

Katie's Story

Katie was only 15 when she met 22-year old John in an Internet chat room. Katie and John immediately began emailing each other several times a day. Before long, Katie was convinced they were in love.

A few weeks into the relationship, John told Katie that he was ready to meet her in person. While Katie was eager to spend time with her "boyfriend", Katie's parents were horrified with the idea of John coming to their home.

Katie's father, concerned that Katie might leave home to be with John against her parent's wishes, went to the police for help. An officer gave him a copy of the **MISSING** game and suggested that the family play it together.

The **MISSING** game recreates the true story of a Canadian teenager who left his home to be with an Internet predator. In the game, players assist law enforcement officers to recover the boy and return him home before it is too late. In the process, children are exposed to the dangers of meeting with strangers and the methods that strangers use to lure children over the Internet.

After playing the MISSING game, Katie realized for herself that John was not a friend, but a child predator. Katie's family notified the police of their suspicions and shortly afterward the San Francisco Police Department discovered that **John was the primary suspect in the rape of a 13-year old girl.** The younger girl had also met John in an Internet chat room. **Without a doubt, John was planning for Katie to be his next victim.**

Katie turned over all of the gifts, letters, and computer files she had from John. She also appeared at John's trial to present testimony about the method he used to try to seduce her - not surprisingly it was the same method he had used with his 13 year old victim. With Katie's supporting evidence, John was sentenced to twenty years in prison.

Without the intervention of her parents and the MISSING game, Katie's story would have ended much differently. Playing MISSING saved Katie from the terrible fate of John's other young victim. MISSING reached Katie at her own level and caused her to re-evaluate her relationship with John in time to prevent disaster.

Katie is now our Ambassador to youth for Web Wise Kids, the non-profit organization that makes **MISSING** available to children ages 11-14. With Web Wise Kids, Katie helps reach other young teens with the message of Internet safety.

