

GOALS OF OLAPF

Volunteer Task Force

To develop a community task force to aid and assist in youth education and in the event of a missing child or adult, to mobilize in assisting in a search effort.

Education and Awareness

To develop and initiate educational and safety awareness programs for school, parent, community and civic organizations, and professional groups on child safety and abduction related issues.

Our Emergency Response Search Assistance Team

Is a team developed to offer immediate search assistance in the event of a missing child or adult. To provide assistance to volunteer organizations, posters distribution, development of the search center function and family assistance. To act as a liaison between the victim's family and law enforcement.

THE OLAPF PROGRAM

Operation L.A.P. Foundation, Inc., program was founded in May 2002 following the abduction of a 7 year old Milwaukee girl. A task force was developed by concerned community individuals and friends and family of, Alexis Patterson. OLPAF is a 501-c3 tax exempt non-profit foundation.

CRISIS NUMBERS Your Local Police

**Wisconsin Center for Missing
Children & Adults**
(877) 570-5456 Toll Free
(920) 220-1558 Crisis

The Wisconsin State Clearing House

RESOURCES

Operation L.A.P. Foundation, Inc. offers: Resource materials, handouts, referrals, tip sheets and brochures on child safety.

Education and awareness programs for school, parent, community and civic organizations and professional groups on child safety and abduction related issues.

Experienced personal to assist families, volunteer groups, child service agencies and law enforcement.

VISION STATEMENT

Empowering our youth through educational programs to recognize situations and to react accordingly to avoid becoming a victim of abduction, and, the development of the On Site Search Assistance Team for all those charged with the responsibility of locating missing children.



**Wisconsin Center for Missing Children
& Adults**

Division of
OPERATION L.A.P. Foundation, INC.

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(414) 434-4775

W5521 W Pleasant Hill Road
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 674-6960

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We need to learn as much as we can about abductors/sexual offenders and how they operate. Only through education can we become "Street Smart". In these times of heightened crime, protecting our children's innocence must not include keeping them naive. Educating our children and ourselves to the possibilities of real danger in a real world may be the one crucial edge we have in keeping our children/ourselves safe from harm.

It is important to make clear that we have a responsibility to each other, especially within a family. Rules, law, duties etc., can create negative feelings if the reason for them is not clearly defined. Keep it positive. These things exist out of love for each other and can enhance communication between parents and children.

The reality is that kids who feel good about themselves are less likely to get into dangerous situations. Parents who provide positive awareness education help develop a bond of respect and love with their children.

Youth protection is not a cause, it is a fight for safety and a safe feeling.

SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

ARMS REACH PLUS

Always stay out of arm's reach if a stranger approaches. Protect your personal space. If the stranger is in a car, take two steps back and be ready to run.

BUDDY SYSTEM

Always try to go places with one or more friends. If you are not able to go with a friend or friends, stay near a group of people.

TRUST YOUR FEELINGS

Instinct is nature's way of talking to you and helping to keep you safe. "Feeling Funny" inside about a person (relative or stranger) can be a warning sign.

FAMILIAR/ABSOLUTE STRANGER

Seeing someone on a regular basis (friend of a parent, ice cream man) does not make them a friend. An absolute stranger is a person you have not seen before.

SAFETY YELL

Just screaming can be seen as a bad behavior and may be ignored by potential help. Instead yell, "you're not my father/mother" or "fire" to draw positive attention.

PERSONAL STRENGTH

When alone, walk with confidence, and stay alert. Keep your head up and pay attention to what is going on around you.

SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

ROLE PLAYING

Practicing how to react in a given situation empowers children with a sense of self confidence, and it enables them to fight back with knowledge and experience.

SAFETY CONTRACTS

A parent/child safety contract is an agreement worked out between parent and child. Both agree to certain conditions such as curfew, visiting friends, timely pickups, etc. A child's safety is the responsibility of both the parent and the child.

ADULT PROBLEMS

Children like to be needed and helpful; it makes them feel important. But adults should take care of adult problems. Teach children they are not responsible for "lost puppies", giving directions, etc. Get an adult to help!

PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS

Pick-up/drop-off times and other plans should not be discussed in places they can be overheard, like the mall or a grocery store.

CODE WORDS

A code word is an agreed upon word between the parent and child, to be used as a safety tool. It helps a child identify which individual is supposed to be making contact.