



From the Director

by Ann Dugger

Reflections on 2008, expectations for 2009

I often think at the beginning of each new year that it's good we don't know in advance events that will occur during the ensuing 365 days. As much as we'd love to enjoy a smooth, stress-free existence, most days present challenges that demand all our skills, wisdom and faith in God to work through them.

There are many wonderful days, of course, for which I'm very grateful, especially the support of faithful friends, personally and financially. Reflecting over the past year, I'm once again amazed what our small staff has accomplished. With 62 new cases, we still have more than 200 open ones, while 26 were resolved during the year. We fielded more than 1000 victim-related phone calls in 2008, and Victim Advocate Lorraine Sinclair represented our victims in court approximately 600 times. She is there almost every day, often covering multiple activities going on in various courtrooms at the same time.

Because of the ongoing number of murders in our city, in 2009 we will meet many new family members mourning the loss of loved ones. This is always a bittersweet experience, since making new friends means their lives have been devastated by violent crime. Knowing that we can in some small way help these hurting victims gives me great satisfaction and pleasure.

Our newspaper, the *Victims' Advocate*, continued to publish mugshots and information about criminals Most Wanted by Jacksonville, Nassau, Baker and Clay County Sheriff's Offices and the FDLE. Since the beginning of our paper, more than 1700 Wanted individuals listed have been arrested, and 160 missing persons have been found. Family Support Services submits pictures of its missing children each month, and this has been a very effective tool to help locate them.

Last summer I felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to mobilize Christians in Northeast

Florida to pray against the terrible crimes taking place, and PRAY JACKSONVILLE! was formed. Since August we have been meeting in facilities provided by W. W. Gay Mechanical Contracting, Inc., now scheduled every second Tuesday of the month. The PRAY JACKSONVILLE! website offers those interested an opportunity to designate a specific time of intercession on behalf of our city.

One very bright spot occurred when the FBI informed me I was the 2008 recipient of its award for community leadership. To say I was shocked and amazed is an understatement, at the very least. I happily work every day at a job I love, trying to fulfill God's plan for my life, and for me that is ample reward.

And of course, the lowest points of the year were the deaths of two people who impacted my life more than any others: my beloved mother, Irma Knight, in March and Ted Hires just days ago. Only God's grace saw me through those dark, sad days.

I've known Ted many years - long before I came to work at the Justice Coalition. We had planned a special edition of the February *Victims' Advocate* to honor him for his contribution to the community, and now it will be a memorial to him. Thank you so much for all the kind words about Ted and your outpouring of love and sympathy to his family and to us. We will miss him more than words can say. May he rest in peace.

Despite the grim financial outlook, I remain confident that with God's help and the ongoing support of our many friends in the community - concerned individuals, businesses, law enforcement and judicial personnel - we can continue to accomplish our mission: to advocate for innocent victims of violent crime and work with law enforcement to make our city safer.

I pray God's blessings for each of you in 2009. Happy New Year.

2008 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award



Photo courtesy of FBI Photographer Charles M. Blalock, Jr.

FBI ASAC Nestor Duarte presented Ann Dugger with the 2008 award at a press conference on Dec. 8. Established in 1990, this award is presented each year by FBI Field Offices to individuals whose achievements in the areas of crime prevention, drug deterrence, or similar education programs have made a positive difference in their communities.

Inspirational Thought

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now

am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, or his seed begging bread. - Psalm 37:23-25

Faith Corner

The Faith Community holds the key to true Restorative Justice for all mankind. Many churches and businesses support this concept. The Justice Coalition wishes to thank the following for their support in our quest for this goal of compassion and understanding:

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