

FUGITIVES CAPTURED **1962**
 MISSING PERSONS FOUND **165**

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October 21

JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

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InVESTing in Domestic Violence Victims

By Mayor John Peyton



Each year I join other elected representatives across the nation in officially recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Many community leaders, victim services agencies, lawmakers and residents do the same. While it is appropriate that we take that important opportunity to focus more on domestic violence issues, the city's Victim Services Center, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and their many partners concentrate efforts and attention on domestic violence victims year-round.

The Victim Services Center administers the Arrest Grant Program (AGP) that is funded by the Office on Violence Against Women within the U.S. Department of Justice. This program enhances victim safety and offender accountability in cases of domestic violence by establishing a domestic violence court in Duval County and by coordinating comprehensive law enforcement, advocacy and legal services for victims of domestic crime. The city serves as the project coordinator for the AGP and works in partnership with Hubbard House, the State Attorney's Office, the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to manage and implement program strategies. The City of Jacksonville recently received extended grant funding to sustain this vital program through August 2011.

One of the major components of the AGP is the Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team (InVEST) Program, a unit within the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office that investigates, identifies and intervenes in the most potentially lethal domestic violence cases. If victims are deemed at risk of serious and/or life-threatening harm, team members proactively reach out to them and offer a wide range of support services, and, to date, domestic violence has not taken the lives of any of the program's clients. InVEST has earned numerous awards, including the 2007 Award for Professional Inno-

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"Always looking over my shoulder"

Domestic violence victims rarely feel safe

By Sherrie Clark

Each October we pause to recognize the pandemic of domestic violence in our society. It's a time to remind everyone that domestic violence is indeed a crime rooted in the abuser's need to have power and control over his victim.

For many domestic violence victims who have managed to survive (literally) an abusive marriage or relationship, the need to constantly look over their shoulders becomes a daily component of their lifestyle. Always wondering if their abusers will find them, they stay in perpetual hiding.

Each one carries her own emotional and sometimes physical wounds and scars and, undoubtedly, her (or his) own personal story. We share four of them here, changing names for their protection.

Michelle's husband/abuser was a psychologist. Greg demeaned facets of her life in which she took pride, attempting to destroy her self-worth. Beginning with verbal put-downs, the abuse soon became physical. He'd shred her clothes, throw her against the wall, try to strangle her, choke her until she passed out, punch her in the face and stomach, and even



caused her to miscarry. He beat her when she was five months pregnant, convinced the baby wasn't his. "I should have died," she said. "I don't know why I didn't, but my baby did."

Even so, there were good and loving times when Greg seemed

LOOKING... CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Ted Hires Legacy Award Recipients

October 21, 6:00 p.m.
 Morocco Shrine Center

Join us at the Ted Hires Legacy Award dinner to honor these outstanding citizens in our community. For information about reservations, call the Justice Coalition office at 783-6312.



Government Agency Award honors a government agency/organization for its service to victims of violent crime.

State Attorney Angela B. Corey

During the first 18 months of Ms. Corey's administration, the SAO has compiled impressive records: filed almost 5,000 felony cases (twice as many as previous years); conducted 321 felony jury trials (twice the state average); filed 230 juvenile felony cases (twice as many as in previous years); and conviction rates are up from 72 percent to 88.

Since January 2009 when she became State Attorney, 908 felons have been sentenced to 10 years or more in prison (including 113 who received a life sentence or the death penalty), almost twice as many as the previous 18 months.



Business Award recognizes a local business owner, corporation, or organization outside the victim assistance field for service to victims and/or contribution to victims of violent crime.

Lockwood P. Holmes

President and CEO of Poole Management Company, a portfolio management and holding company which invests in a variety of businesses, Mr. Holmes has served as a consultant and Board member for a variety of enterprises, and has long been a generous contributor to the Justice Coalition and many other non-profit and faith-based organizations. He always responds to requests for funds to post rewards (for information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals) and other needs for victims.



Outstanding Citizen Award recognizes victim or survivor of violent crime exhibiting exceptional perseverance in dealing with his/her own victimization.

Isaac (Ike) E. Brown is a 25-year JSO veteran, now on the US Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, whose son was murdered in 2003. On his own time he works with a church prison ministry, mentors at-risk youth to let them know there is a better life, speaks to youth groups about choices and their consequences, and has forgiven and befriended the man who killed his son. The youth he mentors all have his phone number, and he's available to them 24 hours a day. He arrests many suspects from the Wanted page of VA newspapers he keeps in his car, including those turned in to him from people on the street who respect him.

TED HIRES LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENTS...
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