

Betty Griffin House...

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payment for the house the shelter now occupies.

Betty Griffin House accommodates 150-200 women and children each year. Their average length of stay is three weeks, but they can stay six weeks or longer, if necessary. Sometimes a woman is injured and must have time to heal. Some don't have jobs and have to find one, and some may have never worked and need to learn job skills. Transitional housing is available for those who need it until they get "on their feet."

Some women needing emergency shelter come with just the clothes on their backs. There is food, beds, linen, soap, shampoo – all their immediate needs supplied. Canned goods and other items are donated; the House purchases fresh food. An advocate is always there – 24/7 – and there is help with legal issues, counseling, rape crisis intervention. They also have an effective batterers' intervention program.

"We never turn anyone away," says Hughes, whose previous career was in retail and finance. "We have 12 sofa beds, and we'll make room for

everyone who needs a safe place to stay."

Many people wonder why women stay in abusive relationships, and Hughes says through her experience she has learned all the reasons fall into three categories: fear, finances and feelings. They fear if they leave it will just make the situation worse; their abuser is also their provider and they wonder if they (and their kids) can make it on their own; and they still have feelings for him, still remember the good times and hope things will get better.

"To a person, every battered woman says verbal abuse is worse than physical. Bruises will heal; words stay in their minds forever. One woman I know said – and I thought it was such a profound statement: 'I was beaten down long before I was beaten up.'"

Beth Hughes (and all the directors of other shelters) urges you to call for help if you are in an abusive situation. They are there to help you.

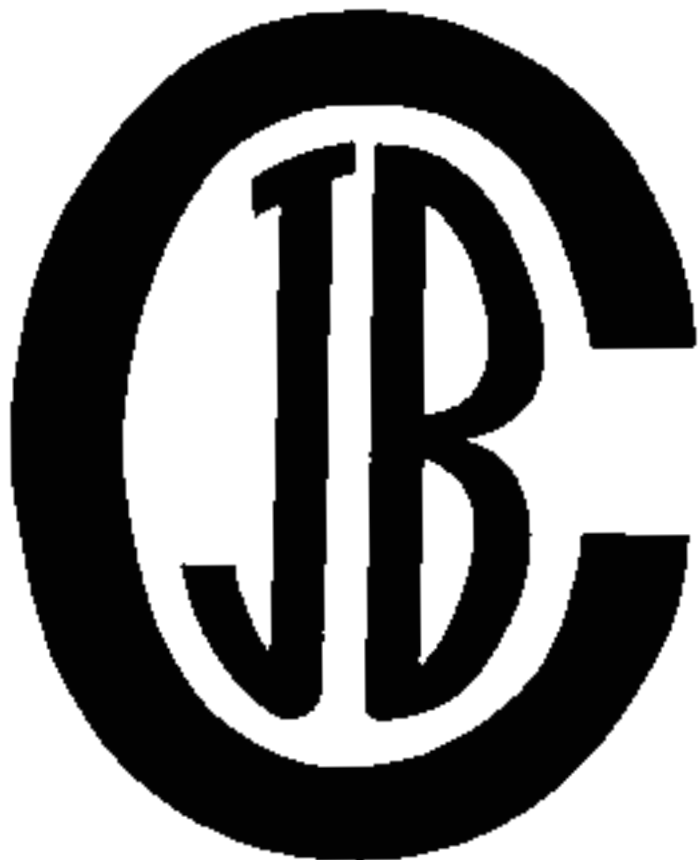
State hotline: 800/500-1119 (you will be connected to the nearest shelter)

Betty Griffin House: (904) 824-1555



J.B Coxwell Contracting, Inc. joins the Justice Coalition

in helping to make Jacksonville a safer place to live, work, and grow.



J.B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc.

6741 Lloyd Road • Jacksonville, Florida 32254

904-786-1120

CLAY COUNTY'S MOST WANTED

The Clay County Sheriff's Office proudly endorses the efforts of the Justice Coalition to capture wanted criminals. Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler believes, like many local law enforcement leaders, that law-abiding citizens are very interested in helping solve crimes and in removing violent offenders from our streets. Clay County currently has 4,479 active criminal warrants and civil writs and appreciates any information that will help the agency clear these cases.



ALLEN VANHOUTON

Race: White Sex: Male

Violation: Unemployment Compensation Fraud



DENNIS SCARPINITO

Race: White Sex: Male

Violation: VOP-Aggravated Assault



JEAN CHARLES

Race: Black Sex: Male

Violation: VOP-Lewd & Lascivious Battery



LEROY HARTZOG, JR.

Race: White Sex: Male

Violation: Owes \$24,500 in Unpaid Child Support

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE INDIVIDUALS, PLEASE CONTACT CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Call the CCSO at (904) 264-6512 today!



It's Our City! Let's Make It Better!