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VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

JUSTICE COALITION'S

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From the Sheriff's Desk
Sheriff John Rutherford

Operation Showdown

Targeting drugs, prostitution and guns

Publishing the names and photographs of individuals arrested for prostitution and soliciting for prostitution is a step toward the reduction of criminal activities in areas frequented by prostitutes within our city. Most prostitutes who work the streets in Jacksonville have substance abuse addictions. The need to satisfy the addiction leads many to enter into prostitution to buy the narcotics. Prostitutes rarely work far from where they purchase illicit drugs, thus they are an indicator of serious criminal activity in the area.

By publishing photographs of both the prostitutes and individuals arrested for soliciting for prostitution we hope to possibly break the chain of supply and demand that goes with prostitution and illegal drug sales. It also will have an impact on public health because individuals who involve themselves with prostitution rarely tell their families they have had sexual relations with another. A number of the prostitutes working the streets of Jacksonville are HIV positive. An individual who has contact with a prostitute may unknowingly pass some sort of sexually transmitted disease on to his or her spouse.

The practice of publishing names and photographs is done in other major cities. The names were published some years

Murder in *The Harbor*

Young children find strangled mother's body

By Shirley Shaw

When Donnie Petersen awakened that morning in May 2002, he noticed it was light outside. Usually it was dark when his mother, already showered and dressed for the day, would come to wake him and his sister, Rachel, to get them ready for school. Puzzled, the little boy got up and went to his mother's room.

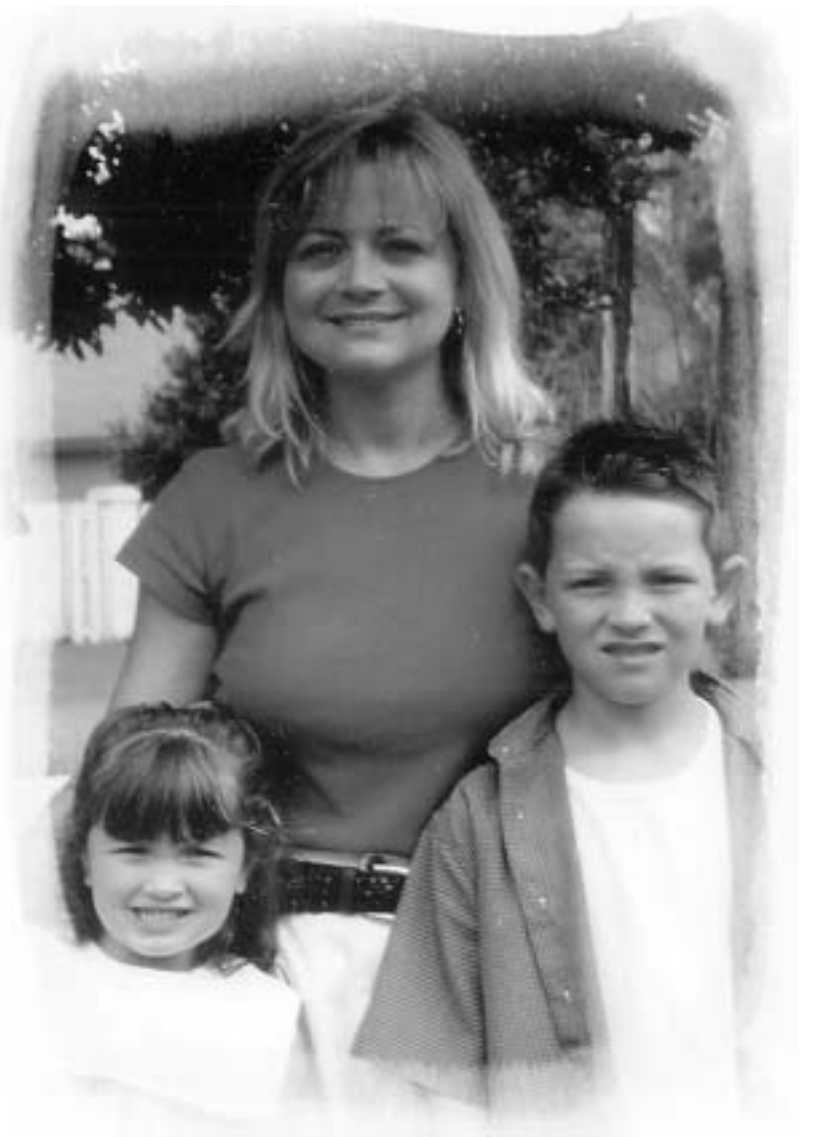
Mary Petersen was still in bed, so Donnie sat beside her and said, "Mommy, I'm hungry." When she didn't respond, he turned the television to cartoons and laid his head on her stomach. He soon realized her body wasn't moving, and he looked at her face. His mother was not breathing.

Eight-year-old Donnie had been taught that if something ever happened to his mother he should immediately call 911 then go to a neighbor's house for help. He tried twice to dial the emergency number, but the call would not go through – the phone was unplugged. He returned to his room, dressed himself and his little 5-year-old sister, and they left the house, not realizing their lives had suddenly, tragically, forever changed.

Today, almost two years later, Mary's death remains a mystery. The death certificate indicated strangulation was the cause of death, although (according to a neighbor who was first on the scene) there were no marks on her body. Because the case has not been resolved, autopsy reports are not available.

Don and Mary Petersen, married nine years with two children, owned a lovely home near the St. Johns River in *The Harbor* near Ft. Caroline Road. Don was (and still is) an Abbott Pharmaceutical rep; Mary worked at Brooks Rehab on University Blvd. as a corporate accounting manager. The couple was separated, divorce pending.

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Mary Elizabeth Petersen with her two children, Rachel and Donnie.

Prostitution – Life in a World of Shadows

JSO Vice Squad targets entire city

By Cindy Graves

If JSO Sergeant John Anderson imagined an ad that would attract participants to the world of hopelessness, poverty and ruined lives that he encounters each day, it might read something like this:

WANTED — Men and women to perform special duties. No skills required. Lack of education preferable. Solicitation skills required. All shifts available, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Drugs provided. No benefits, but community healthcare is an inevitable reality. Must be adaptable to harsh outdoor working conditions and depraved indifference. The candidate most likely to succeed will have previous adult entertainment experience and will have reached the end of the line. Homelessness preferred. Free STD testing. Riverfront accommodations arranged from time to time courtesy of the JSO.

A 29-year veteran of the streets, Sergeant Anderson heads up the Vice Squad through the Organized Crime Division of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. Trying every day to stop the cycle of endless waste, he and the eight officers who form his team police the areas where drugs, violence and hopelessness are a daily reality. These capable, dedicated men and women have seen more heartbreak in a single day than most people encounter in a lifetime.