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The 10-year-old boy stood in the front walkway of his house looking at his parents for the last time while on the phone with a 911 dispatcher.

Sept. 3, 2010, at around 11:20 p.m. the boy found his mother, Paula Beltre, and father, Jose A. Ferreira, lying on the ground in a pool of blood, he told the dispatcher. According to a Palm Beach Post article, the gun was at his father's feet at his home at 1183 Summerwood Circle in Wellington, Florida.

Late that night, Ferreira had shot and killed his ex-wife and then killed himself immediately after, while his two youngest children were in the house. The couple divorced in 2008, after a 20-year marriage.

The oldest son, now 22 years old, was not home to witness the murder suicide, unlike his siblings, but returned to find out a couple hours after. Today, he is still dealing with repercussions of the event, as to be expected.

Lisa Duvall, a neighbor who lived across the street at that time recalls the screams she heard on that night.

"I still remember," Duvall said. "It's like it's etched into my brain. All I heard were screams. I can only imagine the terrors of the children who had to see their parents dead."

Duvall and a few others helped clean up the blood of the crime scene so that Ferreira could walk into his own house without having to step into the pool of his parents' blood on the way in through the front entrance.

The Duvall family also opened their home to the children during the investigation until the aunt came to pick them up.

“My son was 10 years old as well at the time, the same age as the little boy who saw his parents and called 911,” Duvall said. “I still can’t fathom how a father, who supposedly loved his children so much, could do this to his children - it’s disgustingly selfish. I can’t even think of how it would make my son feel.”

The younger son and daughter were 10 and 11 years old at the time, respectively. Since that night, they have been under the custody of an aunt, their mother’s sister.

The oldest son, Jonathan Ferreira, chose not to stay with his aunt.

“I just couldn’t do it to her,” Ferreira said. “She has kids of her own and I just couldn’t burden her by being another mouth to feed. I knew she wouldn’t be able to handle it. I was 19 at the time, already an adult. I could care for myself.”

Ferreira still lives in the same house that he grew up in, with many sweet childhood memories, and one bitter one that still haunts him today, he said.

“The news is what made it the most difficult to deal with, I think,” Ferreira said. “All of their stories twisted around the truth. They made it sound as though it was my mom’s fault that she was killed because she ‘should have seen this coming’ or ‘should have taken more action to prevent this,’ as if she could have seen it coming. Then, the news basically excused that man Jose by saying that it was ‘out of character’ and that he was ‘depressed.’ Well, I was depressed when I lost them and it would have been ‘out of character’ for me to kill someone, but I would never dream of it.”

St. Rita’s Catholic Church helped Ferreira to get back on his feet. The church members collaborated to pay his utility bill for about a year, and they helped him with a garage sale that raised over \$2,000 for him to buy food and live on.

Since then, Ferreira has gone door-to-door telling his story and looking for small jobs around the house that he could help with. He has mowed lawns, cleaned pools, and washed cars, among other small household chores.

“What most people recognize right away is that I’m not looking for handouts. I think that’s why they’re so willing to give me small tasks,” Ferreira said. “Yes, I need the money. But, I’m actually willing to work for it.”

While most 22-year-olds are just graduated and looking for a career they are passionate about, Ferreira only hopes to get his life back in order.

“One step at a time, I’ll get back on my feet,” Ferreira said. “Right now, I’m kind of just living day-to-day, hoping that I can get past my horrible past and once again regain the strength to find happiness.”

Sources:

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<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/crime-law/relatives-stunned-that-man-killed-his-ex-wife-at-h/nL9k6/>