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*The Justice Coalition began in 1995 because one man's priorities were changed. Ted Hires was the average businessman working 60 to 80 hours a week and looking out for himself until that day when he and his staff were held at gunpoint and robbed. Being a victim of crime, Ted found the criminal justice system worked harder for the criminal than the victim. As a result of Ted's experience, he formed a (501C3) non-profit organization, the Justice Coalition, and is making an effort to change the Fourth Judicial court system for the better.*

*Since 1995, the Justice Coalition has been fighting crime every step of the way. Fugitives captured are through a partnership with local media and law enforcement agencies.*

The Justice Coalition's

**Victims' Advocate**

A free newspaper supporting victims' rights published monthly by The Justice Coalition. The opinions of contributing writers are not necessarily those of the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate or the Justice Coalition. The Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate welcomes both editorial and photographic submission, but they cannot be returned. Please allow six weeks for a response to submitted works. Calendar information is welcome but must be submitted one month in advance of the event.

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**THE JUSTICE COALITION'S OBJECTIVES**

- To be available for innocent victims of violent crime
- To educate the general public on criminal justice issues
- To be pro-active in the fight against crime

**Advertising Deadline**

The deadline for advertising copy for the **April 2006 Edition** of the **JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE** is **March 10, 2006.**

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**Not my time...**

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looked away; he looked like a wild man."

Cindy, an attractive, athletic woman in her 40s, responded quickly. "At this point I was moving pretty fast. I put my arm up to my face as I was going over, because I knew I was hitting the floor. He shot twice, the first one hitting my arm. It grazed my left elbow, went up my arm and came back out.

"It was so quick. I had a personal alarm on one side and a can of mace on the other and neither one helped me at all - it happened too fast. I immediately knew I'd been hit and managed to get beneath my desk. The gun had gone off so close to me, I was deafened, couldn't hear anything but the echoes of my own screams."

**Manager intervenes**

Cindy is grateful for her boss. "Royleea was in her office, God bless her heart. Her job took her out of the office a lot and she was hardly ever there, but she was there that day." The manager heard the shot and came out of her office, but Hargrove pointed the gun at her chest and threatened to shoot her, too. She ran back to her office and slammed the door, but then thought, "Oh my God, he's going to kill her and then kill me; I have to do something."

When Royleea came back out of her office, she actually ran into Hargrove as he started around Cindy's desk, and she said it was as if the contact jolted him back to reality. She told him twice to take the gun and leave the office, and he did just that - turned around, walked outside, put his gun back into the Penney's shopping bag and sat down on a park bench to wait for police.

After rescue crews arrived and tended to her wound, Cindy said she was calm and more concerned about Royleea, who was still very upset. While police officers arrested Hargrove, questioned witnesses and processed the crime scene, JFRD transported Cindy to Shands for further treatment.

She recalls that "an ER nurse told me, 'Boy, you had an angel on your shoulder today,' and that was when I broke down and just lost it. I asked the nurse for a shot of morphine because my husband was coming and I needed to keep it together. I was fine then."

A former social worker who has encountered her fair share of tense situations

working with teens, Cindy says the ensuing months since she was shot have been more than stressful. "It was probably a month before the reality of what occurred really sank in. And dealing with Workers' Comp has been a challenge, to say the least." She still doesn't know the full extent of damage to her arm, because WC wouldn't authorize an MRI until after Christmas.

"I think it cracked my elbow," she says. "I can't lift anything with this arm, have no strength in it at all like I used to, and if I hit it against something, the pain takes me to my knees. And it aches and hurts a lot, especially with change in temperature. Workers' Comp rated my disability two percent because I have range of motion, but I need to know if the pain I'm experiencing will be permanent. I'm hopeful the MRI will answer some of these questions."

**"I still wonder every morning: 'Is today going to be the day, or not?'"**

**Multiple after-effects**

In addition to the physical pain, she must cope with the psychological effects. She began seeing a psychologist about a month after the incident, and he helped her a lot before he was killed in a car wreck in October. She describes herself as being "hyper-vigilant." Wherever she goes, she is acutely aware of everything going on around her. When she goes somewhere, she looks around for exits in case she needs to leave in a hurry, and she stands with her back to a wall.

"I have to always feel secure - make sure the garage door is down, that all doors are locked. I can't tell you how many times I've locked my husband out and he bangs on the door - 'you've locked me out again!' He's very understanding and supportive, but I'm sure it is irritating to him."

She was dining at a restaurant in Palatka a few weeks ago when four deputies walked by her table on their way out the door. Seeing their holstered guns made her so physically ill she couldn't eat her meal.

Loud noises are particularly

troublesome. When she and her husband took their boat on the river to watch 4th of July fireworks, she says, "It was awful for me. Besides the noise of the firecrackers, I felt like we were sitting ducks out on the boat. The longer I sat, the more upset I became, and I finally asked my husband to please go faster, that I just had to get off the water."

"Some nights I wake up terrified because I can see Hargrove's face and him pointing the gun at me, but it's through a car window (which my therapist said is normal). I also have short-term memory loss - another characteristic of post-traumatic stress disorder."

**Assailant gets one-bedroom housing**

If the physical injury and psychological problems weren't enough, there was her assailant's adjudication process that lasted from July until the middle of October. "He decided to plead guilty - I thought he would take the insanity route - but his attorney wanted a plea bargain. I said no; the man had shot at someone else when he was in his early 70s, so I believed he needed to be locked away."

Hargrove took psychological tests, Judge Weatherby questioned him to satisfy his own mind that Hargrove knew what he was doing, and he was sentenced to 15 years in prison. "He finally got his one-bedroom apartment!"

Because Cindy is so accustomed to being active, staying at home was making her feel imprisoned; she wanted a return to normalcy. Her employer sent her to work at their facility in Palatka, but ironically (and horribly), in November 2004 the leasing agent there had been killed by an irate tenant, her head blown off by a shotgun. Needless to say, Cindy looked for another job.

Today she is working at another apartment complex in the Jacksonville area where she feels comfortable, although she is still ever vigilant. "I keep wondering if there was something I could have said or done to make things come out differently. But it all happened instantaneously - it was premeditated - I just can't think about that any more. It wasn't my fault."

"I've just about come to the conclusion that when it's your time to go, you're going to go. But I still wonder every morning: 'Is today going to be the day, or not?'"