



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Foster Families Honored for National Foster Care Month

Gainesville, Fla - Partnership for Strong Families (PSF), the lead child welfare agency for 13 North Central Florida counties, will host a banquet to honor local foster parents at the Santa Fe River Ranch in Alachua on May 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The banquet is in honor of National Foster Care Month and will thank Partner Families, the term the agency uses for their foster parents, for their service to victims of child abuse and neglect.

The western-themed banquet will include dinner and feature a keynote speaker, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families Mike Carroll. The Emcee for the evening will be Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell. The Nex Gen Band, comprised of children and teens who are currently or have been in foster care, will provide inspirational entertainment along with dancers Chaitanya Nolan and Eddie Knight, also foster care alumni.

Awards will be given to spotlight outstanding Partner Families, and each family will leave the event with an elaborate, themed gift basket that has been donated by community members, organizations, churches and PSF staff.

“This annual event honors our 100 Partner Families who open their homes to children and teens who need a safe, loving, nurturing home in order to thrive,” stated Stephen Pennypacker, President/CEO of Partnership for Strong Families. “Nearly 250 children and teens are currently in the foster care system in North Central Florida, and these Partner Families provide love and stability in their lives until they can safely be returned home or find permanency through adoption.”

During National Foster Care Month, PSF has a social media campaign running to breakdown myths about foster parenting. The campaign’s theme is, “Foster parents are extraordinary people, but it doesn’t take anything out of the ordinary to become a foster parent.” PSF is also highlighting their gratitude for current Partner Families every Thursday with the hashtag #ThankfulThursday, and every Friday PSF is highlighting children available for adoption with the hashtag #FosterCareFriday.

To learn more about Partnership for Strong Families or for information on becoming a Partner or Adoptive Family, please visit www.partnerfamily.org.

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About Partnership for Strong Families:

Partnership for Strong Families is the lead community-based care agency for Florida Judicial Circuits Three and Eight, including Alachua County. PSF is contracted by the Florida Department of Children and Families to deliver comprehensive child welfare services to children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Partnership for Strong Families also works with at-risk families to prevent child abuse and to decrease the risk of children entering the foster care system. PSF serves more than 5,000 children in 13 counties annually.