



# Mothers Help

*Do the right thing*

**MY STORIES ARE VERY DRAMATIC** situations in which mothers help mothers, neighbors help neighbors and communities watch out for each other. There are many ways in which we can make dramatic differences in people's lives.

When I first moved to Coral Springs from New York with a toddler and a preschooler, I was pregnant with my third child and scared in unfamiliar surroundings. We had just moved into a new development that was under construction. There weren't too many houses.

I left my two boys home with my husband while I went to buy diapers. When I got back, I was surprised to hear that my two-year-old had left the house on his own, taking his tricycle for a ride, without my husband's knowledge. The good news is that my son had already been returned to our house in the forty-five minutes I had been out. I was so grateful to the Coral Springs police for acting so promptly and efficiently. As a result, Coral Springs was not a scary place for me any longer. I wrote a letter of thanks to the police.

Later I was informed that the police had the help of a neighbor from around the block. This woman, Savtri Daswani, was on her way to work. She stopped her routine to call the police and make sure that my son found his way home. So many horrible things could have happened that day to change the course of my family forever. How many people would have stopped or even taken the time to notice this little boy on his own?

Savtri Daswani is my hero and friend. Her daughter, Neisha Russo, became my children's babysitter when they were young and now she is a fourth grade teacher in Coral Springs.

Another dramatic situation occurred on my birthday. On my way home from work, I saw an ambulance at my neighbor's house. My children were with their babysitter when my older son, then age 12 or 13, was doing a magic trick. He put a coin in his mouth (he should have known better) and inadvertently swallowed it.

The sitter didn't know what to do, so she took my son to my neighbor, Nancy Ponzan, who did the Heimlich maneuver on him. She was able to get the coin dislodged as the medics watched. We were so lucky that my neighbor was knowledgeable and ready to help my son. Nancy is a teacher's aide in Park Trails. The school is certainly lucky to have her.

It can be uncomfortable confronting a parent when we see an issue that may need attention. I applaud the people who inform parents of issues needing attention because they are acting as the voice of children.

I am in awe of those people who get involved and help others just because it is the right thing to do. Thank you to everyone else for acting or speaking out to make a difference in the quality of a youngster's life.