

Ernie Allen President and Chief Executive Officer

Ernie Allen is a co-founder of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the private non-profit organization since 1989. Under his leadership, more than 154,000 children have been recovered and the organization has increased its recovery rate from 62% in 1990 to 97% today.



Mr. Allen has brought technology and innovation to the Center, including age progression and forensic imaging of long-term missing children, a 24-hour missing children hotline, and training for more than 275,000 law enforcement officers. He established the CyberTipline, the 9-1-1 for the Internet, which has resulted in thousands of successful prosecutions. He created the Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography to involve the nation's leading banking and financial companies in eradicating commercial child pornography, and he launched a new Unit to help the U.S. Marshals track down more than 100,000 fugitive sex offenders.

In 2005, when asked by the Justice Department to help reunite families separated by Hurricane Katrina, within 24 hours a special hotline was set up, manned by retired law enforcement officers, and Team Adam representatives were dispatched into shelters in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. The organization worked around the clock until all 5,192 missing children were reunited with their families.

During his tenure, the organization has become one of the most respected nonprofit organizations in the nation and was named one of "America's 100 Best Charities" by Worth Magazine. A remarkable 93 percent of revenue goes to support programs and services.

Mr. Allen is also the founder of sister organization, the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children and serves as its CEO. There he has built a global network involving 14 nations, and created formal partnerships with Interpol, the Organization of American States, and the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

An active spokesman on the issue, Mr. Allen regularly appears on network and cable news shows including NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN and FOX, as well as other programs such as Oprah and Larry King.

A recipient of numerous awards and recognition, in 2001 Sun Microsystems named him an "I-Force Hero" for his pioneering use of the Internet for social good. He was the 2004 recipient of the Henry Clay Distinguished Kentuckian Award. And in 2005 he was named "Executive of the Year" by Non-Profit Times in recognition of his work in reuniting missing children with their families in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

He is a graduate of the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law. He is married to former television news producer and successful businesswoman Linda Broadus.