now sit at the right hand of God. Their untimely departures have taught us that there is no time to waste.

Susan Smith entered a dark room and couldn't turn on the light. She is an aberration. This cannot distract us from what we accomplished. All of America achieved greatness. We did what we had to do. We were united in our hope and concern for the welfare of the children.

Together we took up the call that is fundamental throughout so much of the world: It takes the village to raise the child. I have come to believe that this concept contains an essential truism that cannot, must not, be ignored.

Marc Klaas is the father of Polly Klaas, a twelve-year-old girl who was kidnapped from her home on October 1, 1993. He since has dedicated his life to raising children's rights and crimes against children to the top of the United States' priority list.

New foundation a going concern

Marc Klaas' goal is to stop crimes against children

By JAY GAMEL
Argus-Courier Staff

Marc Klaas has taken his intense, let's-do-it-now energy and is devoting it full time to the work of the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children. Along with aide Liz Ecke, Klaas hates to see a day go by without doing something to stop child abduction, abuse and murder.

From sponsoring neighborhood watch organizational meetings to setting up child fairs to fingerprinting and making identification kits for thousands of kids at child safety fairs, Klaas and Ecke are busy traveling to Arizona, Southern California or even across the bay to further their work.

"People want to be empowered and we're telling them how to empower themselves," Klaas said in a recent interview.

Klaas' 12-year-old daughter, Polly, was abducted from her home and murdered in October of 1993. Klaas was recently fired from the board of directors of the foundation established with money donated to help find Polly during the three-month period before her body was discovered next to a freeway in Cloverdale. The main reason cited by both parties for Klaas' departure was his impatience with the speed at which the Polly Klaas Foundation's directors moved.

The Marc Klaas Foundation for Children was formed in September of 1994, before his departure from the Polly Klaas Foundation. The goals of the new organization are to work with state and federal legislation to protect children, standardize laws for criminals who target children, provide steps for creating safe neighborhoods and promote national parental awareness and child safety tips.

The bottom line is, Marc Klaas wants to stop crimes against children.

"We want to stop abuse now," Klaas said. "That's what we're working for. We have a great sense of urgency over what we're trying to do here. They (the Polly Klaas Foundation directors) say they are figuring out how to do business in 2014. We want to be out of business by then. We are much more concerned with the here and now and the children who have been abused and who have



Janet Orie

Liz Ecke and Marc Klaas say they hate to see a day go by without doing something to stop child abduction, abuse and murder.

had crimes committed against them since the time the Polly Klaas Foundation was formed in October of 1993, than we are with what's going to be happening to children 20 years from now."

"We don't know how to end child abuse," Klaas admits. "It ultimately comes down to parental, community and governmental responsibility. It's all about creating a safer world and people working together to do that."

It's the simple things that can be done now that work, Klaas says. "You do not have to be a rocket scientist to know that if you are working with law enforcement and you have signs up in your neighborhood that say we care about our children and we have neighborhood watch programs that that's going to deter somebody who might be interested in molesting children in that area. This is common sense and these are common sense approaches that work."

Klaas recently returned from Arizona where he is working with a commercial traveling exposition. "We will run child safety days in conjunction with this promotion."

Klaas' message hits home many places he goes. More than 1,000 people gathered for an "Emergency Town Meeting" in Oakley, where Polly's grandfather, Joe Klaas, spoke to an attentive

audience about the need to make safer neighborhoods.

Another job at the Marc Klaas Foundation is pulling together a lot of data now scattered throughout the country in various states and organizations.

"We put together a crime sheet for Arizona," Ecke said. "It was something they did not have. We just collate the information."

And the facts make for grim reading, according to Klaas. He says that over 1 million children are abducted or run away every year. While most of the abductions are by a non-custodial parent, nearly one-third are done by people who intend harm.

"We are trying to raise awareness of crimes against children and children's issues," Klaas said.

So far, the Marc Klaas Foundation has been operating on a shoestring budget, although Klaas would like to take in enough money for a full-time paid staff.

"We don't have money and we find that we can get the things we have to do without a lot of funding," Klaas said. "We find organizations and we find corporations who are willing to underwrite our travel expenses so that we can get our message out."

Klaas hopes to line up corporate sponsors. "They realize that the children are their consumers of tomorrow and if they can do some-

thing to insure that those children are going to be there, it's beneficial to them. There's a 'feel good' aspect to it, they are doing something to promote a safer community.

On the legislative side, Klaas is involved on both the state and national level. He is working with Assemblywoman Barbara Albee on legislation to make stranger abduction a capital offense.

"I'm also working with the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, specifically Sen. Byron Dorgan from North Dakota, on the Interstate Identification Index, a national tracking system for felons. It is a voluntary database system run through the FBI where each individual state feeds in information regarding paroled felons. This was set up under the Child Protection Act of 1984. Twenty states and the District of Columbia are in total non-compliance with it."

The foundation will be issuing its first newsletter by the end of the month. The Marc Klaas Foundation can be contacted at 537-1154.

Polly's dad runs nonstop campaign

By Valerie Chow Bush

Independent Journal reporter

One year after Polly's tragic death, Marc Klaas still wears his anguish on his sleeve — literally.

It's late afternoon and Klaas sports a white T-shirt depicting a purple ribbon on its sleeve. Emblazoned under the ribbon is a father's urgent plea: "Remember Polly."

Framed photos of his daughter fill the cramped living room of Klaas' Sausalito apartment. A clay bust of the beatific 12-year-old dominates the fireplace mantel. It is framed by two candles in her favorite color — purple. Above it, on the wall, hangs a large watercolor painting of "Polly's Peace Rose."

There are chilling reminders, too, of her kidnapping and death.

Several cardboard boxes are scattered on the floor, bearing the abduction flier that became a constant and terrifying sight on telephone poles, in supermarkets and in mailboxes last October.

"It's been a truly difficult year," Klaas says with a sigh. "I miss her smile. I miss her touch."

Klaas plans to commemorate Polly's death "very privately" at home with his wife, Violet, and his parents. He urges others to share the day with their families "if they want to think of Polly on October 1."

The past 12 months have transformed Klaas, placing the once-private Marin resident center stage.

A year ago, he was a father and the manager of a car rental agency in San Francisco.

Today, he is a recognized champion of children's rights.

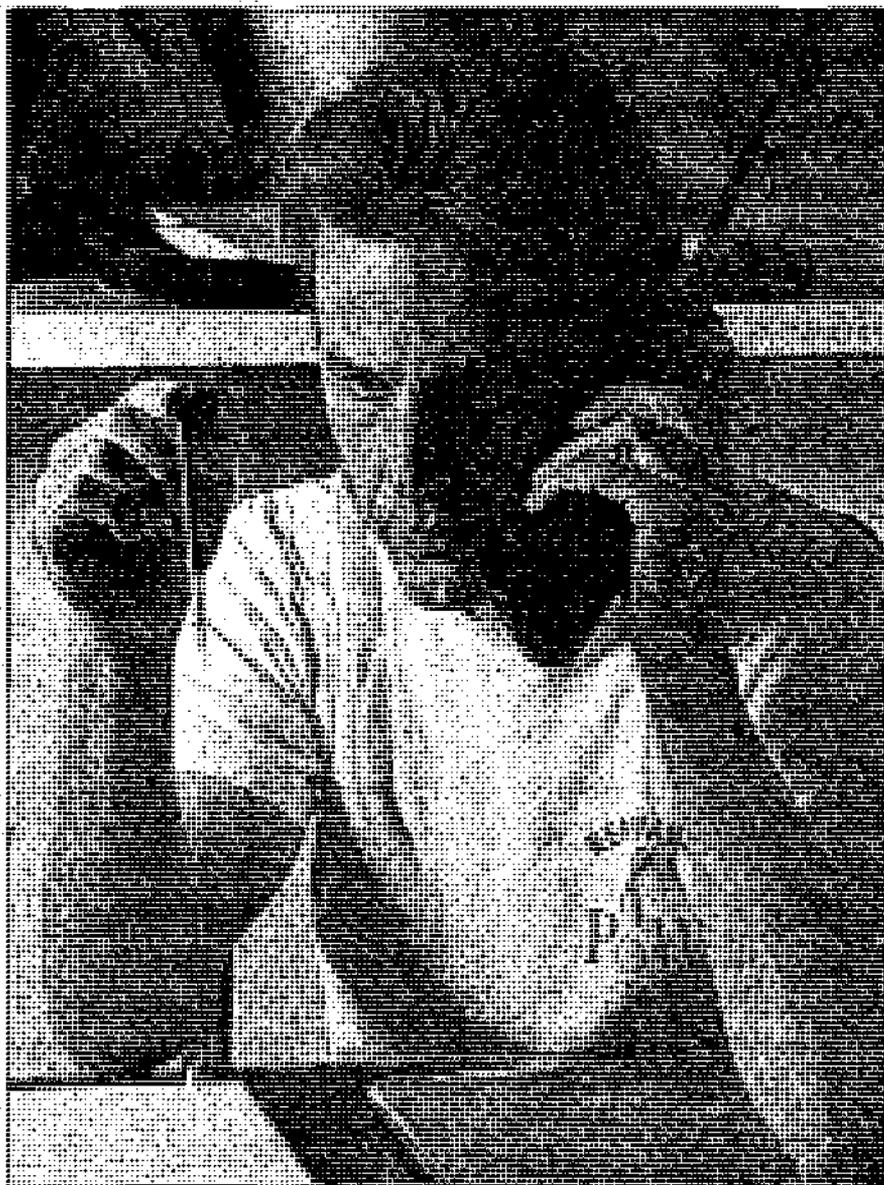
Turn on the television or open a newspaper, and there is Klaas. He was at the White House, standing next to President Clinton as he signed his crime bill several weeks ago. Last week, he hit the airwaves, pushing his new foundation, the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children.

"I don't know that I chose this role or if it chose me," he says. "I just started to run and I didn't stop."

Klaas says he's learned important lessons about the rough-and-tumble world of politics along the way that have left him cynical, but wiser.

He admits, for example, that he erred in backing the "Three Strikes, You're Out" legislation so soon after Polly's death. Once one of its most vocal supporters, Klaas switched his position and signed the ballot pamphlet argument against the November initiative in July.

The initiative is the twin of a law passed in March. It lengthens prison terms for two-time felons and requires lifetime sentences for serious



SPOTLIGHT:

Tragedy put Marc Klaas into the spotlight, turning him into a national figure in child protection issues.

IJ photo/Marin Klimek

three-time losers. Opponents, including Klaas, have criticized the measure because it would make the third "strike" applicable to any felony, such as residential burglary.

"I reversed an uninformed opinion," Klaas said. "They told me it stood for one thing, and it stood for only part of that."

"I would never do to a grieving father what was done to me or my family," he said bitterly. "They signed me up for a bill when I was at an emotional low point and didn't have any defenses to speak of."

Now a seasoned political player, Klaas insists he can continue to have an important role in the anti-crime and child-abuse arenas.

From day one of Polly's abduction, he has been a man possessed — initially with finding Polly and, later, with fighting child abuse. He re-

fuses to slow down. Or turn down a cry for his help.

"He doesn't waste a minute in helping people," said Lisa Dahl of Larkspur, who called on Klaas for support when her 23-year-old son Justin Jones of Fairfax was murdered in San Francisco in late March. "He is never far away. He will call you in a moment if you need him for anything."

Just last week, Klaas announced the creation of a new foundation, separate from the Polly Klaas Foundation, to help deal with repeat sex offenders and to "end child abuse in this generation."

The foundation hasn't raised any money yet, but Klaas has big plans for the fledgling group.

It will convene a conference on crime at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles this February. The by-

invitation-only event will bring together political leaders, law enforcement officials, scholars and child abuse advocates.

Klaas also is in the process of developing a computer software game designed to teach children about avoiding abduction and abuse.

All this activity has exacted a heavy personal toll on Klaas.

"I've been kind of dancing naked on the table for the last ten months," he said, flashing a rare smile.

But as a father in mourning, he fears inner reflection will be too painful.

"It would be nice to have days off, time to myself," he said.

Then, cradling his head in his hand, he added: "I'm kind of afraid of that. It would give me too much time to think about Polly."



SUMMARY OF GOALS

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We have established a national momentum for change. The work of our Foundation has forever changed the approach to crimes against children in the fields of awareness, legislation and pro-active crime prevention. It is important to continue our nationwide campaign on all levels in order to elevate and promote children's issues at the top of our national priority list.

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Budget: \$80k

CrimeLink - GIS mapping software to assist local law enforcement.

Budget: \$80k

Administration, communications, consultants, operations, travel. Salaried staff of six.

Budget: \$220k



MARC KLAAS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Marc Klaas has been instrumental in the passage of five California State anti-crime bills. All of this legislation is designed to increase the protection of children. At the Federal Crime Bill signing, President Clinton dedicated the Crime Bill to Polly Klaas and two other crime victims. Mr. Klaas has met several times with President Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno:

Panelist:

- World Affairs Council - Philadelphia, PA
- Governor Wilson's Crime Summit - Los Angeles, CA
- Radio and TV News Director's Association Annual Convention - Walnut Creek, CA
- San Diego State University

Legislative Testimony:

- Correcting The Revolving Door of Justice: Approaches and Solutions to Recidivism - House Judiciary Sub-committee - Washington, DC
- Interstate Identification Index - Senate Governmental Affairs Committee - Washington, DC
- AB1568 Committee On Public Safety (COPS) - Sacramento, CA
- AB1568 - Senate Judiciary Committee - Sacramento, CA
- AB2500 - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA
- AB2500 - Senate Judiciary Committee - Sacramento, CA
- SB12X - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA
- SB12X - Senate Judiciary Committee - Sacramento, CA
- AB99X - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA
- SB26X - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA
- AB3513 - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA

Publications:

- San Francisco Examiner - Oct. '93
- San Francisco Chronicle - Three Strikes Editorial
- San Francisco Examiner - Three Strikes Editorial
- San Diego Union Tribune - Oct. '94
- Kiwanis International Magazine - Feb. '95

Keynote Speaker at Conferences:

- Afternoon with Janet Reno, Crime Bill - Petaluma, CA
- WETIP National Crime Conference - Riverside, CA
- California Alarm Association - Palm Springs, CA
- The Junior Statesmen Foundation - Sacramento, CA
- The CATO Institute Policy Forum - Judging the Crime Bill - Washington, DC
- Business Crime Prevention EXPO '94 - Oakland, CA
- AARP - Sacramento, CA
- Governor Wilson's Crime Rally - Sacramento, CA
- National Victims Rights Week - Decatur, IL

Keynote for Bay Area Group Associations:

- League of Women Voters Town Hall Debate - Fresno, CA
- Churchill Club Debate - Palo Alto, CA
- Sonoma State University
- International Visitors Center - San Francisco, CA
- Commonwealth Club - Marin County, CA
- Congressman Bill Baker's Breakfast Forum - Lafayette, CA
- Alameda County Legal Secretary's Association - Oakland, CA
- Central Marin Rotary
- Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce
- Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce
- Vacaville Rotary
- San Rafael Rotary
- Novato Rotary
- Delta Association of Realtors
- St. Eugene's Church - Santa Rosa, CA
- Chevron Corporation - San Ramon, CA
- KGO TV - League of Women Voters Debate - San Ramon, CA
- Lifespan Race - San Francisco, CA

- Management Unlimited - Pittsburg, CA
- Lions Club - San Rafael, CA
- Nation's Missing Children - Phoenix, AZ

TV Specials:

- Stranger Danger - Linda Ellerbee, Nickelodeon, Lucky Duck Productions
- Growing Up Scared, Child Safety Roundtable - Golden Gate Productions
- American Journal, Special Correspondent - King World Productions
- Lessons of Polly Search - KFTY Santa Rosa, CA
- Capa Presse TV - French TV
- SAT1 - German TV

TV Shows:

- Today Show - Katie Couric - NBC
- Media Watch - McNeil/Lehrer - PBS
- Larry King Live - CNN
- Good Morning America - Joan Lunden - ABC
- CBS Morning News
- Eye to Eye - Connie Chung - CBS
- Dairline - NBC
- Day One - CBS
- Under Scrutiny - Jane Wallace - FX
- American Journal - "Host" of 4 segments
- Geraldo
- Donahue
- Hard Copy
- NOW - NBC
- Home Show
- Willie Brown Show
- Suzanne Somers Show
- The Talk Channel
- TalkBack Live - CNN
- Rolanda
- Marilu Show
- Mornings on 2 - KTVU
- Bay TV
- Petaluma Community TV
- California This Week - KRON TV
- South Bay Cablevision - Newark
- Judge For Yourself - Buena Vista TV
- Leeza Show - NBC
- America's Missing Children - KMTV
- Inside Edition
- Leslie Marshall Show

TV Interviews:

- Nationwide 50 personal interviews

Newspaper Articles:

- Nationwide 100 articles to date

Radio Interviews:

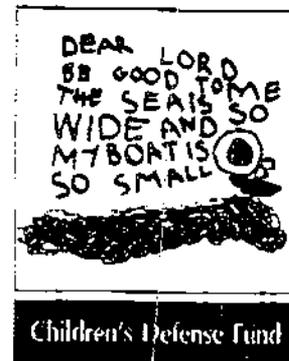
Nationwide 80 interviews on major stations

Magazine Articles:

- Nationwide 12 articles to date

to be released 11/15/94

Key Findings from
Wasting America's Future:
The Children's Defense Fund Report on the
Costs of Child Poverty
 (Beacon Press, November 1994)



Approximately 15 million children in the U.S. live below the federal poverty line, the highest number in almost three decades. *Wasting America's Future* finds that child poverty is an enormous drain on the U.S. economy, with every taxpayer, business, school and hospital sharing the cost. The book estimates that:

- Every year of child poverty at current levels will cost the economy between \$36 billion and \$177 billion in lower future productivity and employment among poor children.
- These costs to the economy do not include the billions of additional dollars that will be spent because of the greater incidence of special education, crime, foster care, or teenage childbearing resulting from child poverty.

The human costs also are devastatingly high. According to the Kansas Department of Health, low-income children are:

- 2 times more likely than others to die from birth defects,
- 3 times more likely to die from all causes combined,
- 4 times more likely to die from fires,
- 5 times more likely to die from infectious diseases and parasites, and
- 6 times more likely to die from other diseases.

Similarly, poor children have been found to be two or more times as likely to suffer from a host of other problems, including stunted growth, severe physical or mental disabilities, fatal accidental injuries, fair or poor health, iron deficiency, and severe asthma.

Wasting America's Future combines existing research across academic disciplines, and adds newly commissioned academic findings, to show that poverty's effects are large and far-reaching. Compared with other problems children face, long-term poverty is often of comparable or greater importance:

- "Family income is a far more powerful correlate of a child's IQ at age five than maternal education, ethnicity, and growing up in a single-parent family," according to one study cited in the book.
- Poverty's effects on child test scores have been found to be independent of mothers' scores on basic skill tests (sometimes called mother's IQ), race, marital status, years of education, and age at birth, or the mother's smoking or drinking habits.
- Single-parent families, race, and parent education levels cannot explain why children who experience poverty are consistently two to three times more likely than their peers who are never poor to become high school dropouts. This pattern is found among Black children and non-Black children, among those with married parents and those with single parents, and among those whose mothers finished high school and those whose mothers did not.

- The U.S. Department of Education reports that the risk of a student falling behind in school increases by two percentage points for every year he or she spends growing up in poverty. Poverty's effects are separate from--and stronger than--those of race, region, having a teen parent, or living in a one-parent home, according to the Education Department study.
- The effects of economic hardship on children cannot be attributed simply to intractable problems of their parents, such as deep-seated cultural or genetic traits or "character flaws." Such unchanging traits by definition cannot explain why problems such as child abuse, family break-up, and infant mortality tend to worsen or improve when economic conditions worsen or improve.

Wasting America's Future traces many of the pathways leading from poverty to ills such as undernutrition, unsafe housing or family stress -- and from there to health problems, behavior problems, lower school achievement and a lifetime reduction in earning potential. Poverty likely hurts children for a wide variety of reasons, including:

- *stress on parents*, which can lead to less effective parenting, marital conflict or break-up, and ultimately to child behavior problems, aggressiveness, learning problems, and delinquency;
- *poor nutrition*, which can cause stunted growth (linked to lower academic test scores), iron deficiency (linked to anemia and deficits in problem-solving, attention span, motor coordination, and IQ), low birthweight, and birth defects;
- *housing problems* such as homelessness (linked to infant mortality, chronic diarrhea, asthma, delayed immunizations, family separation, and missed school), frequent moving (linked to not completing high school), and utility shut-offs (implicated in home fire deaths);
- *worse neighborhoods* with inferior schools, exposure to crime, and exposure to toxic chemicals and pollution; and
- *fewer resources for learning outside of school* such as inferior child care (linked to child stress and behavior problems), fewer extracurricular activities and stimulating family activities (linked to lower school achievement), more onerous home and work responsibilities (linked to lower school enrollment and attainment), and financial barriers to college.

Wasting America's Future documents how many large and small problems accumulate and interact to leave poor children less resilient, more vulnerable, and at elevated risk across-the-board. The number and complexity of poverty's consequences for children suggest that better services for poor children may be necessary but not sufficient. Without a direct strategy to provide better jobs and adequate family income, the book concludes, we are unlikely to remedy the complex effects of poverty on children or reduce the extraordinary costs that poverty now imposes on American society.

Child poverty is not inevitable. As Children's Defense Fund president Marian Wright Edelman notes in her *Introduction*, other countries of comparable wealth have far lower rates of child poverty. The United States can follow a similar path by reducing family poverty through direct job creation, supplements to low wages, affordable child care, increases in the minimum wage, and a national system of child support enforcement and assurance.

Overseen by a distinguished advisory panel chaired by Nobel prize-winning economist Robert M. Solow, *Wasting America's Future* suggests that Americans should no longer fear the expense of eliminating child poverty. As Professor Solow notes in his *Foreword*, "Inaction has its costs, too." In fact, writes Solow, "This book is cause for optimism....The evidence in this volume indicates that ending child poverty is, at the very least, highly affordable. More likely it is a gain to the economy, and to the businesses, taxpayers, and citizens within it."

*Marc Klaas
cc: Bowyer*



March 6, 1995

Mr. Bruce Reed
Domestic Policy Advisor
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bruce:

Thank you so much for taking time out from your busy schedule to meet with Liz Ecke and me during our recent visit to the nations Capital. Our visit to Washington was very busy, hectic and productive. On Friday, we met with Liz Bowyer from the First Lady's Office. She was receptive and we hope to establish a working relationship with her. Unfortunately, Kumiki Gibson was out of her office that day and we were unable to make contact with her. We will follow up with a letter.

We wish to reiterate our resolution to be available as a resource to your office on children's issues. We realize that you are a very busy person with great responsibilities, and as such are unable to devote the complete focus and energy necessary to this most important issue facing our society today. Our mission is to end crimes against children and child abuse in this generation. Approximately 3 million cases of child abuse are reported annually and between 7.5 and 10 million children witness domestic violence in their homes every year. One thing that Americans of all persuasions share is a love of children and a desire to elevate children on our national and personal priority lists. We will be compiling a list of heroic citizens for your review. These are people who take extraordinary action without praise or fanfare. This list will follow in a few days.

America is in desperate need of a new ethic based on the loving and fair treatment of our children. Those citizens who do not live up to that standard should face severe repercussions and the message should be loud and clear. "If you choose to commit crimes against or abuse children, the force of the law will deal with you in a severe and uncompromising manner." Our future depends upon taking responsibility for those who are too small and unable to defend themselves in either the halls of the legislature or the mean streets of America.

The Marc Klaas Foundation For Children has a Community Empowerment program that is very successful in the San Francisco Bay Area. We draw crowds of up to 1,000 concerned parents and citizens who are anxious to work with law enforcement to make their neighborhoods safe from predators and crime. During the month of April we will extend this program and a series of child safety days to Maricopa County, Arizona. Senator's Kyl and McCain have extended their support for this drive. By building bridges and working together we can create a safe society for which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,

Marc Klaas

*Klaas, Marc***MARC KLAAS FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN**4773 Sonoma Highway, Box 85
Santa Rosa, CA 95409**F A X C O V E R S H E E T**

DATE: December 14, 1994 **TIME:** 11:43 AM
TO: Mr. Bruce Reed **PHONE:**(202) 6515
The White House **FAX:** (202) 456-7431
FROM: Marc Klaas **PHONE:** (707) 537-1154
 FAX: (707) 537-0482
RE: Beyond Politics: Justice For Our Children.

Number of pages including cover sheet: [3]

Message

Dear Bruce:

It has been impossible to get in touch with you over the past couple of weeks. I understand that you are very busy. Please get the attached letter onto the President's desk for me. It is imperative that I get an answer as soon as possible. I'll be at home all day today, and in Los Angeles all day tomorrow. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Good luck with the speech tomorrow night.

Sincerely,

Marc



December 14, 1994

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Mr. President:

Let me cut to the chase. At the signing of the Crime Bill, which you so graciously dedicated in Polly's honor, you said that Vice President Gore and you would be holding crime conferences throughout the United States in 1995. Last September, when I participated in the Crime Bill press conference in the Rose Garden, I mentioned to you that my foundation would be hosting a Crime Conference in the Spring of 1995. You said that it sounded like a good idea and expressed an interest in attending. I have since been unable to get a positive response from your staff regarding your attendance.

The purpose of the conference is to establish standards for interstate legislation that will effectively deal with predators who prey on children. The Marc Klaas Foundation For Children is hosting **Beyond Politics: Justice For Our Children** in the spring of 1995, in Los Angeles, California. The conference will focus on the eight percent solution. That is, legislative and law enforcement solutions that target the eight percent of the violent felons who commit sixty to eighty percent of the violent crimes. The conferees will consider legislative options such as: Truth in sentencing; Federal '3 strikes' law; Megan's law; the Jacob Wetterling Act; California's VCIC law, California's One Strike law and other possible legislative solutions.

Proven techniques will be emphasized in an effort to influence the law enforcement community. Oxnard, California has used community policing to reduce violent crime by forty percent in only two years. Civilian patrols focus on known violent offenders and notify law enforcement when they observe gang or criminal activity. Crime analysts identify areas and perpetrators of crime and then target those individuals. This allows the police to take a more pro-active approach to crime fighting. Advanced database systems, DNA files, and violent offender registries also aid law enforcement in the successful investigation of violent crime.

The 1994 elections proved one thing. People are fed up with business as usual. The Republican Party's Contract With America is not a mandate. It is a cry for help. I dare say that your election in 1992 was very much a reaction to the same dynamics. Unfortunately, you've gotten some very hard knocks. I think that you are different, and that that's part of the problem. The Crime Bill is a genuine heart felt response. Universal health coverage is an idea whose time has come. You've been very responsive to my request to put children higher on our national priority list. Thank you very much.

President Bill Clinton

December 14, 1994

Page Two

My father's generation was lucky. One wage earner, as many children as you wanted, the ability of the middle class to purchase a home, and a mother who had the luxury of staying home to raise and nurture the children. This ideal is now a pipe dream, unfortunately shattered. With all of the talk that comes out of Washington and the State Houses about family values and the quality of life, the reality is that our future is being continually eroded. Legislation that presented as being beneficial really chips away at our ever crumbling foundation. Taxes go up. Mothers are forced into the workplace. Children are left home alone in latch key situations. Government officials whine that it costs too much to house violent felons, so they ignore the problems of crime. Our welfare system incidentally denies families the right to unite.

My situation is at the root of the Contract With America. I was a normal person trying to make a good life for my family and myself. Conditions that could have been prevented only by responsive anti-crime legislation shattered my American dream forever. This scenario is being played out all over this great country on a daily basis. We're putting more into government and getting less out of it all the time. No wonder people are angry. No wonder a character like Ross Perot has a large following. No wonder the Republican's swept the elections. Enough is enough. I have no doubt that the Contract With America will fail. It is feel good posturing. Don't let government continue to betray the public trust. I'm screaming for true justice. I'm screaming for a society that no longer needs to feel like prisoners in their own homes.

Please come to my crime conference. You can help us force this country back on the right track. This is not about you and me. This is about Chelsea and Polly. This is about creating a safer world for our children than the one our parents left for us. I'm more than willing to work with your schedule. I will even hold the conference in Washington if necessary. If you are unable to attend, then I will approach Mr. Gingrich and the party that America has turned to for substantive change. I can't delay any longer. Please confer with me on how you would like to approach this.

Sincerely,



Marc Klaas

MARC
KLAAS
FOUNDATION
for children

To: Bruce Reed

FR: Liz Ecker

Hope to be able to see you.
Enclosed is a little current
information and our local
phone # 775-0800, WED → FRI.

Look forward to hearing from
you.

EE

New foundation a going concern

Marc Klaas' goal is to stop crimes against children

By JAY GABEL
Argus-Observer Staff

Marc Klaas has taken his intense, let's-do-it-now energy and is devoting it full time to the work of the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children. Along with Liz Ecks, Klaas hopes to see a day go by without doing something to stop child abduction, abuse and murder.

From sponsoring neighborhood watch organizational meetings to setting up child fairs to fingerprinting and making identification kits for thousands of kids at child safety fairs, Klaas and Ecks are busy traveling to Arizona, Southern California or even across the bay to further their work.

"People want to be empowered and we're telling them how to empower themselves," Klaas said in a recent interview.

Klaas' 12-year-old daughter, Polly, was abducted from her home and murdered in October of 1993. Klaas was recently fired from the board of directors of the foundation established with money donated to help find Polly during the three-month period before her body was discovered next to a freeway in Cloverdale. The main reason cited by both parties for Klaas' departure was his impatience with the speed at which the Polly Klaas Foundation's directors moved.

The Marc Klaas Foundation for Children was formed in September of 1994, before his departure from the Polly Klaas Foundation. The goals of the new organization are to work with state and federal legislation to protect children, standardize laws for criminals who target children, provide steps for creating safe neighborhoods and promote national parental awareness and child safety tips.

The bottom line is, Marc Klaas wants to stop crimes against children.

"We want to stop abuse now," Klaas said. "That's what we're working for. We have a great sense of urgency over what we're trying to do here. They (the Polly Klaas Foundation directors) say they are figuring out how to do business in 2014. We want to be out of business by then. We are much more concerned with the here and now and the children who have been abused and who have



Liz Ecks and Marc Klaas say they hate to see a day go by without doing something to stop child abduction, abuse and murder.

had crimes committed against them since the time the Polly Klaas Foundation was formed in October of 1993, than we are with what's going to be happening to children 20 years from now."

"We don't know how to end child abuse," Klaas admits. "It ultimately comes down to parental, community and governmental responsibility. It's all about creating a safer world and people working together to do that."

It's the simple things that can be done now that work, Klaas says. "You do not have to be a rocket scientist to know that if you are working with law enforcement and you have signs up in your neighborhood that say we care about our children and we have neighborhood watch programs that that's going to deter somebody who might be interested in molesting children in that area. This is common sense and these are common sense approaches that work."

Klaas recently returned from Arizona where he is working with a commercial traveling exposition. "We will run child safety days in conjunction with this promotion."

Klaas' message hits home many places he goes. More than 1,000 people gathered for an "Emergency Town Meeting" in Oakley, where Polly's grandfather, Joe Klaas, spoke to an attentive

audience about the need to make safer neighborhoods.

Another job at the Marc Klaas Foundation is pulling together a lot of data now scattered throughout the country in various states and organizations.

"We put together a crime sheet for Arizona," Ecks said. "It was something they did not have. We just collate the information."

And the facts make for grim reading, according to Klaas. He says that over 1 million children are abducted or run away every year. While most of the abductions are by a non-custodial parent, nearly one-third are done by people who intend harm.

"We are trying to raise awareness of crimes against children and children's issues," Klaas said.

So far, the Marc Klaas Foundation has been operating on a shoestring budget, although Klaas would like to take in enough money for a full-time paid staff.

"We don't have money and we find that we can get the things we have to do without a lot of funding," Klaas said. "We find organizations and we find corporations who are willing to underwrite our travel expenses so that we can get our message out."

Klaas hopes to line up corporate sponsors. "They realize that the children are their consumers of tomorrow and if they can do some-

thing to insure that those children are going to be there, it's beneficial to them. There's a 'feel good' aspect to it, they are doing something to promote a safer community.

On the legislative side, Klaas is involved on both the state and national level. He is working with Assemblywoman Barbara Albee on legislation to make swagget abduction a capital offense.

"I'm also working with the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, specifically Sen. Byron Dorgan from North Dakota, on the Interstate Identification Index, a national tracking system for felons. It is a voluntary database system run through the FBI where each individual state feeds in information regarding paroled felons. This was set up under the Child Protection Act of 1984. Twenty states and the District of Columbia are in total non-compliance with it."

The foundation will be issuing its first newsletter by the end of the month. The Marc Klaas Foundation can be contacted at 537-1154.

DETAILS



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Administration, communications, consultants, operations, travel. Salaried staff of six.

Budget: \$220k

Polly's dad runs nonstop campaign

By Valerie Chow Bush

Independent Journal reporter

One year after Polly's tragic death, Marc Klaas still wears his anguish on his sleeve — literally.

It's late afternoon and Klaas sports a white T-shirt depicting a purple ribbon on its sleeve. Emblazoned under the ribbon is a father's urgent plea: "Remember Polly."

Framed photos of his daughter fill the cramped living room of Klaas' Sausalito apartment. A clay bust of the beatific 12-year-old dominates the fireplace mantel. It is framed by two candles in her favorite color — purple. Above it, on the wall, hangs a large watercolor painting of "Polly's Peace Rose."

There are chilling reminders, too, of her kidnapping and death.

Several cardboard boxes are scattered on the floor, bearing the abduction flier that became a constant and terrifying sight on telephone poles, in supermarkets and in mailboxes last October.

"It's been a truly difficult year," Klaas says with a sigh. "I miss her smile. I miss her touch."

Klaas plans to commemorate Polly's death, "very privately" at home with his wife, Violet, and his parents. He urges others to share the day with their families "if they want to think of Polly on October 1."

The past 12 months have transformed Klaas, placing the once-private Marin resident center stage.

A year ago, he was a father and the manager of a car rental agency in San Francisco.

Today, he is a recognized champion of children's rights.

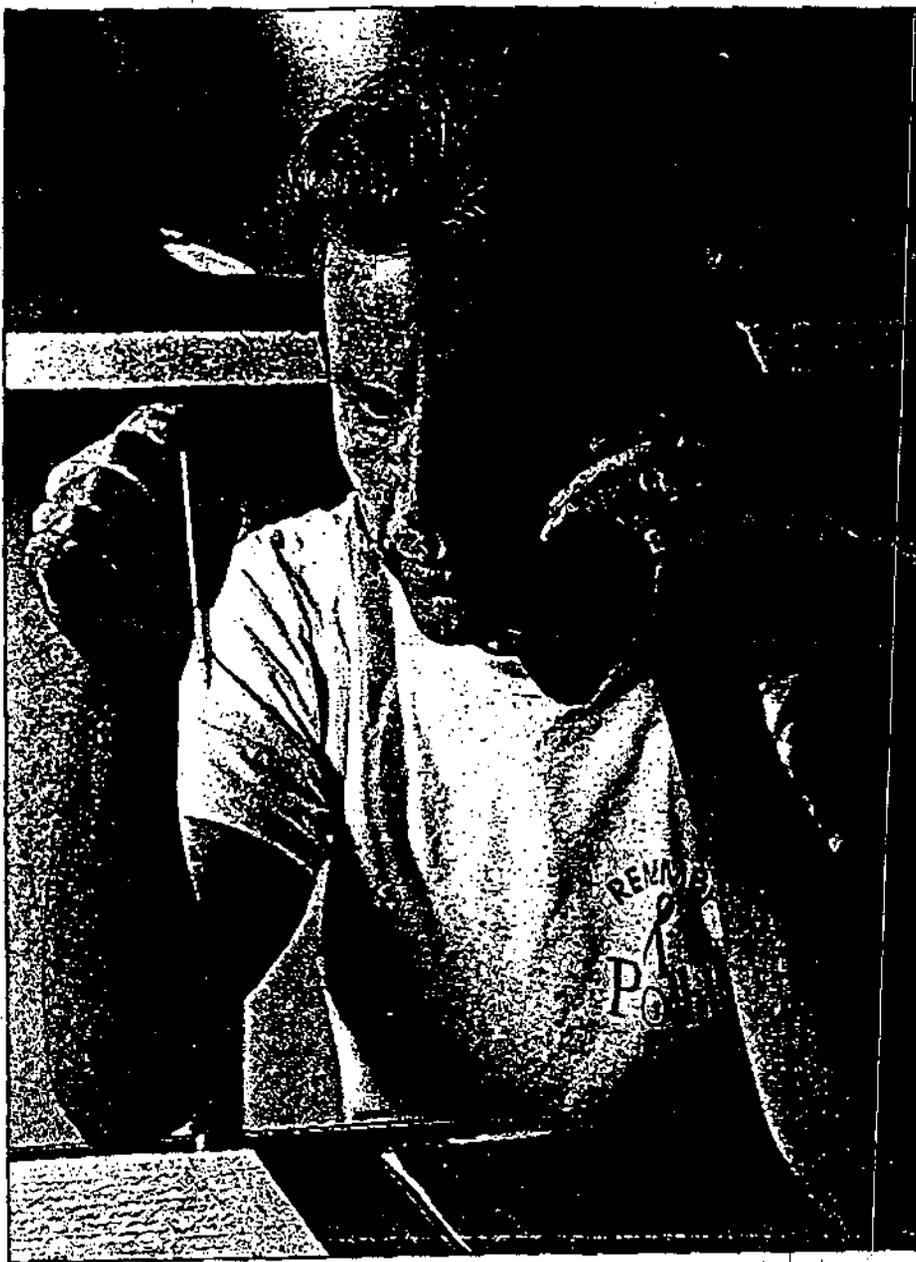
Turn on the television or open a newspaper, and there is Klaas. He was at the White House, standing next to President Clinton as he signed his crime bill several weeks ago. Last week, he hit the airwaves, pushing his new foundation, the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children.

"I don't know that I chose this role or if it chose me," he says. "I just started to run and I didn't stop."

Klaas says he's learned important lessons about the rough-and-tumble world of politics along the way that have left him cynical, but wiser.

He admits, for example, that he erred in backing the "Three Strikes, You're Out" legislation so soon after Polly's death. Once one of its most vocal supporters, Klaas switched his position and signed the ballot pamphlet argument against the November initiative in July.

The initiative is the twin of a law passed in March. It lengthens prison



SPOTLIGHT:

Tragedy put Marc Klaas into the spotlight, turning him into a national figure in child protection issues.

U photo/Marin Klimek

three-time losers. Opponents, including Klaas, have criticized the measure because it would make the third "strike" applicable to any felony, such as residential burglary.

"I reversed an uninformed opinion," Klaas said. "They told me it stood for one thing, and it stood for only part of that."

"I would never do to a grieving father what was done to me or my family," he said bitterly. "They signed me up for a bill when I was at an emotional low point and didn't have any defenses to speak of."

Now a seasoned political player, Klaas insists he can continue to have an important role in the anti-crime and child-abuse arenas.

From day one of Polly's abduction, he has been a man possessed — initially with finding Polly and, lat-

er, with finding a way to help. Or turn down a cry for his help.

"He doesn't waste a minute in helping people," said Lisa Dahl of Larkspur, who called on Klaas for support when her 23-year-old son Justin Jones of Fairfax was murdered in San Francisco in late March. "He is never far away. He will call you in a moment if you need him for anything."

Just last week, Klaas announced the creation of a new foundation, separate from the Polly Klaas Foundation, to help deal with repeat sex offenders and to "end child abuse in this generation."

Polly's legacy: to make the state safer for kids

By MARC KLAAS

All of California expressed outrage over the kidnapping and murder of my daughter Polly. She touched the soul of the entire nation. She inspired works of art and poetry. Her beautiful face and the grace of her movement made grown men cry.

Polly's tragedy also highlighted many of the inequities of our criminal justice system and the way it relates to children. She was an innocent child, having a slumber party in the sanctity of her own home. She was stolen and murdered by a habitual violent felon who had no right being out in society.

I since have volunteered my time and energies to correct some of those inequities, and in so doing, have both raised and been the target of criticism.

Everything I have done since the night the innocence died was to make Polly proud of me. I will never abandon that goal. She was my teacher. She sacrificed for others. In the aftermath of Polly's death I dedicated my energies toward passing anti-crime legislation that is protective of and designed to benefit children.

The result of a year of hard work has been fruitful, but by no means fulfilling. After all, we can create bills from now until Armageddon, and Polly is still dead. It is the grim finality of death that drives my anger, my sadness and my energy.

Politicians, activists, news anchors, talk-show hosts and others used her as a symbol. The economics of their professions demand that they do so. I have volunteered all of my time and efforts to spare other children my daughter's tragic fate. My grief was so great in the months following her death that I did not direct much attention to the actions of others.

As my awareness returned, so did my commitment to hold on to what was no longer mine. All that was left of my daughter was a memory, and I determined that her legacy was going to be of my design. When I disagreed with others I spoke out



FILE PHOTO

Polly Klaas

"Everything I have done was to make Polly proud."

KLAAS is the father of Polly Klaas and founder of the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children in Santa Rosa, which is dedicated to protecting children from violent crime.

in a public forum.

Gov. Wilson and others used Polly's tragedy to create anti-crime legislation that protects innocent people. As a result of last February's crime conference, I have worked with the governor on a number of these laws: Assembly Bill 2500, which informs the public of the records of convicted child molesters; Senate Bill 12X, which gives law enforcement tools to protect the public; Senate Bill 26X, a "one strike" law aimed at vicious rapists and child molesters.

We created these bills to secure a safe state for our children and for all innocent citizens.

There is other legislation I do not agree with. I thought that Polly was immediately exploited for the benefit of Proposition 184, the "three strikes" initiative, and I was vocal in my criticism. I think that the California three strikes law is bad policy. The governor and most other politicians do not. I was disappointed when a more focused "three-time loser" bill failed to reach the November ballot. You can't win every battle. You can only fight them.

I have been criticized for capitalizing on my daughter's death. That is not true. I could have accepted a book or television movie deal and taken the money and run, but I am not motivated by economic gain. I sacrificed a comfortable lifestyle without regret to seize the moment and drive for legislative change before people forgot.

In my mind, there is no time to waste, because everything can change in the blink of an eye. Unfortunately, politicians are extremely deliberate in their actions. They must weigh and balance many factors. They must answer to their constituents and protect their positions. My perceptions and orientations are different. I want to change the world to protect children. I have nothing to lose in my quest.

We are waging a war against violent crime. In order to have any chance of winning, we must look toward the future and we must all work together. We must be strong in our commitment to win the war, but we must be smart as well. The future of our children is not a partisan, religious or racial issue. It is a human issue. The world our children inherit from us must be safer and more secure than the one we inherited from our parents.



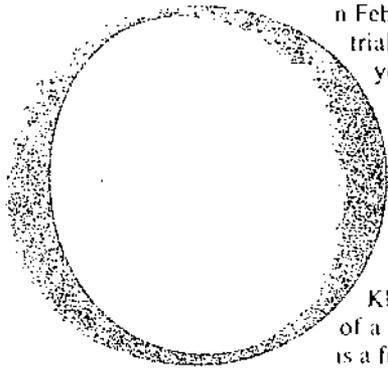
Did you know

In California:

- Parents do not have a right to know if their child's teacher has a criminal history.
- In June of 1995, you can call a (900) number at the Department of Justice to find out if a suspicious individual is a registered sex felon.
- A first time violent sex offender or rapist can be imprisoned for 25 years to life. However, only 1 out of every 5 arrests results in a conviction.

In the United States:

- Over 1,000,000 children are victims of abduction every year.
- Every 2 hours a child in the United States is killed with a registered hand gun.
- Every 4 hours a child in the United States is murdered.
- Thousands of children are diagnosed by probation officers, teachers and psychologists to have a predisposition to outbursts of violence. There is scarce funding to provide prevention or follow-up, so they slip through the cracks.
- 3 million cases of child abuse are reported every year.
- There are 12 attempted stranger abductions of a child every day. At least one of these children will never be heard from again.
- In a study of 571 pedophiles, the Washington Post revealed that each had molested an average of 300 victims each.
- There are 3,000,000 known sex offenders residing in the United States.
- The average convicted child molester spends only 2.2 years in prison.
- The average convicted rapist spends only 3 years in prison.
- The average convicted murderer spends only 5.5 years in prison.
- The national average for time served in prison is only 37% of the sentence.
- 1 out of 8 violent offenders in state prisons is serving time for victimizing a child. This totals 40,000 young victims.
- 25% of our children live below the poverty line. Children equal 1/3 of the population and 20% are medically uninsured and 30% suffer from poor nutrition.
- In 1992, there were 6,600,000 violent victimization's: 141,000 rapes; 1,200,000 robberies; and 5,300,000 assaults. 5% of all households had a family member victimized by violence in 1992. There is a greater chance of being a violent crime victim than of being injured in a motor vehicle accident.
- 33% of violent offenders are under 21 years old. 54% of violent crimes are perpetrated by strangers, and 20% were well known to the victims.



On February 14, Valentine's Day, Richard Allen Davis goes on trial in California for the kidnapping and murder of 12-year-old Polly Klaas. The child's abduction in October 1993 was every parent's worst nightmare: Polly was seized from the bedroom of her home in Petaluma as her mother slept in a room nearby. When the search ended two months later, after Davis led police to Polly's makeshift grave, many of us felt overwhelmed by sadness, as if we had known Polly ourselves.

As the day of justice approaches, the rage of Marc Klaas, Polly's father, continues to grow. "I hope the son of a bitch gets the death penalty," says Marc vehemently. It is a fury that has propelled him into a very public fight, as he says, "to make the world a safer place for children."

Yet Polly's mother, Eve Nichol, the one person who might be expected to be angriest and most vengeful, is far from it. "Davis is no longer a person to me. He is where he should be—removed from society. My focus now is to protect children and to prevent violence against children so that they don't become perpetrators later on," Eve says. Bolstered by an outpouring of love from her community and renewed family relationships, she works behind the scenes to honor her daughter's memory and has learned to live with her grief.

Polly's parents, in their own separate ways, have found the strength to go on.

THE NIGHTMARE BEGAN WITH A SLUMBER PARTY. ON October 1, 1993, as Polly and two friends were playing a board game, a bearded man suddenly appeared in the bedroom doorway. He tied up Polly's friends, threatening to slit their throats if they screamed, and carried Polly away. The girls quickly freed themselves and woke Eve, who'd been asleep in her bedroom with her younger daughter, Annie, 6. Eve dialed 911 and then telephoned Allan Nichol, Annie's father and Eve's second husband, from whom she'd been separated since June 1992. He came over immediately.

Within hours, the local police department, the FBI, and many of the town's 45,000 residents began the most

The murder of Polly Klaas horrified a nation. Now, as her accused killer goes to trial, Polly's mother, Eve Nichol, breaks her silence to tell about the outpouring of love that helped soothe her grief.

Life After

by Susan Sheehan

exhaustive search in recent history for a kidnapper. The Polly Klaas Search Center, later to be renamed the Polly Klaas Foundation, was quickly established. Within days, Polly's bright brown eyes and wide smile were shining out from "missing" posters around the country.

During the following weeks, many strangers gathered to help Eve. On October 2, Cappi Osmundson, 34, coordinator of the Petaluma Mother's Club, saw posters of Polly at the supermarket. She called the search center and asked what her club, with its membership of 180 mothers, could do. A woman phoned back and explained that Eve felt overwhelmed by her efforts to cooperate with officials, talk to reporters, and keep life normal for Annie. Osmundson called

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After appearing on *A Current Affair*, *Good Morning America*, and the *Today* show to appeal for the safe return of her kidnapped daughter, Polly, inset, Eve now chooses to work behind the scenes to keep Polly's memory alive.



Polly

TOP LEFT: AP/WIDE WORLD; RIGHT: MARIAN LITTLE UTLEY/MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

"some of the club's most sensitive mothers," who then headed over to Eve's house.

"One day I came home, walked into my bathroom, and there was a woman scrubbing my toilet," Eve recalls, smiling at the memory. For the next few months the mothers came in shifts: they picked up Annie from school, cooked, and cleaned. Someone was always on hand to answer the phone, which gave Eve some much-needed security. "When I had to go out, I knew if Polly called she would always be able to reach someone," Eve says.

Eve tried to be as strong for Annie as she could. Terrified of sleeping alone, the little girl rigged up a web of bells and ropes to ward off intruders. Two dogs joined the household to make Annie feel more secure. Still, she kept asking her mother if she would live to be a grown-up, a question that worried Eve.

Throughout October and November, Eve, an attractive, articulate woman of 45 with naturally golden brown hair and lively dark brown eyes, appeared on local and national television shows, sometimes alone, sometimes with Marc Klaas, from whom she'd been divorced since Polly was 2½. "Eve is a private person. Going on TV was very difficult for her," says Osmundson. "But she knew what she had to do, and she did it."

Petaluma continued to rally unlike any community had before. There were a multitude of fund-raising activities to raise money for the search. The actress Winona Ryder, who had gone to the same school as Polly, pledged a \$200,000 reward. Supermarkets sent boxes of groceries. A washer and drier mysteriously appeared in Eve's utility room. "There's this outpouring of love I've never experienced, and it's carrying me through," Eve tearfully told Connie Chung.

As the weeks dragged on without any sign of Polly, Eve continued to find unexpected support. Allan moved back in and never left. Allan's first wife, Kate, with whom Eve had never gotten along, came over and offered her help. A support group she joined after her separation from Allan, which disbanded over the summer, reunited. "It helped to be in the middle of a circle of nurturing women whose hearts seemed as broken as mine," says Eve.

The search for the kidnapper came to an end on November 30, when Davis, a career criminal who had been out on parole following a previous kidnapping, was tracked down at his sister's home. Four days later he led officers to Polly's body in a wooded area some 50 miles north of Petaluma.

Shortly after the nationally televised memorial service, Eve, Allan, and Annie moved to a smaller, self-contained community in Napa Valley, California. "I'll always be grateful to the people of Petaluma, but I needed a change," Eve says.

Settling into her new home, Eve was determined to go on with her life. She sent Annie to two courses in self-reliance and safety. She meditated and practiced yoga. She answered some of the hundreds of letters that poured in. As a board member, she attended meetings at the Polly Klaas Foundation, which had dedicated itself to locating missing children and improving child-safety laws. And she found comfort in her family as she never had before. Her older stepchildren took time off from college to



Polly's father, Marc, continues a high-profile crusade for tougher child-protection laws, and is planning a national conference on crime with President Clinton.

lend support. "The loss of Polly put the problems of a blended family in perspective," Eve says simply. Other family members rallied as well. "My only uncle, whom I rarely saw, is back in my life, and so are a cousin and his wife," she says. "I'm an only child and they make me feel I now have brothers and sisters. They have children, and Annie is always excited when she visits the cousins."

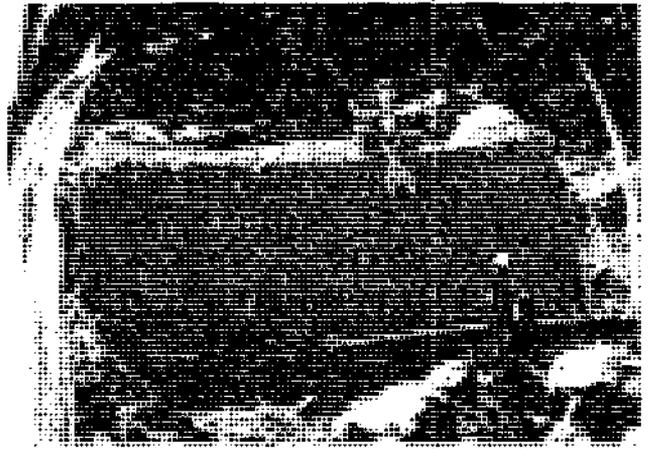
Allan, an architect, was doing well enough that Eve did not have to return to her job as manager of a children's clothing mail-order company. Instead, she threw herself into various community projects. Today Eve works with a group that plans to open the Rising Star Playhouse, a children's performing arts program in the newly named Polly Hannah Klaas Performing Arts Center in Petaluma; music and drama were among Polly's greatest joys. She has also joined the board of Lifeworks Children's Ranch, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping abused children. On the ranch the children grow plants, care for farm animals, and learn to interact positively with others. "I got into this because I believe that kids who are well nurtured don't grow up to be violent grown-ups like Richard Allen Davis," she says that sadly, without a trace of bitterness.

"I think the media wants Eve to show more expressiveness. Eve's friends are very pleased with how she's expressing herself. We admire the way she is," says Laura Coulter, 39, one of Eve's close friends. "Marc is our outlet for anger. Eve has her own turf."

Eve Nichol has little contact with Marc. "We both have a lot of things to work out," is all Eve will say. She is aware of a heart-breaking gulf that separates them. "He went from being a daddy to not being a daddy," Eve says. "I had Annie."

UNTIL THAT TERRIBLE DAY IN OCTOBER, Marc Klaas had been the manager of a Hertz car rental franchise in San Francisco. After Polly was "taken"—a verb both Marc and Eve favor to soften her death—he felt he had little left to live for except keeping her memory alive, primarily by dedicating himself to fight for tougher child-protection laws and to search for missing children. His weeks are a

Terrified of sleeping alone, Polly's sister, Annie, rigged up a web of bells and ropes to ward off intruders.



Eve comforts her younger daughter, Annie, left, at a memorial service for her sister. A makeshift shrine marks the place where Polly's body was found.

whirlwind of speeches, TV appearances, radio programs, and lobbying trips to Washington. When President Clinton signed the federal crime bill in September 1994, which toughened penalties for violent criminals, Marc Klaas stood by his side.

"And then I went back to my hotel and cried," Marc says. "I'd helped get the legislation passed and I thought I'd have this great feeling of accomplishment, but I didn't. Polly was still dead."

Marc admits that in many ways he is running from his own feelings and demons. "By keeping active, I feel strong," he said recently as he sat with his wife, Violet, in the living room of their condominium in Sausalito, California. A tall, handsome, gaunt man of 45, Marc has grappled with numerous troubles this past year, including the death of a brother from alcoholism, and financial difficulties. Violet's administrative job at a real estate agency is the couple's only source of steady income, though Marc receives fees for occasional reports on missing children for the TV show *American Journal*. "I believe I'll find my way back to earning a livable income," Marc says. He and Violet want to have children.

MARC SAYS THAT ASSISTING IN SEARCHES FOR missing children has proved therapeutic. Grieving parents often contact him, as do law officials and citizen's groups seeking advice. He is always willing—almost too eager—to help. Early one recent Sunday morning, the father of a teenage girl who'd disappeared phoned him, crying. Marc spent a long time consoling the man. "I'm doing things that would make Polly proud of me," he says. "She pushes my resolve and energy."

Marc was recently voted off the board of the Polly Klaas Foundation. He has founded the Marc Klaas Foundation, for which he is busy seeking corporate sponsorship. "I'm more fast-track than the other ten members of the first foundation's board," he says. "They're probably glad to see me go. They may well think I'm too emotional, volatile, and unstable." He's helped launch neighborhood watch programs throughout the San Francisco Bay area, teaching communities how to work with law-enforcement agencies to implement various child-safety plans.

Marc is growing anxious about the upcoming trial. "I dread what's going to come out, especially hearing what Davis has to say about the last hours of Polly's life," he says. On the one occasion Marc saw Davis in person, at the preliminary hearing last spring, he had a horrible time. "That baby-killer stared me down," says Marc.

Each day I am comforted by the constant reminders of her almost everywhere I turn. Not just photographs and keepsakes, but a sense of lightness and peace even on days when each breath brings grief and longing.

Eve Nichol wrote these words for a local newspaper on the one-year anniversary of Polly's abduction. As much as she seems to have found a measure of serenity that has eluded Marc Klaas, she acknowledges periods of overwhelming sadness. "I went to the thirteenth birthday party of one of Polly's friends. And it hit me that Polly would be forever twelve."

"When we're together there are quiet moments when I'll look at her and know, 'Don't talk to her now,'" says Laura Coulter. "I know she wakes up at nights and can't sleep well."

In many ways Eve has come a long way, but she has a long road ahead of her. She still cannot discuss Polly's tragedy with close friends. "I never talk about it with her," says Laura. "We talk about Polly back when—this is Polly's blanket, how much she liked to roller-skate—but nothing about what happened." Like Marc, Eve has filled her home with memorabilia of Polly—Polly in photographs, Polly's drawings, Polly's belongings.

Eve is now writing a book about her journey from despair to compassion and hope. "I never knew there was so much goodness in the world until I came face-to-face with the kind of evil that struck us," she says. "The spirit of a remarkable child sparked the reunification of a family and a community. I want to reach out to others in similar situations and try to relieve their suffering, to encourage people to leave the world a little better than it was when they found it."

Forwarded to Rahm 11/10

MARC KLAAS FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN
4773 Sonoma Highway, Box 85
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Fax Cover Sheet

DATE: November 7, 1994 **TIME:** 7:07 PM

TO: Bruce Reed **PHONE:** (202) 456-6515
White House **FAX:** (202) 456-7431

FROM: Marc Klaas **PHONE:** (707) 537-1154
 FAX: (415) 331-5633

RE: BEYOND POLITICS: JUSTICE FOR OUR CHILDREN

CC: [Names]

Number of pages including cover sheet: [4]

Message
Bruce,

FYI



November 7, 1994

Mr. Bruce Reed
Domestic Policy Advisor
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Bruce:

The Marc Klaas Foundation For Children is hosting **Beyond Politics: Justice For Our Children** between February 12-14, 1995, at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. The conference will focus on the eight percent solution. That is, legislative and law enforcement solutions that target the eight percent of the violent felons who commit sixty to eighty percent of the violent crimes. The conferees will consider legislative options such as: Truth in sentencing; Federal '3 strikes' law; Megan's Law; the Jacob Wetterling Act; California's VCIC law, and other possible legislative solutions.

Proven techniques will be emphasized in an effort to influence the law enforcement community. Oxnard, California, has used community policing to reduce violent crime by forty percent in only two years. Civilian patrols focus on known violent offenders and notify law enforcement when they observe gang or criminal activity. Crime analysts identify areas and perpetrators of crime and then target those individuals. This allows the police to take a more pro-active approach to crime fighting. Advanced database systems, DNA files, and violent offender registries also aid law enforcement in the successful investigation of violent crime.

Profiles of violent habitual offenders prepared in advance will create an outline from which to facilitate the event. Political, law enforcement, psychology, criminology and advocacy experts will brainstorm and the published results of the conference will be distributed to the States as a blueprint for change.

For The Love Of Children, an invitation only celebrity studded gala fund-raiser will open the conference on Sunday evening. The theme of the event is to create a safer world for all children. An exclusive cocktail party, limited to one hundred invited guests will precede the gala from 6:30-7:30pm. The Foundation hopes to raise enough capital to cover our program and operating expenses for the next several months. We have done great things without any money. It would be interesting to see what we can accomplish with real funding.

Mr. Bruce Reed

November 7, 1994

Page Two

It would be my honor to have President Clinton accompany Barbara Streisand and deliver some remarks. I will block 8:45-9:00pm, for his talk. A keynote speech the next morning between 8:30-9:00am, would also work. The Foundation will cover accommodations and expenses for the President's party.

Bruce, we are dropping a small fortune into this conference and the President's attendance will give us the boost that we need to secure the funds necessary to make it a success. I would also appreciate a letter of support or intent. Piece of cake, right? In an effort to console the financial backers of this event, I must secure a commitment from the President as soon as possible. I sincerely appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Marc Klaas



November 7, 1994

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Mr. President:

I am requesting your attendance on February 12th and 13th in Los Angeles at the summit **'Beyond Politics: Justice For Our Children'** organized by the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children. I am proud to be the Chairman of the Board of an organization that has a national agenda to stop crimes against children. Your involvement will heighten the urgency for invitees to respond and participate.

Sunday, February 12, 1995 - 'For The Love of Children'

6:30pm - 7:30pm.	Exclusive VIP cocktail party with honorary guest President Clinton
7:30pm - 12:00am	Dinner and celebrity entertainment
8:45pm - 9:00pm	President Clinton Remarks

Monday, February 13, 1995 - 'Beyond Politics: Justice for our Children'

8:30am - 9:00am - President Clinton Keynote Address

Please let me know what hotel services we need to request for your staff and secret service. I sincerely appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Klaas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Marc Klaas

[Press Conference]

For Immediate Release

Thursday, September 22, 1994

Media Contact: Liz Ecke 707 577 0808

Marc Klaas Foundation For Children

San Francisco, CA.

MARC KLAAS ANNOUNCES NEW ORGANIZATION AND FEBRUARY SUMMIT.

In a press conference held Thursday, September 22, 9:00am, at the State Capitol Building in Sacramento, Rm. 1190, Marc Klaas, father of Polly Klaas, announced the formation of a new organization and plans for a February, 1995 crime summit to address public demand for making children's issues a national priority.

Klaas, who gained nationwide attention following the abduction of his daughter Polly Klaas last October, has raised public awareness regarding crimes against children. "This year we have witnessed the public outcry to put children higher on our national priority list. I intend to make this my career."

"There are enormous issues yet to be resolved in the protection of our children," Klaas said. "The Marc Klaas Foundation For Children will focus national attention on important children's issues. We will work to prevent cyclical offenders, educate communities on child protection, and advocate necessary legislation to meet these needs."

In February of 1995 The Marc Klaas Foundation For Children will host a national summit in Los Angeles, entitled: 'Beyond Politics: Justice For Our Children'. President Clinton has been invited to attend. Dignitaries, children's advocates, leaders in law enforcement, academia and public figures will participate in developing plans for to effectively address the issues surrounding habitual violent offenders and their continued presence in our society.

The Polly Klaas Foundation is a leader in the child find community. They have pioneered new ways of looking for missing children and have established themselves as a leader and essential coordinator in interagency communication when an abduction occurs. "I am very proud of the vitally important work that is being done at the Polly Klaas Foundation and intend to remain on the board of directors and volunteer my assistance whenever it is needed."

Klaas, Marc

FAX

MARC KLAAS FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN
4773 Sonoma Hwy., Box 85
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Date 10/17/94

Number of pages including cover sheet 4

To: Bruce Reed

From: Marc Klaas

Phone (212) 456-6515

Phone (415) 331-6867

Fax Phone (212) 456-7431

Fax Phone (415) 331-5563

CC: _____

REMARKS:

- Urgent
- For your review
- Reply ASAP
- Please comment

Dear Bruce:

We seem to keep missing each other. I have started a new Foundation. The focus is quite a bit different from the Polly Klaas Foundation. We will be addressing children's issues, but from a different perspective. Attached is a copy of the funding letter that I am sending out. Our financial situation is critical. If you have any ideas as to how we might secure some funding for some of the projects, I would appreciate your assistance.

Thanks,

Marc

*\$ for MARK
Plane Ticket
+ red line for Crime Bill*



October 17, 1994

Mr. Bruce Reed
Domestic Policy Advisor
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bruce:

Ever since my daughter Polly's kidnap and murder one year ago, I have embarked upon a mission to create a safer nation for our children. The **Marc Klaas Foundation for Children** exists to further raise the awareness of children's issues to the general public and to promote a safer and ultimately crime-free environment. The news coverage detailing my personal and Foundation efforts and successes in the state and federal legislature has been exceptional. However, there is still much work to be done. The Marc Klaas Foundation for Children is seeking funding to further assist our pro-active efforts to stop crimes against our children.

This year I have witnessed our country echo my cry that there is no more time to lose. People demand answers and request leadership in the area of crime prevention, particularly, regarding crimes against children. With limited personal resources, this Foundation has responded to many community requests. To further establish our commitment to this effort, our group has consistently worked 90-100 hours, 7 days a week for over 9 months with minor reimbursements for expenses. The media's eagerness to report our effort has been rewarding. Clearly, the public has created an urgency for our Foundation and we need to cultivate a financial base to meet the demands.

To achieve our goal of stopping crimes against children we will engage in the activities of: affecting legislation that will protect children; standardizing uniform laws for criminals who target children; providing communities with pro-active steps for creating safer neighborhoods; promoting parental awareness and child safety tips. Our work is clearly improving the world and benefiting children and families. Please help us to create a safe environment for future generations of children. The supporting attachments will outline our future projects and milestones that would benefit by your contribution.

I would be honored to identify you as a contributor to our Foundation with the mutual goal of creating a safe and productive future for all children. For further information, please feel free to contact me or Elizabeth Ecke, Director of Development, at (707) 537-1105. Your prompt attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Marc Klaas

enclosures:

- Attachment I -- Summary of Foundation Goals
- Attachment II -- Summary of Marc Klaas' Accomplishments

ATTACHMENT I SUMMARY OF GOALS

MISSION

To stop crimes against our children in this generation.

SCOPE

We have established a national momentum for change. The work of our Foundation has forever changed the approach to crimes against children in the fields of awareness, legislation and pro-active crime prevention. It is important to continue our nationwide campaign on all levels in order to elevate and maintain children's issues at the top of our national priority list.

ORGANIZATION

The public, media, law enforcement and government at all levels have been responsive to our ongoing campaign. We have achieved significant influence with minimal staffing or financial resources. To date, we have been functioning with two full-time volunteers and the support of volunteer consultants. The future organizational development of this foundation requires salaried professionals who can maintain a high standard of quality and perform with a requisite sense of urgency. To maintain a national outreach to communities, associations, legislators, law enforcement and media it is imperative that we have funding for administrative operations and a salaried staff of six.

MILESTONES

Beyond Politics: Justice for our Children - A national summit impacting legislatures, senior law enforcement in 50 states held in February of 1995.

Budget: \$200k

National Newsletter to 50,000 - Updates on legislation, crime prevention, resources and tips, hero's, and special guest writers.

Budget: \$10k

Community Neighborhood Watch - Meetings and materials for 50 groups throughout the Bay Area in 1995.

Budget: \$40k

Educational Video Game - Non-violent, non-dominieering and rewarding game.

Budget: \$80k

CrimeLink - GIS mapping software to assist local law enforcement.

Budget: \$80k

Video Series for TV - Marc Klaas as host - pro-active crime prevention and legislation to be distributed to schools, libraries, public and private organizations which will reach 200,000 people.

Budget: \$65k

Administration, communications, consultants, operations, travel.

Budget: \$220k

ATTACHMENT II MARC KLAAS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Marc Klaas has been instrumental in the passage of five California State anti-crime bills. All of this legislation is designed to increase the protection of children. At the Federal Crime Bill signing, President Clinton dedicated the Crime Bill to Polly Klaas and two other crime victims. Mr. Klaas has met several times with President Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

Panelist:

- World Affairs Council - Philadelphia, PA
- Governor Wilson's Crime Summit - Los Angeles, CA
- Radio and TV News Director's Association Annual Convention - Walnut Creek, CA

Legislative Testimony:

- Correcting The Revolving Door of Justice: Approaches and Solutions to Recidivism - House Judiciary Sub-committee - Washington, DC
- AB1568 Committee On Public Safety (COPS) - Sacramento, CA
- AB1568 - Senate Judiciary Committee - Sacramento, CA
- AB2500 - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA
- AB2500 - Senate Judiciary Committee - Sacramento, CA
- SB12X - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA
- SB12X - Senate Judiciary Committee - Sacramento, CA
- AB99X - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA
- SB26X - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA
- AB3513 - COPS Committee - Sacramento, CA

Keynote Speaker at Conferences:

- Afternoon with Janet Reno, Crime Bill - Petaluma, CA
- WETIP National Crime Conference - Riverside, CA
- California Alarm Association - Palm Springs, CA
- The Junior Statesmen Foundation - Sacramento, CA
- The CATO Institute Policy Forum - Judging the Crime Bill - Washington, DC
- Business Crime Prevention EXPO '94 - Oakland, CA
- AARP - Sacramento, CA
- Governor Wilson's Crime Rally - Sacramento, CA
- National Victims Rights Week - Decatur, IL

Keynote for Bay Area Group Associations:

- League of Women Voters Town Hall Debate - Fresno, CA
- Churchill Club Debate - Palo Alto, CA
- Sonoma State University
- International Visitors Center - San Francisco, CA
- Commonwealth Club - Marin County, CA
- Congressman Bill Baker's Breakfast Forum - Lafayette, CA
- Alameda County Legal Secretary's Association - Oakland, CA
- Central Marin Rotary
- Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce
- Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce
- St. Helena Community Awareness
- Bethel Island Community Awareness
- Oakley Community Awareness
- Vacaville Rotary
- San Rafael Rotary
- Novato Rotary
- Delta Association of Realtors
- St. Eugene's Church - Santa Rosa, CA
- Chevron Corporation - San Ramon, CA
- KGO TV - League of Women Voters Debate - San Ramon, CA
- Lifespan Race - San Francisco, CA
- Management Unlimited - Pittsburg, CA

- Martinez Community Awareness
- Benicia Community Awareness

TV Specials:

- Stranger Danger - Linda Ellerbee, Nickelodeon, Lucky Duck Productions
- Growing Up Scared, Child Safety Roundtable - Golden Gate Productions
- American Journal, Special Correspondent - King World Productions
- Lessons of Polly Search - KFTY Santa Rosa, CA

TV Shows:

- Today Show - Katie Couric - NBC
- Media Watch - McNeil/Lehrer - PBS
- Larry King Live - CNN
- Good Morning America - Joan Lunden - ABC
- CBS Morning News
- Eye to Eye - Connie Chung - CBS
- Dateline - NBC
- Day One - CBS
- Under Scrutiny - Jane Wallace - FX
- American Journal - "Host" of 3 segments
- Geraldo
- Donahue
- Hard Copy
- NOW - NBC
- Home Show
- Willie Brown Show
- Suzanne Somers Show
- The Talk Channel
- TalkBack Live - CNN
- Rolanda
- Marilu Show
- Mornings on 2 - KTVU
- Bay TV
- Petaluma Community TV
- California This Week - KRON TV
- South Bay Cablevision - Newark
- SAT 1 - German TV
- Canal+ - French TV

TV Interviews:

- Nationwide 50 personal interviews

Newspaper Articles:

- Nationwide 250 articles to date

Radio Interviews:

- Nationwide 80 interviews on major stations

Magazines Articles:

- Nationwide 10 articles to date



POLYMER CEMENT

SAFEGUARD

THE ONLY POLYMER CEMENT THAT IS GUARANTEED TO HOLD UNDER ALL CONDITIONS OF USE AND WEATHER.

FOR ALL KINDS OF JOINTS AND REPAIRS IN CONCRETE, BRICK, AND MASONRY. IT IS THE ONLY POLYMER CEMENT THAT IS GUARANTEED TO HOLD UNDER ALL CONDITIONS OF USE AND WEATHER.

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THE POLYMER CEMENT COMPANY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

The purpose of the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children is to raise public awareness and support for chosen programs that will empower children, protect children and promote a safer and ultimately crime-free environment for children. Putting children higher on the national priority list is our commitment. For further details, please call Elizabeth Ecker at (707) 577-0808.

We thank the following sponsors:

- Child Safety Network, which focuses on reducing child abuse, abduction and injury through the distribution of safety information, products and services to children and parents. CSN has provided invaluable guidance and support for the foundation. To receive a free video on CSN services, please call (800) 400-8208, PSDT, Monday through Friday.



SAFeway

proud to be part of your neighborhood

- King World Productions, always concerned with children's issues.

We thank the following volunteers:

- Karen Brown, an artist and illustrator in Marin County, whose illustrations have appeared in publications around the country.
- Karen Mindt Howell, business consultant and volunteer committed to stopping child abuse, who has provided many hours of professional business solutions.
- Chris McCarthy, a leader in special events and conference planning.

Help keep Halloween a fun and safe tradition that children will enjoy for generations to come.

The
Folly Kites
Fund

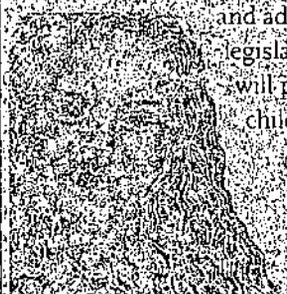
The Polly Klaas Fund

IN OCTOBER 1993, 12-year-old Polly Klaas was abducted from her Petaluma home at knifepoint. After months of extensive searching, her body was recovered.

In memory of her courage and bravery, a fund dedicated to making America safe for children has been established at MCF.

The Polly Klaas Fund of the Marin Community Foundation is a manifestation of the commitment to put children higher on our national priority list.

Polly was faced with a choice few people ever have to make," said her father, Marc Klaas. "By putting herself in mortal danger to protect her family and friends, Polly has become my greatest teacher." He believes that Polly's commitment to other people, her ability to focus, and her sense of love will carry him through his life. The Polly Klaas Fund was initiated to honor Polly's caring and spirit. The fund will support the programs of the Polly Klaas Foundation, particularly the goals of finding children, developing educational programs, and advocating legislation that will protect children.



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE POLLY Klaas Foundation are to build safe communities for children by developing child-oriented empowerment projects; and to provide scholarships to financially and emotionally needy children and their families to allow them to participate in programs which build self-reliance and emergency skills. Additionally, the Foundation will immediately respond to child abductions through on-site base centers in communities where an abduction occurs, provide services to train local response teams by utilizing expertise and techniques developed after Polly's abduction, place abducted child information onto the electronic network as a service to the community, and develop and disseminate an immediate response manual for communities to put in place as an emergency plan prior to child kidnappings.

To contribute to this fund or to receive more information about it, please contact the Director of Fund Development.

Date: 10/03/94 Time: 08:38

Klaas

A Year Later, Polly's Volunteers Still Searching for Children

PETALUMA, Calif. (AP) It started with the cry of a child in the night. It ended with the tears of a stricken community. It encompassed 64 days of hope and horror as a small army of volunteers tried desperately to catch up with the man who had abducted Polly Klaas.

They were too late. The 12-year-old's body was found in a field three weeks before Christmas.

But although the searchers didn't find Polly alive, they found something else: a mission. Today, the volunteers of Petaluma are still trying to save stolen children.

"Even though we have found Polly, she's been brought home, there are thousands of other children out there who are missing," said Gary Kinley, head of the Polly Klaas Foundation.

At its peak, the foundation was a juggernaut of community activism, with more than 3,000 volunteers engaged in a nationwide search.

These days, Kinley supervises a staff of one himself and the number of regular volunteers has shrunk to between 50 and 75. But volunteers say the spirit that fueled the original effort still exists.

"The people keep bringing me back ... there's nothing like it," said Julie Grosse, part of the original volunteer corps.

In recent months, the foundation has advised searchers in more than 130 searches and helped with fliers in 35 cases, all but four of which ended in a safe return.

Beyond searching, the group is working on a child safety educational program and is involved in some lobbying. Financially, the group has about half of the approximately \$500,000 donated toward the search for Polly and hopes to create an endowment, Kinley said.

A moment of triumph came this July in another kidnapping case, this time in Lodi, a farming community about 60 miles east of San Francisco.

The abduction began with scary overtones of the Klaas case a 12-year-old taken from her home as she played with friends. Lodi Police Lt. Richard Dean, watch commander that night, remembers calling in all available officers with the chilling message, "We have a Polly Klaas-type abduction."

But within 24 hours the girl, Katie Romanek, was released. Police credited some of the success to lessons learned in Petaluma, particularly the need to start the search immediately and get help from surrounding agencies.

Like Adam Walsh, the 6-year-old Florida boy who was abducted and murdered, Polly Klaas had entered the realm of victims whose very names conjure up a crime and an issue.

"A lot has happened because of little Polly Klaas, because of the community, because of the people who just wouldn't give up on her," said John Walsh, Adam's father and host of the Fox Television show "America's Most Wanted."

Emotions stirred by the Klaas case, and the subsequent arrest of Richard Allen Davis, a career criminal, put new impetus behind crime-fighting measures, including California's get-tough "three strikes" sentencing law.

Marc Klaas, Polly's father, has met with President Clinton and testified before Congress. But it's a sad celebrity.

"I find there's a very bittersweet nature about all of it," he said. "I don't feel any sense of joy over anything that's

happened."

In late September, Klaas started a new group, the Marc Klaas Foundation for Children, to raise public awareness about crimes against children. Klaas said he will remain on the board of directors of the original foundation.

Klaas' new foundation will be based in Santa Rosa, the county seat 15 miles from Petaluma where Davis, 40, sits in a Santa Rosa jail cell, awaiting trial in February.

At a May hearing, Petaluma Sgt. Michael Meese said Davis told police he kidnapped Polly for no particular reason and strangled her to cover his tracks.

"I figured, well, I got to do something," Meese read from the alleged confession. "I was standing behind her. She didn't know what hit her."

Davis has pleaded innocent to the charges. If convicted, he could face the gas chamber.

The actual anniversary of Polly's abduction was Oct. 1. Marc Klaas and Polly's mother, Eve Nichol, indicated they preferred not to dredge up memories of the nightmare days when they and a town tried to chase down a demon.

But at the May hearing for Davis, Klaas told reporters outside the courtroom he would never forget or forgive.

"There will never be closure for me," he said. "I hope the devil goes to hell."

APNP-10-03-94 0838EDT

September 12, 12994

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

Congratulations on your success with the Crime Bill!! I know that it was a hard fight, but your perseverance has paid powerful dividends. You have championed the cause of children many times this year and I will always be grateful for your invitations to participate in various functions at the White House.

Please accept my personal invitation to an event designed to lay a foundation that will Make America Safe For All Children, and end child abuse in this generation. In February, 1995 I am hosting a crime conference in Los Angeles entitled, 'Beyond Politics: Justice For Our Children.'

You have honored my family and my daughter's memory through your continued hard work and courageous efforts to raise children's issues to the top of our national priority list. I can never thank you enough.

Attached is an outline of my intentions for this conference. Please share your thoughts and recommendations. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Marc Klaas

draft

SUMMIT

BEYOND POLITICS: JUSTICE FOR OUR CHILDREN

HOSTED BY MARC KLAAS

**FEBRUARY 12-14, 1995
CENTURY PLAZA HOTEL AND TOWERS
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

This prestigious three day function will be held at the beautiful Century Plaza Hotel and Towers in Los Angeles in February 1995. There will be 500 prominent guests invited to this summit including The President, top legislators, federal agencies, senior law enforcement and academicians.

Attendees will meet for two days to decide action plans designed to stop crimes against our children in 1995. Each group will focus on issues provided by top criminologists and child advocacy associations. The groups will be managed and organized by meeting facilitators.

PURPOSE

The purpose for this event is to coordinate and focus federal, state and local efforts to end crimes against our children beginning in 1995.

EVENTS

This event will commence with a Monte Carlo themed fundraiser in the newly decorated Los Angeles Ballroom, featuring celebrity guests and entertainment. Funds raised will be donated to the Klaas Foundation which supports programs designed to stop crimes against children and promote community involvement.

PAYMENT OF FEE

The registration cost of the summit is \$650. There will be a non-refundable deposit of \$200 required by November 1, 1993. This will include materials needed during the summit, and meals for Monday and Tuesday. Tickets for the Monte Carlo commencement dinner can be purchased separately through . . . For further information regarding the summit, please call Elizabeth Ecke (707) 577-0808.

Hotel accommodations at the Century Plaza Hotel and Towers are: Plaza \$125 and Tower \$165 each night. Please call the hotel reservations desk directly at (310) 277-2000 for room reservations.

draft

SUMMIT

BEYOND POLITICS: JUSTICE FOR OUR CHILDREN

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The
Polly
Klaas
Foundation

July 13, 1994



Mr. Bruce Reed
Crime Aide
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bruce:

I wish to express my deepest appreciation to you for arranging the Attorney General Janet Reno trip this last weekend. From all accounts the event was a rousing success. My assistant Liz Ecke handled all of the arrangements, and coordinated the engagement with Burt Brandenburg from the DOJ.

Our legislative efforts are starting to pay big dividends. Governor Wilson recently signed a very important criminal database law that will expand the powers of police to access the criminal records of violent and sexual felons. This law creates the CAL-DNA Offender File. This computer file will serve as a catalog of DNA samples taken from the state's convicted sexual offenders and other violent predators. This gives law enforcement a DNA file of all known offenders from which to match DNA samples taken from unsolved crimes. Finally this law will create task forces in Southern, Central, and Northern California that will consist of teams of special agents, focusing on the identification, apprehension and prosecution of repeat sex offenders and other repeat violent felons. This state of the art database law would not have been possible had it not been for Polly Klaas and the enormous pressure put on our state lawmakers by the foundation that bears her name.

We were also instrumental in the safe return of Katie Romanek, the victim of a copycat abduction in Lodi, Ca., two weeks ago. When we were asked to participate in the search and rescue of Katie the parallels between her abduction and Polly's were uncanny. I had a sick feeling in my stomach that it would have a similar resolution, but the combined efforts of the volunteers, the media and law enforcement paid big dividends. Katie is now home safe with her family. I will be interviewing her for American Journal this Friday, July 15.

Please encourage the President to consider coming to Petaluma, California at some point in the future to lead a televised "Town Meeting." It would offer him an opportunity to visit California during a very important election year. It would afford him an opportunity to take a pro-active stance and underscore an important issue that impacts all citizens. Thanks again Bruce, perhaps we can meet the next time I am in Washington D.C. I would be most appreciative if you would pass the attached correspondence to the President at your convenience. The Polly Klaas Foundation is always at your disposal. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

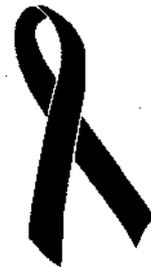
Sincerely,

Marc Klaas

P.O. Box 800
Petaluma,
CA 94953

1-800-587-HELP
1-800-587-4357
Fax:
1-707-769-9158

The
**Polly
Klaas**
Foundation



July 13, 1994

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

As I watch the unyielding barriers you must hurdle as you attempt to do your job, I am overwhelmed by the fact that you are able to function in any capacity at all. It is a testament to your dedication and tenacity that you don't allow the barrage of side issues to derail your efforts on behalf of the American people. Sir, I do salute you.

Our legislative efforts are starting to pay big dividends. Governor Wilson recently signed a very important criminal database law, that will expand the powers of police to access the criminal records of violent and sexual felons. California now has state of the art legislation that will offer law enforcement more of the tools that are necessary for them to protect the citizens of California. The California Violent Crime Information Network is only a beginning. This state of the art database law would not have been possible had it not been for Polly Klaas and the enormous pressure put on our state lawmakers by the foundation that bears her name. Every state must enact similar legislation, and every state must then feed that information into a federal computer system, and this information must then be accessible to all law enforcement agents. Then we will have made an important step toward **Making America Safe For all Children.**

We were instrumental in the safe return of Katie Romanek, the victim of a copycat abduction in Lodi, Ca., two weeks ago. When Police Chief Larry Hansen of Lodi asked us to participate in the search and rescue of Katie, the parallels between her abduction and Polly's were uncanny. I had a sick feeling in my stomach that it would have a similar resolution, but Katie is now home safe with her family. I think that we have found an new way to fight crime. There is no time to lose. The response was massive and immediate. By combining the resources of law enforcement, media, and volunteer groups such as the Polly Klaas Foundation, we can and will continue to respond to child abductions more and more efficiently. Katie Romanek's story was national news within 12 hours of the abduction. There were more than 160 multi-agency officials on the scene. Our flyer was instrumental in identifying the perpetrator before the capture was made. Everybody involved rose to the occasion. We were protected and nurtured by the grace of angels, and at 2:30 PM, on Sunday, July 2, an angel dipped her wings over Lodi, and Katie Romanek stepped out of the tall grass and into the arms of her family.

P.O. Box 800
Petaluma,
CA 94953

1-800-587-HELP
1-800-587-4357
Fax:
1-707-769-9158

July 13, 1994
President William J. Clinton
Page Two



Mr. President, I think that we can cut response time even further. The lessons of the Polly search were refined in Lodi, and the lessons of the Katie Romanek search will be refined even more the next time, and even more the time after that, and the time after that. I would hope that someday, someday soon, responses will be quick and efficient enough to have flyers of these punks and their victims circulated before they have a chance to steal our children out of town.

Attorney General Reno recently visited Petaluma to honor the Polly Klaas Foundation, and discuss the Crime Bill. From all accounts the event was a rousing success. I hope that you will consider a similar visit in the future. If there is any assistance that I may offer you please do not hesitate to call on me. I am at your service. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marc Klaas

cc: Board of Directors, Polly Klaas Foundation

THE WHITE HOUSE

7/21

RAHM -

WE NEED TO
SEND KLAAS A
REPLY FROM BC.
ANY IDEAS?

-BR

Klaas, Mark

"Talk to Polly" Polly Klaas Foundation

P.O. Box 800 • Petaluma, California 94953 • 1-800-587-4357 • FAX 1-707-766-9523

February 1, 1994

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

Let me first express my deep sorrow over the loss of your mother. She seemed like a lovely lady. It was obvious to all that you loved her very much and that your loss is profound. It is a testament to your strength and leadership that you were able to complete your successful European tour and give such an eloquent and inspiring State of the Union speech.

This is the first time in recent memory that a State of the Union message has addressed the needs and desires of the common citizen. There were no references to tax credits to major corporations, no promises of tax cuts to the rich and no proposals to spend huge amounts of money on esoteric science projects. It is refreshing to realize that at last there is a President that is an advocate of real people with real problems, hopes and fears.

I was encouraged by your reference to the electronic highway. I hope that you plan to extend it into the crime arena and apply this amazing technology to the National Crime Information Center. Once this very important database is in place, fully operational and available only to law enforcement we will be one step closer to realizing the goals of H-R 324 the "Jacob Wetterling, Crimes Against Children Registration Act."

I am very pleased to inform you that the San Francisco office of the FBI is setting up a task force of four agents plus a supervisor to specialize in and concentrate on stranger abduction kidnapping. They have assured me that they are serious and dedicated to this project. The FBI is actively lobbying the support of Northern California law enforcement jurisdictions as their participation is necessary to the success of this program. They tell me that Polly is their catalyst. This effort is in the spirit of the "Morgan P. Hardiman Task force for Missing & Exploited Children" which is in the Senate version of the crime bill. I am not aware of any similar effort by law enforcement to dedicate resource to this serious and growing problem. I think the FBI should be commended for their effort.

Your support of "Three Strikes And You're Out Legislation" is important and meaningful. It will increase the steamroller of support the initiative has picked up in California and make it virtually unstoppable. I see California as the first big domino in three strikes legislation. We have been receiving proposed "Three Strikes" legislation from concerned citizens and legislators from all over America. It is important that the citizens have a law that spells out exactly what punishments and penalties are in store for those that chose a life of violent crime. I think that you chose the correct course by targeting violent criminals. The American people want protection not rhetoric.

President William J. Clinton
February 1, 1994
Page Two

It was gratifying to hear you raise some of the themes that we spoke about during our meeting in December, 1993. The emphasis that you put on children's issues are particularly encouraging. It is a basic philosophy of the Polly Klaas Foundation that government cannot fund or change these problems without the assistance of the private sector. It certainly costs no money to point out that too many children are born into unstable family situations or that deadbeat parents must take responsibility for their children. I agree that many of our societal problems are rooted in a loss of values that should be cherished. Certainly, America must change from within. The disappearance of work, and the breakdown of families and communities are issues we must all address. Thank you for using your great influence to re-focus and attempt to change our national priorities. The Polly Klaas Foundation is willing to assist you in any way possible to realize these very important goals.

I again encourage you to consider coming to Petaluma, California at some point in the future to lead a nationally televised "Town Meeting" on children's issues and crimes against children. It would give you an opportunity to visit California during a very important election year. It would allow you to ally yourself with the bipartisan success of California crime legislation. It would afford you a high profile opportunity to take a pro-active stance and underscore an important issue that impacts all citizens. It would also send an important message if you were to return to the location of Ronald Regan's "All American Community" and declare that it's not so perfect anymore.

After 123 days Polly was returned to us yesterday. It was a very emotional time that I spent with my beautiful little daughter. It wasn't supposed to end like this. I was supposed to hold her in my arms and tell her that I loved her. Instead, I was only able to rest my head on her coffin and ask her to guide me from heaven.

If there is any assistance that I may offer you in getting your crime bill passed and implemented please do not hesitate to call on me. I am at your service. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Marc Klaas

cc: Board of Directors, Polly Klaas Foundation