

Rachel's Voice



PUBLISHED BY THE RACHEL FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY REINTEGRATION

Rachel's Mission

The Rachel Foundation rebuilds broken families, one at a time.

Our goal: to provide each child with the opportunity to have a loving relationship with both parents, where possible.

Residential and other programs to heal parent-child bonds shattered by alienation and abduction.

Programs tailored to the unique needs of each individual family.

Programs are practical, child-centered and goal-oriented, with safe and supportive care in a warm, home setting.

Serving U.S. and international courts, social services, law enforcement, child find agencies and individual families.

Striving for the highest levels of professional standards as a leader in the emerging field of family reintegration.

“Their results? Nothing short of a miracle...”

“Nothing short of a miracle...” This is how a parent described our work, a parent at Rachel House this Spring, a parent successfully reunited with two children in a case described as “hopeless...”

In an e-mail to me as I complete my Master's Degree in Counseling, a dear friend concluded with her blessing: *“And now, as you go forward, may the Lord continue to anoint, equip, bless, prosper, and protect your ministries...”* I was struck by the perfect completeness of her words: to *“anoint, equip, bless, prosper and protect...”* What more can we ask for? What more do we need?

2007 was a year of personal and professional challenges for Bob and me. Yet, almost eight years since we founded Rachel, we survive and thrive despite unbelievably vitriolic attacks on our mission of rebuilding broken parent-child relationships.

Bob and I, and our faithful volunteers and helping professionals, work in an upside-down world of intense inter-personal and inter-familial conflict. We work in a world where children can and do become pawns in a war between their parents and between the extended family systems and cultures that these represent. We work in a world where, inevitably, we can please only half of the people some of the time. We work in a world where, for every parent who longs to be reunited with a lost child, another parent would move heaven and earth to ensure this never, ever happens. We work in a world where we labor to rebuild lasting, healthy, loving bonds between parent and child, in the face of intense hatred and animosity.

You, our precious donors and supporters, are a vital part of this world.

Rachel's call to reunite parents and children and rebuild loving parent-child bonds **depends on your help and your financial support.**

One family at a time, Rachel's work is becoming recognized and valued by a growing list of professionals and courts. One family at a time, we are developing programs that we pray will soon be replicable and available to all who need them. All the while, we strive for the highest professional and ethical standards in what some call pioneering work.

Please help to *“anoint, equip, bless, prosper and protect”* our work here at the Rachel Foundation. We are so grateful for your loving support.

Pamela

The Rachel Foundation for Family Reintegration

Volunteer Staff

Robert B. Hoch, Executive Director
 Pamela Stuart-Mills Hoch, Program Director
 Kathleen Williams Bryson, Case Manager

Professional and Technical Advisors

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Corresponding Organizations

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

International Center for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC)

Missing Children's Network / Reseau Enfants Retour (Canada)

Polly Klaas Foundation

Children's Rights Council (CRC)

...and church and community organizations around the country.

We gratefully acknowledge individual donors, professionals and volunteers who generously donate money, time and skills vital to providing Rachel programs services.

The Rachel Foundation is proud to be a member of the Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations (AMECO).



U.S. Citizenship and Master's Degree in Counseling for Pamela

Rachel Foundation Program Director, Pamela Hoch, recently fulfilled a lifelong journey when she became a U.S. citizen. With 1,265 others from 85 countries, she took the Oath of Allegiance in a deeply moving ceremony in Federal District Court in San Antonio.

Speaking of her American Journey before St. Peter's Episcopal Church Women in Kerrville, Pamela said that the United States has brought her a sense of "belonging." Born of British parents in Ireland, she never felt fully at home in either country, nor when she lived in The Netherlands or in Canada.

Pamela spoke of her appreciation for the inscription on the Statue of Liberty. *"Give me your tired, your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me."*

Completing her Master's Degree in Counseling at UTSA, Pamela has been admitted as a doctoral candidate by UTSA's Dept. of Education



Pamela at UTSA commencement ceremonies.

and Human Development, in the Ph. D. program in Counselor Supervision and Education. "These studies are incredibly enriching, bringing a new depth and breadth of understanding to our work with broken families. I'm daunted yet thrilled by this challenge and by the opportunity to earn my doctorate at last." said Pamela.

We've missed you! We publish Rachel's Voice twice yearly, but missed the Fall/Christmas 2007 edition due to a hectic fall season at Rachel House and Pamela's foot surgery. Pamela was getting back on her feet (literally!) when we had a catastrophic computer crash. Data lost included our mailing lists and donor information. **If you did not receive a thank you letter for your 2007 donations and pledges, please e-mail or call and we'll be glad to get one out to you.** We're still rebuilding data and appreciate your patience!

Rachel Executive Director Now AMECO Vice President

Rachel Foundation Executive Director Bob Hoch was elected Vice President of the Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations (AMECO) at its Annual General Meeting in St. Louis MO.

AMECO is an international organization of 38 member non-profit organizations (NPOs) that is funded by the **U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**. It acts as a unified voice on issues related to missing and exploited children and their families. It nurtures credible, ethical and effective NPOs and provides a way for the public to determine which missing and exploited children's organizations are reputable.



Bob with strategic planning consultant Bill Kearney. Photo courtesy of Mary Lyall, Center for Hope.

Bob has served on the AMECO Board of Directors since 2006 and also chaired the Membership Training Subcommittee. Besides overseeing the planning of AMECO's annual training conference, he also prepared a prototype of a Board

Member Handbook and an orientation kit for newly elected Board members.

Bob holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations and a Master's Degree in Economics from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, as well as a Certificate in Non-Profit Management and Leadership from University of Texas at San Antonio.

"In an industry that provides many opportunities for the unscrupulous to bilk families in their time of distress," says Bob, "it is immensely important to maintain high standards of certification for non-profit organizations that work with families of missing children. This is what AMECO is all about. We are really proud to be a part of it"

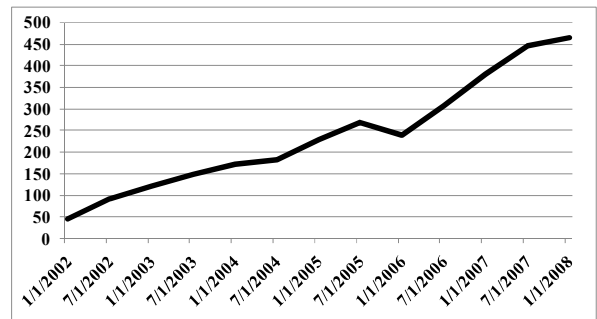
Online Support Group Thrives

In 2001, we saw a pressing unfulfilled need for parents separated and alienated from their children through high-conflict divorce or abduction. These parents needed a way to mentor and support each other on a scale far beyond what we could serve at Rachel. We recognized that the Internet held the potential to do this.

With volunteer Mariellen, we began Rachel's online support group, **PASparents**, for parents, grandparents and step-parents of alienated children. This is a "safe container" in which members share their experiences, strengths and hopes. Mariellen composed the group guidelines given to new members when they enroll via the Rachel Foundation web site.

PASparents began with six "seed" members on November 3, 2001 and has grown to more than 480 today. Members range from those who have just discovered that they

PASparents Membership, 2002—2007



are not the only ones suffering the forced separation from their children, to those who have reunited with their children, often using tools acquired through the collective wisdom of PASparents. In order to protect the safety and confidentiality of group members to the extent possible in an internet forum, the group is moderated by a group of volunteers 24/7 year-round.

AMECO Recommendations for Child ID Kits

The Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations (AMECO) recently approved recommendations for the use of Child ID Kits.

According to AMECO, a Child ID Kit enables parents to provide immediate and essential information for the search, recovery and rescue of a missing child. Keeping accurate, complete and up-to-date records of your child is critical when supplying information to law enforcement for investigation. Your child's ID Kit should include:

- Your child's **complete name** and any **nickname**.
- **Physical information:** age, height, weight, gender, hair color and length, and eye color, etc.
- **Other identifiable information:** location of scars, birthmarks, glasses, braces, scars, bruises, broken bones, tattoos, etc.
- **Medical history**, including any medicine that might be needed.
- **Recent pictures:** Be sure to keep updated color photos of your child. The most useful photos are clear candid photos, front and side views, updated yearly.
- A list of your child's **friends, teachers, bus drivers, babysitters**, and their phone numbers.
- Your child's **hobbies and hangouts**.
- Your child's **email addresses and web sites** (i.e. his/her MySpace or Facebook accounts etc.)

In addition, AMECO recommends that you secure the following forensic indicators for effective search, recovery and rescue:

- **Secure and store fingerprints.** Fingerprints can

be recorded on a standard fingerprint card with ink or through state-of-the-art digital technology. AMECO advises all parents to secure a copy of your child's fingerprints and further recommends that the prints be taken by a certified fingerprint technician for the most reliable results.

- **Secure and store a scent article.** Have your child remove a piece of clothing that he or she has been wearing all day (a sock provides an excellent sample) and have the child place it in an envelope. Do not allow anyone but the child who wore the article of clothing to touch it or the envelope. Store the envelope in a safe deposit box or temperature controlled container. A scent article stored in this manner should last indefinitely.



- **Secure and store a DNA sample.**
 - ◇ Blood drops can be collected using sterile cotton. As an alternative, you can wait until your child gets a cut or scrape. Collect the blood sample on a band-aid. Completely dry before storing.
 - ◇ Baby teeth.
 - ◇ Hair with root.

Wrap each sample separately in dry paper. Place each sample in a separate paper envelope (**never use plastic**). The envelope should be sealed with tape covering each seam. Place the initials of the collector and sample date on the envelope touching both the tape and the envelope using permanent ink. Each envelope should clearly indicate the child's name, the name of the person who collected the sample, and the date the sample was collected. Store in a safe deposit box or temperature controlled container. DNA samples stored in this manner should last indefinitely.

AMECO thanks Dr. Arthur Eisenberg of the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification for his expert contribution to this recommendation.

PG-TYG

We keep a "Please God" and "Thank you God" list on Rachel House refrigerator. Here are some items!

Thank you God:

For individual donors, without whom The Rachel Foundation would not exist.

For professionals who guided the negotiations to purchase Rachel House. What a blessing to have a secure place for Rachel programs!

For the generous support of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and St. Paul's United Methodist Church Women, Kerrville, Darnestown Presbyterian Women, and all faith-based and community groups that support Rachel.

Please God:

- ◇ Protect and strengthen us in the face of frivolous legal and personal attacks
- ◇ A second refrigerator
- ◇ New carpet/floor covering for high-traffic areas in Rachel House
- ◇ Repairs to driveway, washed out after 9" of rain fell overnight
- ◇ Landscaping for play areas around Rachel House
- ◇ Specialized toys, books, videos and equipment for programs

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Kelly's Korner



I have an important job at Rachel House, making sure "my" children are happy and stay fit by playing lots of games with me. I am the Chief In Charge of Greetings and Goodbyes. I am sad when families leave, as I grow to love them all very much.

Two children came to Rachel House who knew all about Golden Retrievers. They saw something under my chin. I can't see under my chin, so I don't have a clue what the problem was. They made Bob & Pamela take me to the vet. He put me to sleep. When I woke up, my chin was stiff and itchy. The vet was very serious and my humans got all in a tizzy. They brought me for an extra-long car ride, to a special vet in

San Antonio.

Now I get treats with pills hidden in them. (My humans think I don't notice!) Luckily, the children knew exactly what treat I'd like—whipped cream cheese! They showed Bob and Pamela and I sure enjoy those treats! The special vet didn't see bad spots inside me and my humans were very happy.

Today, I enjoy walks and games and treats and keeping busy Managing Everything. I hope those children come back for a visit. I miss y'all!



AMECO Executive Director Visits Rachel House

Last summer we were delighted to welcome AMECO Executive Director Wendy Jolley-Kabi AMECO's to Rachel House. Wendy writes:

"The Rachel Foundation is located in the Hill Country of Texas (i.e. it's beautiful). I was privileged to visit Bob and Pamela Hoch during their "busy season" - Rachel House was hosting two families at once, not a usual event given how intense and tailored the support to each family.

The Rachel Foundation is unique in that it focuses on families' post-reunification. They provide varying levels of support: reintegration support in a family's own community, outreach through a network of trained professionals, as well as short and intensive residential programs. In the residential programs, a team of caring professionals provide hands-on training so parents and children to learn how to be a family again."

Book Review—Adult Children of Parental Alienation Syndrome: Breaking the Ties That Bind, by Dr. Amy Baker

When Dr. Amy Baker's book hit the bookstores late in 2007, members of our online support group immediately started passing the word about it. Here's a review based on their comments.

In *Adult Children of Parental Alienation Syndrome: Breaking the Ties That Bind* (W.W. Norton), Dr. Amy Baker has produced a book that certainly will become a “must read” for target parents, for alienated children, and for professionals who work with both groups. Dr. Baker presents the results of her research project in which 40 adults, who believed that they had been turned against one parent by the other parent., shared their experiences, challenges and emotions growing up as an alienated child, and how this has affected their lives.

The initial section, “Understanding Parental Alienation Syndrome,” depicts how alienation occurs. In addition to the traditional view that it occurs in high-conflict divorce, Dr. Baker broadens the perspective by presenting other scenarios in which children are alienated without necessarily being caught up in divorce. One reader commented:

Any targeted parent should be empowered by the chapters on realization because it puts you out ahead of the situation. If you know what behaviors potentially will enable your child to walk away, then you'll know exactly what hurts or helps your child to break through. The chapter on working with targeted parents really is a road map that pieces together each of the coping mechanisms associated with being a target parent.

The book is comprehensive, but does not overstate the issue or exhibit any particular bias. Dr. Baker lays out the facts as her research has presented them. If anything, the book may understate the impact on adult children because the study did not include adult children who have not come to realize that they were victims of alienation.

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