

FUGITIVES CAPTURED **1194**

CHILDREN FOUND **119**

From the Director ..... 2  
Faith Corner ..... 2  
VAAC Nomination Form ..... 5  
In the Spotlight ..... 6  
Hats Off ..... 7  
Know Your Rights ..... 7

**MISSING PERSONS**

— page 17

VAAC Luncheon ..... 9  
To Protect & Serve ..... 10/11  
On the Lighter Side ..... 12  
MAD DADS ..... 13  
Wanted ..... 14/16  
Shame, Shame, Shame ..... 15

**Save Terri**

Sign petition at [www.justicecoalition.org](http://www.justicecoalition.org)

# VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

JUSTICE COALITION'S

MARCH, 2005

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Volume 12 • Number 1 • FREE



## Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 10-16



**Mayor's Victim Assistance Advisory Council**

by Glen Mitchell, Chair

As we approach our annual observance of Crime Victims' Rights Week, I am again reminded that most of us feel immune or think we are unaffected by crime in our community. I once *knew* that my family and I were immune to the impact of crime. It was something that always happened to someone else, some place else. I would hear about it on the morning news or read of it in the morning paper, but very little of it lingered in my memory much beyond the first cup of coffee. Even after we had personally experienced burglary and auto theft, the significance just rolled off our backs.

Then my family was jolted into reality with the murder of our son, Jeff. Our way of life remains very different, more than 11 years later.

For those of us who have been directly impacted by violent crime, our experience reminds us that we are not immune and that violent crime can strike any person, at any place, at any time. But even now, it is sometimes easy to let our minds slip back into a state of immunity. Then we are quickly awakened by the murder of another child in our community. None of us really likes to be reminded of this. It intrudes on our feeling of well-being, but the truth is that violent crime is growing more pervasive in all our communities, and victims of these acts reside in every part of our city.

As a community, we need not live in fear of this, but we must realize and understand that crime impacts each and every one of us: our families, our friends, our neighbors, our colleagues. It is not just "something that happens, that happens to somebody else."

As Chair of the Mayor's Victim

Victims' Crime Week, page 5

# 96-year old woman raped by grandson

## Courageous elder advocates for her peers

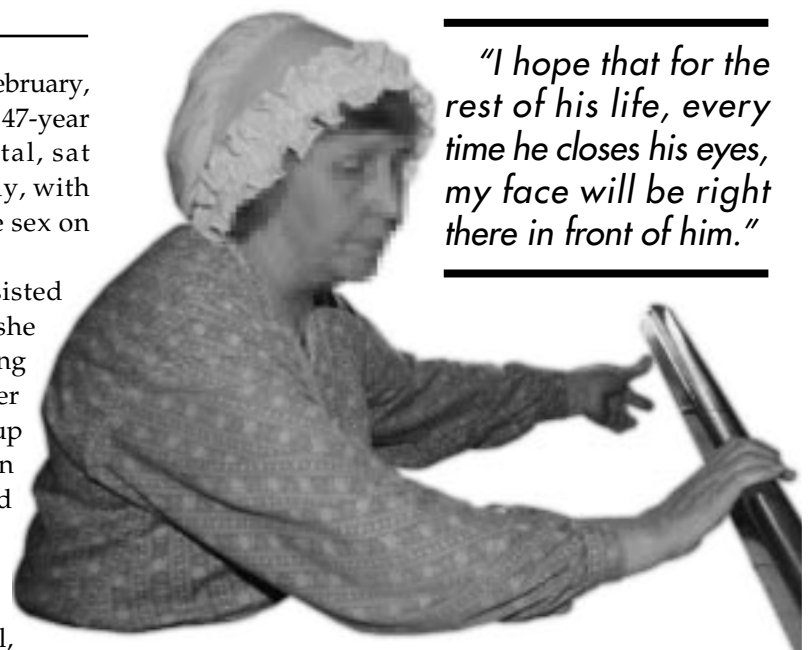
By Nanci Newton

Martha sat quietly in her recliner one day last February, oxygen tubes in place to ease her breathing. Her 47-year old grandson, whose wife was in the hospital, sat nearby with a can of beer in his hand. Suddenly, with no warning, Lloyd Johns began trying to force sex on his 96-year old grandmother.

Shocked by his actions, this tiny woman resisted his assault with all her strength, but although she fought bravely, he easily overpowered her. During the next several hours, Johns threatened to kill her if she yelled. He dragged her through the house, up and down the back steps, across the yard, then finally into her own bedroom, where he assaulted her.

Martha (not her real name) suffered numerous injuries from the violence of the attack. Johns had kept a firm grip on her arm throughout the ordeal, but when he eventually fell asleep, she freed herself from his clutch, sneaked into another room and called 911. When police officers arrived, they discovered the grandson still asleep in Martha's bed.

This courageous elderly woman was hospitalized and then moved to a nursing home. As a result of the horrible incident, she lost her housing, all of her belongings and her family, who were not supportive. She even lost her identity, as she was placed in the nursing home under an alias to protect her from her family.



*"I hope that for the rest of his life, every time he closes his eyes, my face will be right there in front of him."*

### Women's Center of Jacksonville offers help

Victim Advocate Kristy Servant from the Women's Center of Jacksonville's Rape Recovery Team, Nanci Newton, Coordinator of Stop Violence Against Elders project at the Women's Center of Jacksonville, and Victim Advocate Ashley Hammette of the State Attorney's Office worked tirelessly with Martha to help her recover emotionally and to pull together community resources to meet her needs.

Raped at 96, page 3

## The pain lingers on

By Dr. John E. Lapp

She was in her late 20s, married and the mother of three children. Her marriage was on the rocks and she was suffering from bouts of severe depression. Her presentation to me at her first appointment for counseling was about her marriage only.

Further exploration revealed that from age five and into her early adulthood she had been the victim of continuous sexual abuse by her biological father. During the time of abuse, she would often pray that her

father would die or somehow be killed in an automobile accident.

But her prayers went unanswered and the suffering went on.

After we discussed at length her abusive situation, my client developed some insight which led her to conclude that had her father died, she would be left alone with the insufferable effects on her life. She wrote a long and painful letter to her father giving (as she put it) all the guilt and pain back to him. Upon receiving the letter, he denied that it had ever happened. How could he have done this? He was an upstanding and active member of a

local Bible-believing church (in a northern state).

During her many years of molestation, this victim had tried to explain to her mother all that was going on, but her mother would not hear her. After writing her father and receiving his denial, she then wrote her mother, disqualifying her as a real mother, stating the following: "I am a real mother and would not have tolerated even one report of abuse, and would have done damage to my husband or anyone else who would have dared touch any of my children in that

The pain, page 3