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Cherry Blossoms for Charity

*National Museum of Crime & Punishment Raises \$1,500 for the
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children*

Washington, DC (April 20, 2009) – During the cherry blossom season in Washington, D.C., the **National Museum of Crime & Punishment** invited all visitors to purchase handmade origami cherry blossoms for \$1 each to benefit the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). The museum raised \$1,500 for NCMEC and each cherry blossom that was purchased is currently on display in the museum’s front window.

“Thanks to our charitable visitors and helpful staff members who made the origami cherry blossoms by hand, we were able to raise \$1,500 for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children,” said Janine Vaccarello, Chief Operating Officer of the museum. “We enjoyed the opportunity to not only celebrate the cherry blossom season in D.C., but to also make a difference by raising money for a great cause.”

The funds will support NCMEC’s mission of preventing child abduction and sexual exploitation; finding missing children; and assisting victims of those crimes, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

“This year is the 25th Anniversary of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and one thing we have learned in those years, is that the work we do would not be possible without the support of people and organizations that embrace our mission,” said Susan Culler, NCMEC VP of Development. “That is why we are grateful to the National Museum of Crime & Punishment for their generosity in creating an opportunity for the public to play a part in helping children lead safer lives.”

The museum is located on the web at www.crimemuseum.org. For ticket and facility rental information, call (202) 393-1099.

[About the National Museum of Crime & Punishment](#)

The NMCP's mission is to provide guests of all ages with a memorable insight into the history of crime, crime fighting and solving, and the consequences of committing a crime in America through a captivating interactive, entertaining, and educational experience. The museum is located on 7th Street NW between E and F Streets in downtown Washington, D.C. at the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro (Arena exit). Admission to the NMCP is \$19.95 for adults, with a special rate of \$16.95 for law enforcement officers. Admission is \$14.95 for children (ages 5-11) and seniors age 60 and older, and free for children under the age of five.

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