

AREA RESOURCE GUIDE

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

Homicide Support/Advocacy

Compassionate Families
354-0007, 721-3326
Life Is Valuable
908-0989
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 & Counselling
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
630-4994

City of Jacksonville

Consumer Affairs Division
630-3467

Detoxification

Gateway Community Services
387-4661

Family

Family Nurturing Center of Florida
389-4244

Guardian Ad Litem Program

220 East Bay Street, 6th Floor
Jacksonville, Florida 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

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

HATS OFF!

Good for you...

...to Latroy Daniels for taking control of his life and his future to be "a better man than his father."

This 23-year-old young man says it's hard living in poverty and being a product of a broken home, having no parent to teach him right from wrong. By age 14 Latroy started selling drugs, thinking that was the only way to survive, and he was jailed as a court-certified adult at age 17.

"I became a man in jail [Duval Correctional Facility]," he says. "I got into a fight one day and was moved to another floor – into the same dormitory with my FATHER! He was on his way to prison, and he said, 'Son, be better than me.'"

Latroy had heard about a GED program in DCF called DAWN – Developing Adults with Necessary Skills [see sidebar] – so he requested to be in the program. "I left my father in that dormitory on a mission to be better than he. The DAWN program was a turnaround point in my life. To meet a counselor like Richard McKissic gave me motivation to do what's right. He made it his business to express the determination he wanted me to have."

When he finished the DAWN program, Latroy obtained his GED, got out of jail and enrolled in college at Florida Metropolitan University. "City

Councilwoman Glorious Johnson helped me enroll in college," he says. "She told me, 'FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION!' Two years from that point in my life I received my AA degree in criminal justice, and two years after that I earned a BA in criminal justice.

"It took a struggle to finish college, but the voices from positive people, such as Richard McKissic, Glorious Johnson, Sandra Hull and Dr. Delphia Williams, kept me motivated to make the struggle and strive."

Currently employed at the City Rescue Mission as a Resident Assistant, Latroy says, "Jacksonville is a place that consists of strong minds and weak minds. The strong mind will have success regardless of the circumstances; the weak mind turns into the criminal mind." And this is one young man with a strong mind to succeed and the determination to help others like him do the same.

Richard McKissic remembers Latroy as "a very intelligent young man who took advantage of the opportunity presented to him and successfully completed the DAWN program."

Dr. Delphia Williams states, "In my opinion, Mr. Latroy Daniels took advantage of the opportunities that were available to help him during his period of challenge."



He did not give in to pressure from his peers nor did he try to handle his problems alone. He reached out to individuals around him who were there willing to listen and provide guidance. In Jacksonville we are fortunate to have programs with caring staff in place who work hard daily to make a difference in the lives of young men like Latroy. His determination to succeed and his willingness to seek advice and then follow that advice is certainly what contributed to his success. I continue to wish nothing but the best for Latroy and have pledged my continued support."

Councilwoman Glorious Johnson recalls "several years ago when Latroy walked into my office at Florida Metropolitan University. He said to me, 'I want to get an education. Can you help me?' Those words were said with sincerity and determination. From that day on, he worked to make

his dream come true. We talked about opportunities in the Criminal Justice System. Even though Latroy had his incidents with the law, I believed that it would be a great opportunity for him to help other young people understand, through his life, that an education is the key to a better life. After Latroy completed his Associate Degree, I explained to him that he needed to continue. Without any hesitation, he completed his Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice.

"Through the tears we both shared, the talks – sometimes for hours, the sharing of our life experiences, and the determination and persistence of Latroy, this young man has become an example for all young people who have very little hope and dreams of becoming successful. I am proud of Latroy and his accomplishments. Through the good, bad, and ugly of what life handed Latroy, he was determined to be a success, not a statistic."

DAWN (Developing Adults With Necessary skills) is a program operated by the City of Jacksonville Community Services Department in partnership with the Jails Division, FCCJ and Gateway Community Services, and has a unique four-tiered approach of education, vocational skills training, employment/life skills training and transitional counseling for young adults age 18 to 21. DAWN is not a prepackaged program, but was developed from scratch by the partners in the program. DAWN inmates learn skills they hone through working with our building engineers on facility maintenance. The inmates in the program are county sentenced, and are housed on the second floor, but the program operates on the fourth. Some of our ex-DAWN inmates work with YouthBuild when released. YouthBuild is another program that is based at MCC and in the community, and works with Habijax and the DART program to assist in providing affordable housing to those who need it, and the destruction of abandoned, neglected properties.

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