

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Clear Channel Outdoor Americas Launch Los Angeles Billboard Campaign Timed with National Missing Children's Day

Month-long Digital Billboard Campaign Features Last Seen and Age Progression Images of Missing Children from Southern California

LOS ANGELES--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Today the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#)[®] (NCMEC) and [Clear Channel Outdoor Americas – Los Angeles \(CCOA\)](#) (NYSE: CCO), a subsidiary of iHeartMedia Inc., launched a new month-long digital billboard campaign across the Los Angeles, CA region timed with National Missing Children's Day, calling attention to the ongoing searches for local missing children. The digital out-of-home (DOOH) campaign underscores the plight of missing children everywhere and this local effort features four missing children from Southern California.

This Smart News Release features multimedia. View the full release here:

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170525005902/en/>

Lisa Zaharias, missing since 1987, now has a digital billboard to help bring her home. (Photo: Business Wire)

Beginning May 25, CCOA will broadcast last seen, and age progression, images

of Alexander Riffenburg from Palmdale, CA; Crystal Tymich from Los Angeles, CA; and Christopher and Lisa Mae Zaharias from Santa Ana, CA; on the company's digital billboards throughout Los Angeles and Orange County. The donated billboards direct the public to call 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) with any information concerning the disappearance or current whereabouts of these local children.

This latest initiative builds on NCMEC and CCOA's 2015 national 'Summer of Hope' campaign, which reminded parents never to wait 24 hours to report a missing child. The country is in the midst of a persistent missing and exploited children crisis nationwide. According to the FBI, in 2016 there were 465,676 National Crime Information Center (NCIC) entries for missing children. Similarly, in 2015, the total number of missing children entries into NCIC was 460,699. In the state of California, there were 1,437 children missing who were intaked by NCMEC in 2016.

Across Los Angeles and Orange County, CCOA's donation of its digital inventory enables NCMEC to reach millions of people across Southern California where images will be displayed for a month. Locations of the billboards which feature the four missing children's photos include high-traffic areas such as the Santa Monica and San Diego Freeways.

“Hundreds of thousands of children go missing every year and many are never heard from again. There are many causes of disappearance, but the goal is always to bring our kids back. Today, we draw special attention to this tragic issue. I ask our communities to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity or information that could help bring a child back home,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis. “At the County level, we are working hard to protect victims of trafficking, and provide them and their families with the services and assistance they desperately need during the scariest time in their lives. Whether someone is abducted, trafficked, or lost, the County and our departments are ready to work with families and the community.”

“We are so grateful for the ongoing support of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and of Clear Channel Outdoor Americas as we continue our investigations to bring our children home safely,” said Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell. “Every day in the line of duty we see at first-hand what a crucial issue this is and hope to impress upon local communities the importance of finding our missing kids. Our hope is that this campaign will help bring to light information we need for our on-going cases and ease the anguish that families of missing children are forced to endure.”

“I want to thank the combined efforts of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Clear Channel Outdoor Americas for this overwhelming kindness and for raising awareness about the cause of missing children and my beloved lost children, Lisa Mae and Christopher,” said Louis Zaharias. “As a parent searching for my children for the last 30 years, it's billboard campaigns like these that can revitalize hope for me and for all of the other parents out there experiencing the anguish of losing their child.”

“Our latest partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited children emphasizes our commitment to helping bring our children home safely to their families not just here in California but across the country,” said Layne Lawson, Vice President of Public Affairs, Clear Channel Outdoor – Southern California Division. “Our digital billboard campaigns have been successful in helping missing children connect with a lifeline to safety and we are grateful especially for Mr. Zaharias, Christopher and Lisa Mae’s father, for his continued courageous effort in calling attention to this ongoing crisis nationwide through his own personal journey and we thank everyone involved in this local campaign for their continued support.”

According to NCMEC, photos are one of the most vital tools for law enforcement when searching for a missing child, and have the power to produce leads that can help law enforcement give families answers and help safely recover children. The new billboard campaign enables NCMEC to reach a broad audience across Los Angeles by distributing photos of the missing children in targeted areas that can aid local law enforcement with a search.

“At the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children we know that photos are the single most important tool to find a missing child. We applaud Clear Channel Outdoor for showcasing missing children on their digital billboards,” said Robert Lowery, Vice President, Missing Children’s Division. “We could not do this important work without help and strongly urge anyone who thinks they recognize a child to not hesitate, and call NCMEC.”

For regional missing children alerts <http://www.missingkids.com/RSS>

About the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Since 1984, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® has served as the leading private, nonprofit organization helping to find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation and prevent future victimization. As part of its work as the clearinghouse and resource center on issues relating to missing and exploited children, NCMEC operates a hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678), and has assisted in the recovery of more than 232,000 missing children. NCMEC also operates the CyberTipline®, a mechanism for reporting suspected child sexual exploitation, which has received more than 15 million reports since it was created in 1998. To learn more about NCMEC, visit www.missingkids.org or see NCMEC on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings, Inc.

Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings, Inc., (NYSE: CCO) is one of the world's largest outdoor advertising companies, with over 590,000 displays in 35 countries across five continents, including 43 of the 50 largest markets in the United States. Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings offers many types of displays across its global platform to meet the advertising needs of its customers. This includes a growing digital platform that now offers more than 1,100 digital billboards across 27 markets in the United States. Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings' International segment operates in 19 countries across Asia and Europe in a wide variety of formats. More information is available at www.clearchanneloutdoor.com and www.clearchannelinternational.com.

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