

## Missing...

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other loved one. I know how much they need help and how they depend on organizations such as the Justice Coalition to provide interface with the media and advocate with law enforcement. The Coalition staff has assisted since Austin first went missing and as a result we've received good press and TV coverage and experienced good communications with JSO regarding Austin's case.

Since my son vanished, friends and many volunteers I didn't even know have rallied to help us print and post thousands of missing person flyers with Austin's photo and details about his case. Many got busy populating hundreds of websites and social networks. They've also aided Search and Rescue teams from Florida, Georgia and Mississippi, searching hundreds of acres of woodlands on foot and horseback, coping with annoying insects in oppressive heat.

Canine handlers with both tracking and cadaver dogs have traveled hundreds of miles and spent many nights away from home to search small areas based on tips or possible leads. We've had as many as five dog teams at some searches, the expenses covered by organizations and personal donations. Few families have the means to incur the enormous expense associated with a prolonged search for a missing loved one.

I cannot adequately express the hope that arises with every action that is taken to find Austin. Neither can I express my gratitude for the continuing support we receive. Our community is blessed with loving and caring people who are eager to aid in any way they can. Their love, prayers and help have sustained me throughout this unimaginable quest. Without this support and faith in my Father in heaven I don't think I could continue the search

for my son.

Please, the next time you see a missing person flyer pray for that person and the family who is desperately searching. Offer your time, talent and resources. Post flyers, spread the word and help in their search. Get involved with community organizations like the Justice Coalition who organize events and provide other help in locating missing loved ones. Local families of the missing need and rely on the selfless and loving contributions and support of the good and caring people of our community.

*Editor's note: Jim Davis is a recently retired Federal employee, a civilian assigned to the Navy Admiral's anti-terrorism staff that is responsible for the Southeastern US. He and his family continue to search for their son and assist other families. He recently joined a group looking for Bryce Tarter, a missing Armstrong Atlantic University student from Savannah. Please visit these websites for more information: [www.findaustindavis.com](http://www.findaustindavis.com) and [www.findershope.org](http://www.findershope.org).*

## Choices...

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into his lungs, but he persists and soon is addicted to nicotine and perhaps other drugs. Not once did he calculate the cost of this decision.

Besides health and other issues, just the price tag of smoking is astronomical. A carton of cigarettes today costs between \$32 (for generic brands) to as much as \$50 per carton. Smoking one pack a day, therefore, costs between \$1200 and \$1800+ per year. Multiplied by decades of use, the amount of money literally gone up in smoke would be enough to provide many necessities (or luxuries) to an older person looking back on his years of addiction.

The same is true of any other drugs. I heard a judge tell about an attorney friend who out of curiosity decided to try one sniff of cocaine, not believing he could actually become addicted with one use. But he did - and ended up losing everything: a promising career, his family, possessions and self respect. What dire results came from that one choice.

We all know someone, certainly we know about someone, with a similar story. Often drug use begins with marijuana, a substance many consider to be harmless, but extensive research disproves that opinion. Whatever the drug of choice - cocaine, heroin, prescription drugs, alcohol - its toll is immeasurable. Lives, dreams, fulfillment, careers, families all sacrificed to the unrelenting addiction that began with one seemingly innocuous choice.

Prostitution provides some of the saddest examples of individuals making bad decisions. Most of those arrested on the street are addicts who offer their services for \$20 so they can purchase their next fix. We receive letters censuring us for "victimizing" these women, and I respond by agreeing that, sadly, they are victims of their habit, but they chose, for whatever reason, to use drugs. Now, to satisfy their insatiable craving they walk the streets, offering sex to any man who picks them up.

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