

Sexual abuse...

Continued from front page

Children whose bodies have been touched and sexually stimulated have been sexualized. They have a body sensation awareness without emotional or social maturity. They can become preoccupied with these sexual ideas and feelings and have difficulty controlling their behavior.

These effects can last into adulthood. One of the major researchers into child sexual abuse, David Finkelhor, suggests that a majority of children do not disclose their abuse until adulthood, if at all. This means the effects of the abuse have been part of the victims' feelings about themselves for a long time. They still have those childhood-formed ideas and beliefs about the abuse.

The impact of child sexual abuse does not have to be a life sentence of misery. The sooner appropriate intervention happens, the better. For adults who have never dealt with their abuse, it is more difficult but not impossible. Intervention involves helping them look at the impact of the abuse, their feelings and beliefs about themselves and maturing those beliefs into an adult view of what has happened.

Predatory Lending



Ask the Mayor

by Mayor John Peyton

Financial freedom is a key ingredient in the recipe for the American Dream, but it can also be the missing ingredient when people are facing a cash crunch. Too often they get desperate and turn to predatory lenders for help, and that's when the trouble really begins.

Predatory lenders target the most vulnerable citizens—those having money trouble. Often those people who may be at risk of losing their homes and other assets are elderly, poor and uneducated. They are often

weathering a crisis such as a prolonged family illness or unemployment and are susceptible to promises of no-strings cash to help bail them out of a bad situation.

What they don't know is that these cash loans, which are often huge with excessive fees, high interest rates, and

frequent refinances, leave the victim with unmanageable fees on top of their already staggering burden of debt. Alternatively these unregulated companies convince their victims to

sign over their homes – and then strip the equity.

In an effort to help our citizens make smart decisions about their economic health, the City of Jacksonville is supporting a pilot program sponsored by Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. Under the direction of Lynn Drysdale, a Jacksonville Area Legal Aid consumer fraud attorney, the non-profit group will use a city-sponsored grant to provide education and legal assistance to consumers.

Government can't fix these problems alone and that's why it's so important that we have partners like Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. Together we can work to drive these scam artists out of town – and make it clear that they are not welcome in Jacksonville.

For more information, please contact:

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc.
126 West Adams Street, Floor 7
Jacksonville, FL 32202
904-356-8371

Inspirational Thought

And whosoever shall offend one of [these] little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

— Mark 9:42

Faith Corner

The Faith Community holds the key to true Restorative Justice for all mankind. Many churches and businesses support this concept.

The Justice Coalition wishes to thank the following for their support in our quest for this goal of compassion and understanding:

Sugar Bear Antiques Mall
Antiques • Collectibles • Crafts
3047 Julington Creek Rd.
Jacksonville, Florida 32223
Mon - Sat 10-6 • Sun 1-6
(904) 886-0393 • 1-877-886-0394
Michael and Melinda Skie

Larry Marscheck
Senior Advisor
The Marscheck Group
Estate Planning • Safe Investments • Mortgages
Insurance for Your Life, Family & Home
P.O. Box 5064 Jacksonville, FL 32247 (904) 987-2086
Email: Larry506@yahoo.com

Former Gangster and #3 man in Mafia
Speaker: Tom Papania
Banquet - Saturday, May 15, 2004, 6 p.m.
Prime Osborne Convention Center
Reservations: call 731-2491 or 613-6936
Cost: \$25/person - limited seating - call today
Business Men's Fellowship, USA

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • EC 0000521
Lighthouse Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Lighting Your Way
2345 Urban Rd
Jacksonville, FL 32210
(904) 384-0180
Richard L. Graves, President Fax (904) 384-0007
lighthouse_electrical@mail.com

All Military Approved
Cars And Credit
Down Payment Low As \$95.00
778-1314
7440 Blanding Blvd. - Jacksonville, FL 32244

General Contractor State Certified CGC 015338
Williams & Rowe Co.
5215 HIGHWAY AVE.
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32254
Office: 387-2333 387-1414
BOB WILLIAMS

JEFF CRABTREE President
Crabtree Plumbing Inc.
Master Plumber & Contractor
State Cert. # CFC032618
P.O. Box 7076 Jacksonville, FL 32238 (904) 384-4604 Fax (904) 389-4145

American Electric of Jacksonville, Inc.
Commercial • Industrial
8751 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32211 EC 876
OFFICE 721-4044 • FAX 726-0116

Celebration Church of Jacksonville
Proudly supports the Justice Coalition and the Victims' Advocate
Pastor Stoval Weems — www.celebration.org (904) 737-1121

Contemporary Business Services
Scott L. Adams
(904) 387-1128 Fax (904) 388-5798 scott@cbsjax.com
4070 Herschel Suite 3 Jacksonville, FL 32210 www.cbsjax.com

Wayne M. Ellis
ATTORNEY AT LAW
GREEN HARRIS ELLIS
222 EAST FORSYTH STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
PH 904-354-6465 Fax 904-350-1967

Circle K Furniture, Inc.
59,000 SQUARE FEET
FURNITURE AND HOME ACCESSORIES
ON JONES RD. 1 BLOCK NORTH OF BEAVER
(904) 781-1079 239 #4 JONES ROAD JACKSONVILLE, FL 32220

If your business or church would like to appear in this section, please contact us at 783-6312.

I N G O D W E T R U S T !