

## Beebe News, Arkansas

### Sheriff Garrett Has Plans for County to Participate in New Child Identification Project

Sheriff Pat Garrett said that he is looking forward to participating in a new national program unveiled today that will help identify and locate missing children and adults through the use of **iris** biometric **recognition** technology. Sheriff Garrett said “I commend the Nation’s Missing Children Organization and National Center for Missing Adults (NMCO) for developing The Children’s **Identification** and Location Database (**CHILD**) Project and I look forward to participating in this effort to protect the children and families of White County.” Sheriff Garrett continued, “I congratulate them on the formal kick-off of the system today in Phoenix and look forward to bringing this technology to White County.”

The Sheriff’s Office is currently working with NMCO to secure funding for the **CHILD** Project through grant applications and hopes to receive the system, at no cost to the taxpayers of White County, in the near future. Sheriff Garrett explained that, “The **CHILD** Project is a secure network and registry available to law enforcement and social service agencies across the nation that is designed to give authorized users access to data that can positively identify children in seconds. **Iris recognition** biometric technology positively determines the identity of an individual by capturing a high-resolution digital photograph of an individual’s right and left eye. The technology is non-intrusive and an image of the **iris** is captured by simply looking into the camera.”

Kym Pasqualini, President and CEO of the Nation’s Missing Children Organization (NMCO) said, “I am honored to have Sheriff Garrett’s support for this unique and innovative program. With Sheriff Garrett’s help, we will fill an important gap in our nation’s ability to quickly, and positively, identify missing children and adults.”

According to U.S. Department of Justice studies, on average more than 2,000 children are reported missing every day across the nation and there are currently over 47,000 active missing adult cases. Ms. Pasqualini continued, “We are honored that Sheriff Garrett has decided to participate in this program and are sure that his commitment will make a difference in our effort to reunite missing children with their families.”

Participation is entirely voluntary, just as it is now with fingerprint and photo ID card programs. “Today marks the official beginning of this important project,” said Sheriff Garrett. “It is my hope that over the coming years every sheriff in the nation will have access to one of these systems so they can help identify, locate and reunite missing individuals with their families.”