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Media Contact:

Kathy Phelps, Dixon Schwabl

585-899-3238

Kathy_Phelps@dixonschwabl.com

Ed Smart and Ahmad Rivazfar Make Stop in Kansas City as Part of Cross Country Bike Trip to Advocate for Laws to Protect Children from Predators

KANSAS CITY, MO – On Wednesday, September 1, 2010, Ed Smart and Ahmad Rivazfar, both parents of child abduction and abuse victims, will travel to Kansas City, Missouri by bicycle as part of an awareness and fundraising campaign for the Surviving Parents Coalition (SPC) child advocacy initiatives. While in Kansas City, Rivazfar and Smart will stop at Liberty Memorial Park located at 100 West 26th Street in Kansas City at 5 p.m. p.m., to meet guests and to share information on how to protect children. From Kansas City, Smart and Rivazfar will ride to Lincoln, Neb.

The Surviving Parents Coalition consists of 43 members, and is made up of parents of children who were abducted, sexually assaulted, murdered, recovered or are still missing. Through legislative efforts SPC aims to significantly improve public awareness about prevention as well as legislative progress, facilitate hands-on safety education in schools for children through young adults and promote best practices for law enforcement and communities in responding to predatory crimes.

During the stop in Kansas City, Rivazfar and Smart will be joined by SPC member, Janis McCall, whose youngest daughter, Stacy disappeared on June 7, 1992 when she was 18 years-old from a friend's house along with her friend Suzie Streeter and Suzie's mother Sherill Levitt. Stacy had planned to go to graduation parties for several friends and a group planned excursion to Branson's White Water was planned for that day. Suzie was planning to stay the night with a friend, and changed her mind at the last minute and stayed with her Suzie. Sometime between the hours of 3 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., Stacy, Suzie and her mother Sherill vanished. Their purses, cars and all of their belongings were still at the house. After many leads and many searches, they are still missing.

McCall is dedicated to the pursuit of finding her daughter and those responsible for her disappearance and assisting other families with similar circumstances. She has taken 80 credit hours in Victimology and many extensive training sessions. She is the Co-founder and executive director of One Missing Link, Inc., a nonprofit organization doing prevention, education and assisting families in need with missing persons. McCall is a member of the Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organization (AMECO) and served for two terms on the board of directors. Lastly, she served as the co-chairperson of SW Missouri Missing Persons Task Force.

Rivazfar and Smart, who began their journey on August 21, in Rochester, N.Y., will end on September 22 in Los Angeles, Calif. Other cyclists are welcome to join in on the 3,500-mile journey, which travels through 12 states and 26 cities. The awareness campaign, “*Ride for Their Lives*,” seeks to increase public knowledge and raise \$1,000,000 to help advocate for laws that protect children and fight to eradicate predatory crimes Nation wide.

The purpose of this month-long journey is to focus on four main legislative issues surrounding child abuse and abduction cases:

1. **DNA Collection on Felony Arrest** – to lobby for DNA collection on felony arrest, not just on felony conviction. Currently, 24 states have passed some form of DNA on felony arrest legislation, but there are 26 states that should follow suit. www.dnasaves.org.
2. **Protect our Children Act of 2008** – a law that gives more resources to the investigation and interdiction of child pornography and exploitation cases.
3. **The Adam Walsh Act** – The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, and the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act set minimum standards for a national sex offender’s registration and notification system.
4. **“Not ONE More Child”** – A Child Safety Education Initiative that educates and empowers children to recognize, avoid, resist, and escape dangerous situations and violence including bullying, assault, abuse and abduction.

The State Legislatures of both Missouri and Kansas have passed laws to expand the DNA database by testing all people arrested for committing a serious felony. Strengthening these DNA programs will assist law enforcement in quickly and accurately identifying perpetrators of violent crimes. Presently, there are 48,815 known sex offenders in the state of Missouri, and 24,285 in Kansas. In a 48 hour period, 39,540 personal computers were identified trading child pornography in Missouri, and there were 20,455 such computers trading child pornography in Kansas.

Sponsors of “*Ride for Their Lives*” include Limited Brands, Full Moon Vista Bike & Sport, Beau Productions, Brabon Justice International, LLC and Dixon Schwabl.

For more information about “*Ride for Their Lives*” and the Surviving Parents Coalition, visit www.RideforTheirLives.com.

The Surviving Parents Coalition is a parent-driven, 501c4 organization committed to saving lives. The coalition’s founding demonstrates the power of survival and how suffering can motivate people to accomplish extraordinary things. SPC lobbies for funding and legislation because they are essential to effective change. Its goal is to ensure young people mature naturally without abuse and emotional turmoil. The SPC is determined to grow and spread out nationally one family at a time.

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