

AREA RESOURCE GUIDE

(Services listed are provided free of charge, or have income-based scheduling)

Homicide Support/ Advocacy

Compassionate Families
354-0007, 721-3326
Parents of Murdered Children
262-0866, 713-9683
Victim Services Center
630-6300
Jax. Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate
630-1764

Abuse (Domestic)

24 Hour Hotline
1-800-500-1119
Hubbard House Emergency
Shelter & Counseling
354-3114

Quigley House (Clay County)
1-800-339-5017

Compensation (victim)

Victim Services
630-6300
MADD Victim Services
388-0664

Consumer Fraud

State Attorney's Office
351-0900

City of Jacksonville

Consumer Affairs Division
630-3467

Detoxification

Gateway Community Services
387-4661

Family

Family Nurturing Center of Florida
389-4244

Family Support Services of North Florida

4057 Carmichael Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 421-5800
www.fss.jax.org
(Provide foster care, adoption and prevention)

Guardian Ad Litem Program

220 East Bay Street, 6th Floor
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 630-1200

Legal Assistance

Legal Aid
356-8371
Three Rivers Legal Services
126 W. Adams St., 7th floor
Jacksonville, FL 32204
(904) 394-7450

Mental Health Center of Jacksonville

333 West 20th Street
Jacksonville, FL 32254
(904) 695-9145

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

(MADD)
388-2455

Parenting Help

A place where parents and kids learn how to survive.
www.thehelpparents.com

Rape

Sexual Assault
Response Center
244-RAPE (244-7273)
Office: 244-4600

RAPE Recovery Team

722-3000

State Attorney's Office

630-2400

Trauma Counseling

Women's Center of Jacksonville
722-3000
City Victim Services
630-6300

Youth Crisis

Youth Crisis Center - The Safe Place
3015 Parental Home Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
904- 725-6662



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...to members of the Clay County Sheriff's Office (as well as several other law enforcement agencies) for their outstanding performance during the search for Somer Thompson and events following the discovery of her body. Rarely have we seen such a spontaneous outpouring of support from a community as we witnessed when the 7-year old child suddenly disappeared on Monday afternoon, October 19, while she was walking home from school.

It's impossible to acknowledge everyone who played a vital role in all the activities surrounding this tragic incident, but we spoke with CCSO Detective T. D. Singletary who shared his perspective and experience of being continually with the Thompson family for three weeks, helping them through the excruciating ordeal. It's something he will never forget.

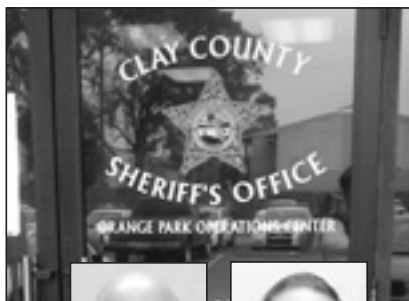
Singletary, retired after 28 years with JSO before "finding a new home" with the CCSO, was in Gainesville conducting an interview when he received a summons to come home. A little girl was missing, he was told: we're unable to find her, we need to put 100 percent effort immediately into the search. The detective said, "By that evening every single member of our unit was sent out, as well as other units, people called in from days off, everyone made a total commitment, trying to find this child."

When he arrived in Orange Park, Singletary went to the scene where the mobile command center had already been set up and was assigned to the team checking all sexual predators/offenders in the area. Working throughout the night, officers went to every home on the list, took statements from each registered offender (completing a comprehensive check list) and searched each house. Additionally, a large group of Special Victim Services officers conducted house-to-house interviews in the immediate neighborhood.

Procedures are in place, federally

approved protocols, for every law enforcement agency to follow in emergencies. They break down into different functional groups, coordinating all the people, services, feeding, equipment, restroom facilities, every aspect of emergency response covered so nothing is missed.

The Child Abduction Response Team (CART) is one of those entities in which



Det. DeWayne Singletary



Det. Kenny West

members of CCSO are very active. On the list of things to do, besides ruling out all known sex offenders as suspects, one avenue of concern was possible disposal methods, and this is where garbage trucks came under scrutiny. An officer suggested to Sheriff Beseler early Tuesday morning, even before CART procedures were set in motion, that each truck leaving Orange Park be followed to its dumping destination. And that is how Somer's body was found in a Georgia landfill within 48 hours of the time she disappeared.

Detective Kenny West is the lead investigator on the case and one of his roles was to interact closely with the family, keeping them apprised of everything that

was happening. Because the case was so huge, however, Singletary was assigned to stay with the family - and he was there night and day for three weeks. He believes it was a good decision to place an officer in the home because he was there to answer questions, explain the reasons for police actions and the process involved in seeking (then preserving) evidence, assist with the media, and support the traumatized mother any way he could.

He praised the local media for their courtesy during the long hours they spent on the scene and for their personal concern for Dena Thompson's welfare. He said Sheriff Beseler fulfilled every promise he made to the mother, to personally let her know when the body was found, and other ways he kept his word. State Attorney Angela Corey came to the home and promised that the murderer would be brought to justice. Even Governor Crist, who came for a news conference, was present when Sheriff Beseler announced Somer had been found.

And most of all, thousands of area residents responded with an unprecedented outpouring of love and support. Volunteers came to search, some from other cities and states. Singletary says almost every restaurant in town brought food for the family, law enforcement personnel and volunteers who came to help. Passersby would give bottles of water to the officers, several businesses printed flyers (at no cost) for distribution, and countless individuals and businesses donated money toward the reward fund or for the family. Hundreds showed up for candlelight vigils.

So this *Hats Off* is not just for the Clay County Sheriff's Office - from PIO Mary Justino (who so efficiently kept us all informed) to Sheriff Beseler and all his officers to other law enforcement agencies - but it includes everyone who helped, each in his/her own way, to ease the awful burden created by the tragic death of a beautiful little girl.

Family Support Services of North Florida NEEDS YOUR HELP to locate these children



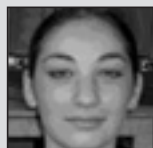
MATHEW OLSON
Missing Since 2/17/09



DYLAN CHANDLER
Missing Since 11/9/09



AMANDA GILHOUSEN
Missing Since 11/10/09



CHRISTINA THOMPSON
Missing Since 11/18/09



HANNAH PARRISH
Missing Since 12/6/09



RACHEL JUSTICE
Missing Since 12/7/09



VERONICA KESSLER
Missing Since 12/9/09



KATRINA FORD
Missing Since 11/30/09

Have You Seen Them? If so, please call (904) 421-5800