



*Florida Missing Endangered Persons Information
Clearinghouse Advisory Board*

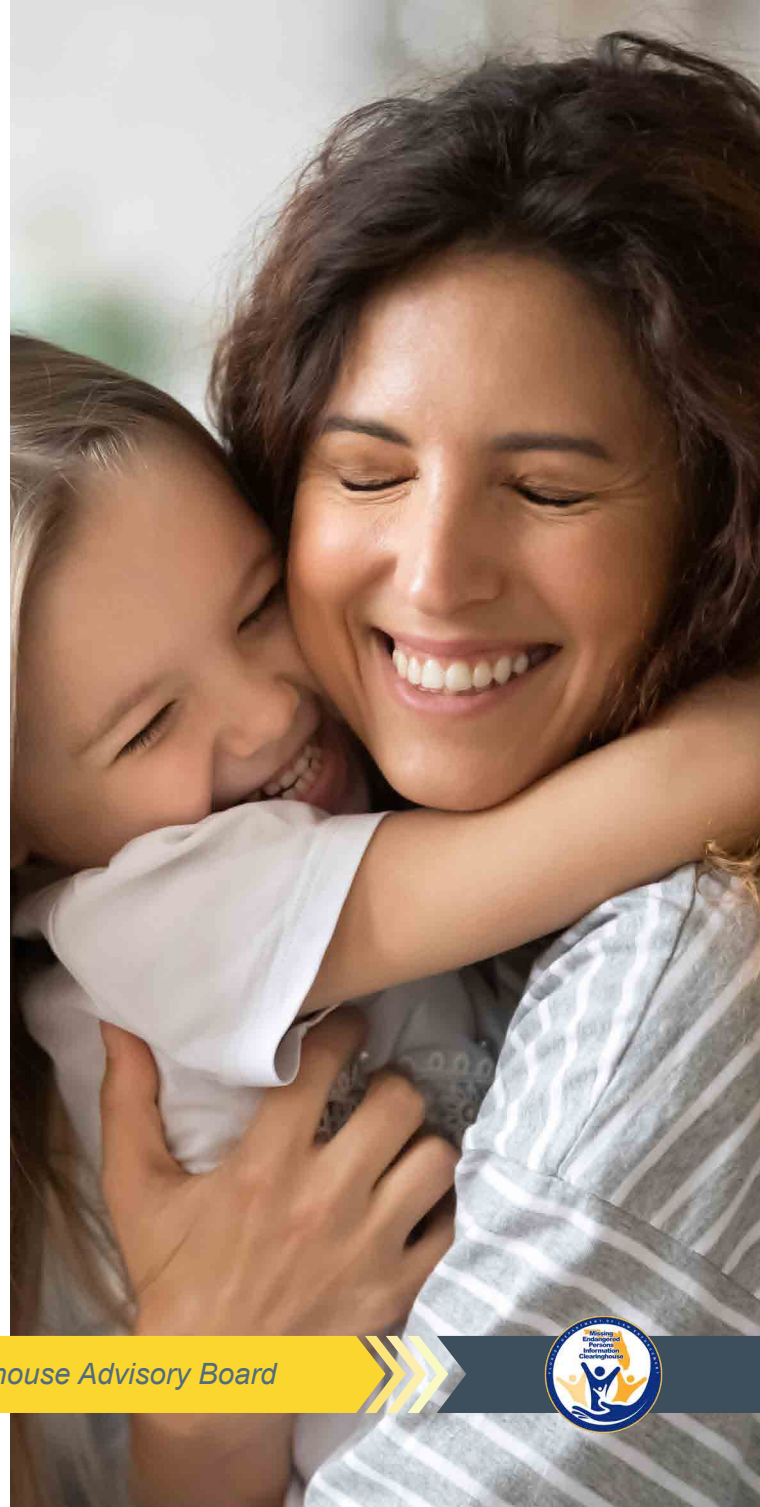
**MISSING &
ENDANGERED**

NEWSLETTER

WHAT IS THE Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board (MEPICAB)?

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board (MEPICAB) was established in 1996 to address issues regarding Florida's missing children. It was later expanded to include missing endangered adults and seniors. The MEPICAB meets quarterly to implement plans and policies that create strategies to raise awareness of the high number of children and endangered adults that go missing every year. The Board's mission is to support awareness, education and training for the prevention, response and recovery of missing and endangered persons.

Board members represent a diverse group of law enforcement officials, government agencies, impacted families, non-profit organizations, private sector partners and community members interested in missing person issues.

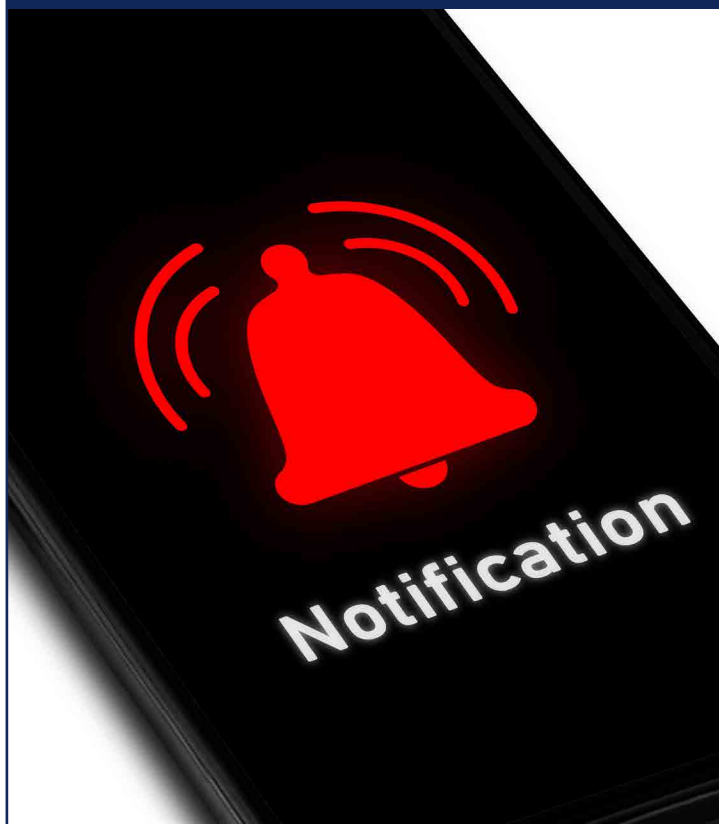




DANIEL GOLDMAN

Daniel “Danny” Goldman, a 17-year-old high school senior, was abducted from his home on March 28, 1966, in Surfside, Florida and was never seen again.

In December 2021, his abduction was solved in part due to Danny’s childhood friends. His case involved an intricate puzzle of organized crime connections, money laundering and homicide. While Danny’s remains were never recovered, his disappearance is no longer a mystery. More information regarding Danny’s case can be found by visiting [Surfside Kidnapping Home](#) | [The Cold Case Files of Danny Goldman](#), a volunteer organization’s website.



FLORIDA ALERT PLAN RECOVERY STATISTICS*

- In 2022, there were 483 Missing Person Alerts issued in Florida.
- 96% of individuals that qualified for an Alert were recovered alive (465).
- 3% of individuals that qualified for an Alert were recovered deceased (13).
- 1% of individuals that qualified for an Alert have not been located (5).

*Statistics are based on individual AMBER, Missing Child, Purple or Silver Alerts issued.



Florida Missing Children's Day



A Time of Remembrance, Recognition, and Hope

**Please join us for the 25th
Ceremony Recognizing Families and Heroes**

**Monday, September 11, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Tallahassee Automobile Museum

6800 Mahan Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Presented by the Florida Missing Children's Day Foundation and
the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board

FLORIDA MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY AND THE FLORIDA MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY FOUNDATION

Florida Missing Children's Day (FMCD) is an annual ceremony held on the second Monday of September to honor the families of missing children as well as law enforcement officers and citizens who have made significant contributions protecting Florida's citizens.

FMCD is hosted by the FMCD Foundation (FMCDF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The FMCDF is tasked with providing assistance, funding and promotional support for FMCD activities and education. The event is sponsored entirely by donations. Any person, business or agency interested in donating to the Foundation can visit their website at www.FMCDF.org. This year, FMCD will celebrate the 25th ceremony at the Tallahassee Automobile Museum. The public is invited to attend FMCD events. Information regarding the event details are posted on the FMCD Foundation's website.



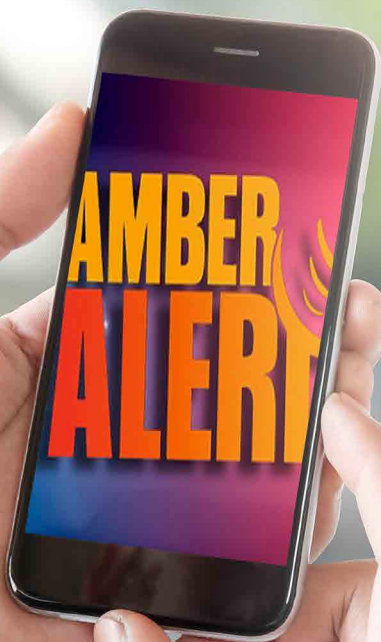
RECOVERY

FDLE'S MISSING ENDANGERED PERSONS INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

The FDLE Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) provides 24/7/365 support to the statewide missing person recovery efforts, which are designed to collect, store and disseminate information to assist in locating missing persons in Florida.

MEPIC is responsible for the activation of the AMBER, Missing Child, Purple, and Silver Alerts. When an alert is activated, law enforcement is seeking the public's help in locating a missing person. YOU can make a difference in recovering a missing person. In 2022, 5 of the 12 AMBER Alerts issued resulted in the direct recovery of a child.

A direct recovery is only possible when a citizen sees the alert and contacts law enforcement with information regarding the child. Everyone has an important role in rescuing missing persons. Become a hero today by signing up for alerts and allowing your phone to receive AMBER Alerts, Enhanced Missing Child Alerts and other wireless emergency broadcast notifications at www.missingchildrenalert.com. Please see the provided examples of successful alert recoveries in April of 2023.



MISSING CHILD ALERT RECOVERY:

The Union County Sheriff's Office requested a Missing Child Alert for two children, ages 12 and 14. MEPIC coordinated with the Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana Fusion Centers to distribute the alert. The missing children saw the alert on television while in an Alabama store and sought out the nearest police station. The children were recovered approximately 400 miles from their home.

SILVER ALERT RECOVERY:

The Monticello Police Department requested a Silver Alert for an 86-year-old male. A Florida Highway Patrol Trooper recognized the man's vehicle from the FDLE issued communication and safely pulled the subject over.

PURPLE ALERT RECOVERY:

The Pinellas Park Police Department requested a Purple Alert for a 46-year-old male. The subject was recovered at a hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida after a staff member saw the Purple Alert flyer published on social media.



Remembering Wendy Hudakoc



Member Spotlight: Dan Campbell, Chairperson

Dan Campbell has served on the MEPICAB since 2004. His 14-year-old daughter, Wendy Hudakoc, went missing on November 15, 1998. Since then, Dan has worked to resolve missing person issues in Florida. He also regularly attends Florida Missing Children's Day in remembrance of Wendy.

A Sibling's Perspective – Sharlene Boyatt (sister to Wendy Hudakoc)

It's been 24 ½ years since I last saw Wendy. Almost a quarter of a century. A lot can happen in a quarter century. I got married, had kids, got divorced, lost friends and grandparents... I've even lost a parent. I've lived the life of "other people," you know - the ones this kind of thing happens to. The ones that live the nightmare.

I can say that my sister's disappearance has impacted every aspect of my life, but none so much as the way I see my own children. I find some of my biggest downfalls as a parent stem from the fear of going through this experience again, only as the parent and not the sibling. "Where are you going? With who? What time will you be home? How are you getting there?" are only some of the questions that I throw at my children as they leave the house. That is, when I finally build up the courage to let them go. Being a parent is already hard enough. Wanting to shelter and protect your children is typically part of the parent role. The struggle to balance your sanity while allowing them some independence is something nobody can ever prepare enough for. That's the parent baseline. Now intensify that, knowing it doesn't only happen to "other people." I watched what losing a child did to my parents and can't fathom the pain they continue to endure. I pray I never have the chance to relate and admittedly I'm not sure I'd survive it.

I wish Wendy and I had the chance to grow up together. I wish my kids could know my sister. I wish my kids could learn about me through Wendy because nobody knew me like she did. Wendy is still talked about all the time. It's never taboo to speak her name or for my kids to ask questions about her. I use my childhood with Wendy to sometimes try and relate to my girls. They remind me of Wendy and I so much. I can see Wendy in all my kids in some way, reminding me that she's forever with me.





Wireless Emergency ALERTS

The Wireless Emergency Alert (also referred to as a WEA) is a short emergency message sent by authorized safety officials to warn the public of an impending natural or human made disaster or an emergency in a targeted area. The WEA is sent to any WEA enabled mobile device without the need to download an application (app) or subscribe to a service. WEAs are utilized by officials from federal, state, local, tribal and territorial agencies.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) uses WEAs to notify the public of missing children. WEAs are typically active for two (2) hours and provide a web address, or URL, to the MEPIC public flyer which includes a picture and/or description of the missing child(ren). MEPIC issues WEAs for AMBER Alerts and Enhanced Missing Child Alerts (EMCA).

An AMBER Alert is used when a local law enforcement agency's investigation indicates that a child(ren) is believed to have been kidnapped and is in imminent danger. MEPIC and the local law enforcement agency may determine to broadcast the WEA in a specific targeted area, or a statewide WEA, based on the investigation. MEPIC also utilizes WEAs for EMCAs. EMCAs are issued in exigent circumstances where law enforcement has belief that the child(ren) is in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury and that the child(ren) may be located within a defined geographic area. An EMCA is most often used for a child that is diagnosed with autism. Children with autism are more likely to wander off at an increased risk of endangerment. When the WEA is issued for EMCAs, the alerts are usually localized to a 5-mile radius from where the child was last seen. With very few exceptions, MEPIC does not issue a WEA between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., even though a WEA can be issued at any time.

The WEAs issued by MEPIC have been paramount in the recovery of missing endangered children due to citizens recognizing the children from the WEA, resulting in their safe recovery.





ReUnite Program

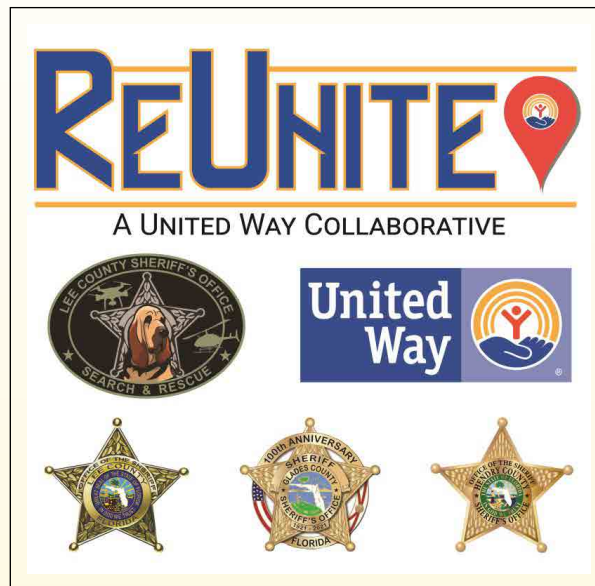
By Jennifer Carolluzzi, ReUnite Program Coordinator

In 2019, ReUnite was developed by the Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) to address concerns with area residents who were prone to wander due to cognitive or developmental impairments. United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties, Hendry County Sheriff's Office and Glades County Sheriffs' Office and Clewiston Police Department joined the LCSO collaborative. Today, ReUnite focuses on special needs populations; however, any individual may enroll as wandering behavior can result from a wide variety of factors (whether temporary or permanent).

Those with cognitive or developmental concerns such as Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, intellectual or developmental disorders, etc., tend to be the most at risk of becoming lost. Sixty percent (60%) of individuals with Alzheimer's/dementia and nearly fifty percent (50%) of children with autism will wander. However, there are many other factors that would put someone at risk, even if only temporarily. Additional factors for mental disorientation that can lead to wandering may include: alcohol or drug abuse, carbon monoxide poisoning, low levels of sodium or calcium, low or high blood sugar, infections anywhere in the body (including brain, lungs, and urinary tract), medications or medication interactions, unmanaged pain, Parkinson's disease, seizures, strokes or mini-strokes, and other issues, such as cancer or organ dysfunction. Children are also at elevated risk - even those who have no developmental or behavioral challenges - especially young children.

ReUnite is a free program, designed to reduce search time when an individual is reported missing. Applicants receive

a free scent kit that isolates an individual's unique scent. If the ReUnite member is reported missing, the scent kit will be utilized, rather than a traditionally used scent article (i.e., clothing) that will carry the scent of others who have been in contact with it. When bloodhounds arrive, the ReUnite scent kit is offered to the dog, who immediately starts on the scent trail. When a traditionally used scent article is used, a bloodhound's handler must instruct the dog which scents not to follow until the missing person's scent is isolated.



To become a ReUnite member, a short application must be submitted along with a recent photo. The application and photo are shared only with the partnering sheriff's office and are instantly available the moment a call to 911 comes in, rather than having to wait for the information to be collected from a concerned, sometimes frantic, family member or caregiver.

While there are no programs that can guarantee a loved one is returned safely, ReUnite has a 100 percent recovery rate to-date. When someone's loved one is missing, every second matters;

and ReUnite has the ability to expedite the process which can potentially lead to the safe recovery of someone's child, parent, spouse, etc.

If you are located in Lee, Hendry, or Glades County and are interested in additional information about ReUnite visit www.UnitedWayLee.org/ReUnite, email ReUnite@UnitedWayLee.org, or call 239-433-7583.



Trenton Duckett went missing on August 27, 2006, at the age of two (2). He was last seen in the Leesburg area.

Any individuals that may have been in the area of the Ocala National Forest on this date is urged to look at past photographs to see if Trenton or his mother appeared in the background of their images. Trenton's photo on the right has been age progressed to 17 years of age by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

If you have any information or old photographs that may contain Trenton around his missing date, please call the Leesburg Police Department at 352-787-2121 or MEPIC at 1-888-FL MISSING (1-888-356-4774).

MISSING

Trenton Duckett



If you have any information please call the Leesburg Police Department at 352-787-2121 or MEPIC at 1-888-FL MISSING (1-888-356-4774).

