

## God Given Strength

The Justice Coalition has been a blessing to my family. About a year and a half ago, my whole life was turned upside down. The unthinkable happened to us. A 21-year-old neighbor sexually assaulted my 14-year-old daughter. Not knowing where to turn for information and not having any family in town, a friend suggested that I call the Justice Coalition.

Upon going to the Justice Coalition, I met Ann Dugger. Ann was very compassionate; she made me feel like I had someone on my side. I was not alone any more. Ann prayed with us. It meant so much to me that she would take the time to do that with my daughter and me. Through Ann and the Justice Coalition, I was able to find out information about court dates and other things that no one had bothered to inform my husband or me.

When it came time for court hearings, either Ann or Dick from the Justice Coalition accompanied my husband and me for support. Most of the time they were both there. It really did give me strength, just having them on our side. They were there for us during our whole ordeal.

Because of this horrible ordeal, we were forced to sell our home and move. This uprooted us from our home of seven years and our children had to go to new schools. Even though we had moved and the court hearings were over, we needed desperately to know if the convicted sexual offender had, in fact, registered.

I was unable to get information regarding whether or not he had registered. I had been calling all around for 2 weeks or longer trying to make sure this criminal registered after he got out of jail. No one had followed up with him to make sure he registered. We were horrified to find out that he had not registered like he was supposed to. When I informed the Justice Coalition what was going on, they did some checking and found out in 2 days what I had been trying to find out for 2 weeks. Thanks to Ann and the Justice Coalition, she got the ball rolling and talked to someone who made sure this convicted sexual offender registered. He is now on the FDLE sexual offenders website.

After everything was over, and were trying to get back to a normal life the Justice Coalition was still there. They made sure we had a turkey for the holidays, and invited us to come to their Justice Jamboree. We really had a great time!!

I am so thankful for everything the Justice Coalition has done for my family. You know that they truly care about you and what you may be going through, and they give you strength and encouragement.

Looking back, I never thought I would get through this horrible event. Ann told me I would get through it, and somehow I have. I found strength from GOD and the Justice Coalition.

Sheri Aronowitz

## Dear Community Readers

### Jim's Story

Early on the evening of May 12, 2000, my world was unbelievably shattered. My husband, Jim Edwards, had stopped at a convenience store in Amelia Island for some refreshments after performing with his Jazz group nearby. When he returned to his vehicle, he was car-jacked, taken to a nearby golf course and murdered. In an instant, the safe and sheltered world my family and I lived in, collapsed. The realization that something like this could happen to our family began to sink in. How, why, where, and who were all questions we had no answers to. Even though it has been over two and a half years since this horrible tragedy occurred, the nearly unbearable feeling of loss and sadness are a daily struggle for my family and myself.

I am writing this letter to express my truly sincere appreciation to the Justice Coalition for their unwavering support and guidance. Throughout this whole ordeal, they have been very attentive and supportive of my needs, providing valuable advice and insight as to how the judicial system will proceed with our case. The Justice Coalition has shown unprecedented dedication to our case by voluntarily having a representative attend each and every hearing and pre-trial since the beginning over two years ago. They have provided me with the priceless feeling of knowing that someone else does care. I can assure you that the support and kindness shown by Mr. Hires, Ann Dugger, Suzann Dukes, and the rest of their staff has not gone unnoticed. I hope when this ordeal is behind me, I can return the kindness and generosity to someone in their time of need.

With grateful thanks for everything you have given me, I remain Sincerely yours,  
Jean H. Edwards

## Golden Harvest

May we eat the greater yield  
Of God's golden harvest and of ripened field  
We must always remember too  
That His spirit is within you  
And what good seed you plant today  
Will come back again in a beautiful way.

Yvonne Harris



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