



**ALL IN THE EYES** More than 2,000 children are reported missing every day, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. A new technology making its way to counties across the nation could make a world of difference for the law enforcement officers looking for them. The technology is a new portable iris-scanning camera designed to capture the more than 200 unique characteristics of an individual's iris, and it is the quickest and most accurate identification method

available. Irises are our most unique feature, and after 2 years of age are fully formed. The system, called the Child Identification and Location Database, or CHILDB, scans the iris and stores it in a secure national database overseen by the [Nation's Missing Children's Organization](#) and the [Center for Missing Adults](#). Once in the database, a person can be identified in a matter of seconds through a comparison with a second scan. The system, which costs about \$25,000 and is sold by a company called Child Project, consists of a high-quality digital camera, an iris scanner and a laptop computer with software to process the information. The company accepts grant applications, which are funded by federal and state agencies, as well as private donations. To learn more, visit [www.thechildproject.org/home.html](http://www.thechildproject.org/home.html). If you are interested in replicating the program, e-mail [childproject@att.net](mailto:childproject@att.net), or call Pat Lawton at 508-224-1600, ext. 309.