



Resource Center Model: Evaluation, Refinement, and Expansion

Grantee: Partnership for Strong Families (PSF)

Lead Evaluator: Dr. Robin Perry, Director of the Institute for Child and Family Services Research

Key Partners

Child Welfare: Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Columbia County:

- Richardson Center Community Center Recreation Complex
- Library District
- Health Department
- Housing Authority
- School Board
- Chamber of Commerce

Law Enforcement: Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Lake City Police Department and the Department of Juvenile Justice

Other Community Partners:

- Healthy Families
- Catholic Charities
- United Way
- Early Learning Coalition
- Three Rivers Legal Services
- Meridian Behavioral Healthcare

Program & Services Update

Expansion Site - NorthStar Family Resource Center (NSFRC) opened its doors to the public in March 2021 and is currently providing free services for the Lake City community including academic enrichment, emergency food assistance, employment services, faxing, computer access and more.

PSF's existing Resource Centers (RCs), the Library Partnership RC, the SWAG Family Resource Center and Cone Park RC, all located in Gainesville, FL, continue to provide easily accessible, non-stigmatizing environments for community members to seek needed resources to strengthen their families. Thanks to partnerships with more than 75 organizations, every service and resource is provided at no cost to patrons.



[Click here to see more photos and videos from the Grand Opening of the NorthStar Family Resource Center](#)

Project Goals

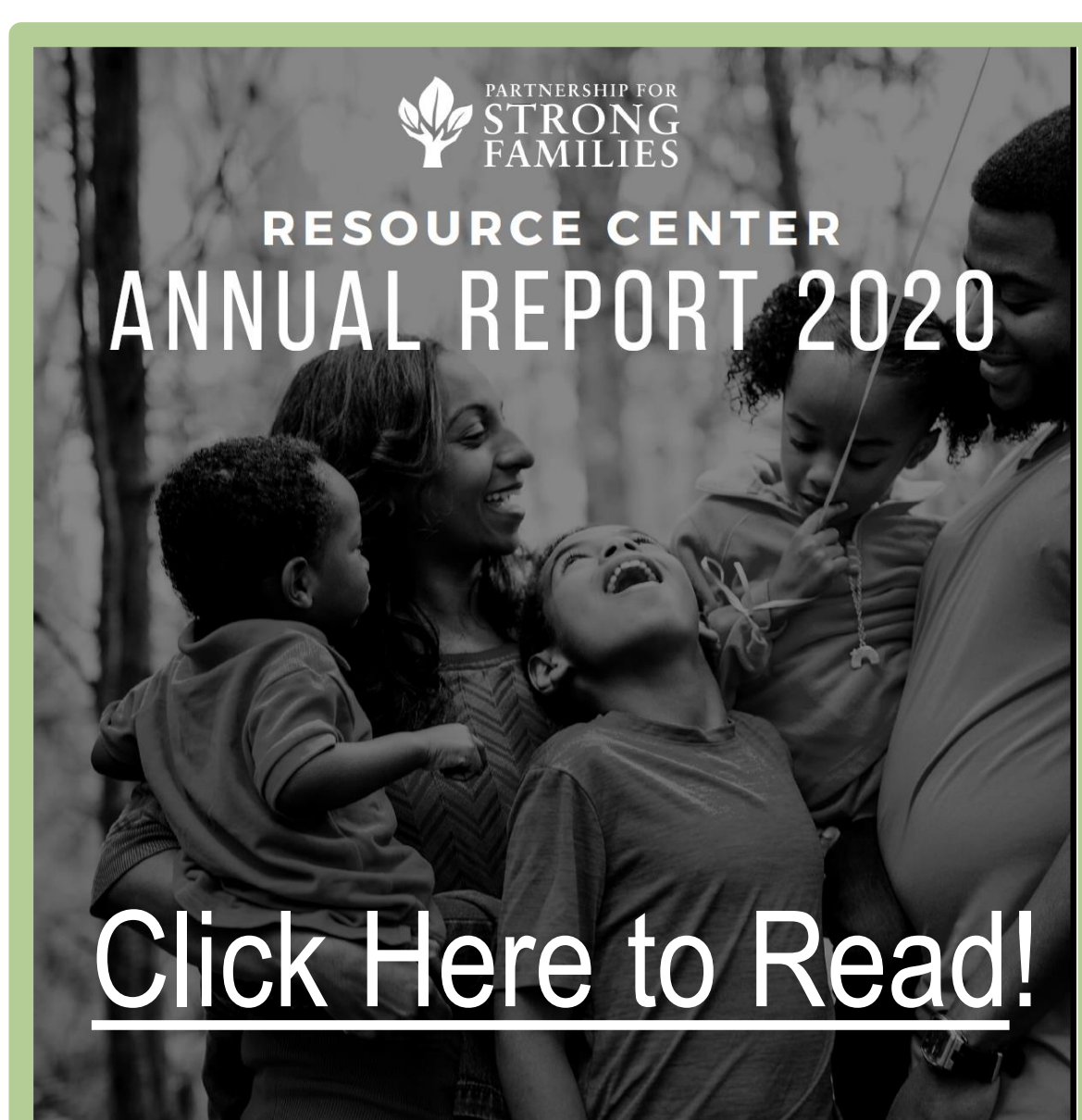
- To refine the program model in a manner responsive to the results generated from a comprehensive program self-assessment and community-based needs assessment.
- Integration of service activities within each RC that are linked to protective factors and represent a meaningful multi-agency/multi-system community collaboration.
- To enhance the well-being of children and families and increase the protective factors of families within identified high-risk communities served by PSF.
- To increase the likelihood of primary and secondary child maltreatment prevention within the communities served by PSF RCs.

Target Population

In 2020, the three Gainesville Resource Centers received 20,445 visits, with an estimated 11,482 unduplicated patrons. It is anticipated that the NSFRC will serve between 2,500 and 3,000 patrons each year. If a 30% participation rate is achieved, this would represent approximately 3,440 patron study subjects at the three Gainesville RC sites and between 750 and 900 patron study subjects at the NSFRC. With the current COVID-19 pandemic, however, it is not yet known if this population size will continue to be realistic for our project.

Innovative Feature or Activity

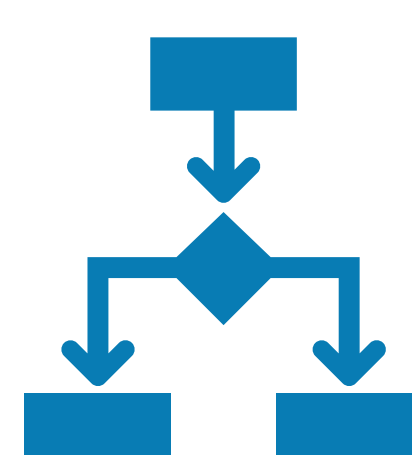
Staff and volunteers at the RCs utilize the **protective factors framework**, a proven model for child abuse prevention that focuses on reducing the likelihood of child abuse and neglect by increasing the presence of five protective factors in families.



[Click Here to Read!](#)



[Click here to see more photos from our Visioning Session, held in November 2020.](#)



[Click here to learn more about our evaluation activities and anticipated outcomes.](#)



[Click here to see our Presentation of Community Strengths and Needs Assessment.](#)

NORTHSTAR
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

SWAG
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

CONE PARK LIBRARY
RESOURCE CENTER

LIBRARY
PARTNERSHIP
RESOURCE CENTER