

January 22, 1991 \$1.10

Woman's World

THE WOMAN'S WEEKLY

The hero who gave up everything to find lost kids



← Mark went from riches to rags...all because he loves children

Four years ago, Mark Miller received a flier in the mail, the kind he'd received many times before. But this time, instead of tossing it away, he studied it carefully and found that the picture of the skinny little girl with big, sad eyes pierced his heart.

After reading the caption underneath the girl's photo, which boldly asked, "Have you seen me?", Mark couldn't help but wonder: if he had never seen this girl, had anyone else? Do these missing-kid pamphlets ever really help find a child?

"I called organizations that supposedly help locate missing children," Mark says. "I was amazed to learn nobody was actually physically looking for these kids! These groups just send out fliers."

Yet until that day—the day the missing girl's pic-

ture touched his heart—Mark wasn't aware or particularly concerned about missing kids. A successful stockbroker in Houston, the 31-year-old bachelor seemed to have it all.

"But," confides Mark. "I



'Seeing a family reunited is the biggest thrill in the world'

had this emptiness inside my heart. Money isn't the answer to happiness. You get happiness from giving."

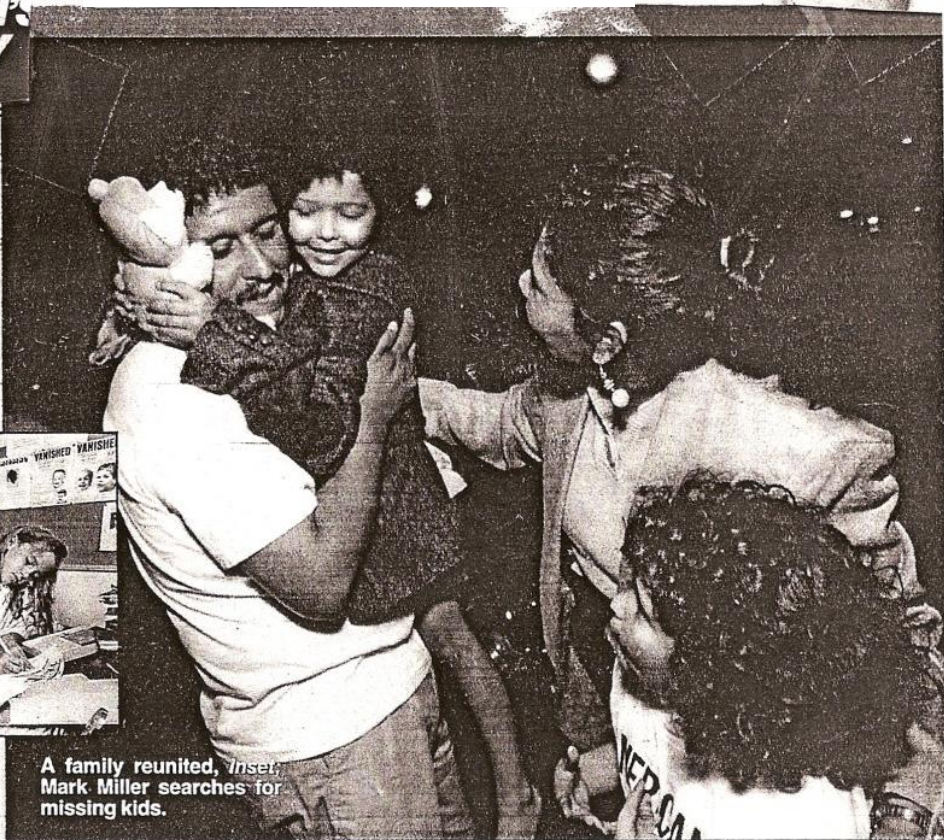
So Mark decided to give . . . to missing kids and their families.

Thus, three years ago, Mark took his entire life savings and invested it in establishing the nonprofit American Association for

Lost Children.

To learn how to find kids who have vanished, Mark talked to police investigators and read books. All helpful, but on his own he learned that the real key to finding a kid is to never give up. "I am totally dedicated," he explains. "I work eighteen hours a day."

Manned by only four vol-



A family reunited. Inset: Mark Miller searches for missing kids.

unteers, Mark's organization survives on donations alone. And when they don't come in, Mark somehow manages to foot the bill.

His dedication has led to many personal sacrifices: Mark no longer has a car and he sleeps on a sofa in his office. Plus, every weekend he's out selling candy to support the organization.

But Mark doesn't seem to care about any of that. In-

stead he notes that he has already found "more than thirty-five missing children. And that's what's most important to me now."

Recently Mark helped reunite five-year-old Jacqueline and six-year-old Jennifer with their father Jerry Martinez, in Pasadena, Texas.

"Jerry was so happy and thankful, he couldn't stop hugging me," says Mark. "I

cried. I felt such joy.

"It's an incredible high, to know you've changed someone's life for the better. Seeing a family reunited is the biggest thrill in the world."

For help locating a missing child, write to Mark Miller at Box 41154, Houston, TX 77241 or call 1-800-873-5678.

by Una McManus