



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Stephen Pennypacker

President/CEO

[Stephen.Pennypacker@pfsf.org](mailto:Stephen.Pennypacker@pfsf.org)

352-359-0157

**LOCAL FOSTER YOUTH ART SHOW SOLD OUT**

**GAINESVILLE, FLA** – Partnership for Strong Families (PSF), the lead community-based care agency in North Central Florida, in partnership with local artist Hilary White, hosted an art gallery exhibit event on Friday, June 9. All artwork was created by local foster and adoptive youth and was available for sale with proceeds going directly to the youth artists.

The event was the culmination of a program titled “Made New Arts” directed by White which uses art as a way to build the confidence and self-esteem of foster and adoptive youth in Gainesville by providing them a creative outlet. Several of the artists were able to attend the event and meet the people who purchased their artwork. The exhibit was the first of its kind, but hopefully not the last.

“This event was a great opportunity to show the community just one of the ways we’re collaborating with other groups to help the children in our care,” stated Stephen Pennypacker, President/CEO of Partnership for Strong Families. “We’re very appreciative to everyone who came out to support these kids. The joy on their faces at seeing a ‘sold’ sticker by their paintings is unforgettable.”

The exhibit was hosted at Gallery Protocol, a locally owned art gallery whose owner donated the use of the space for the evening. Each piece of artwork was sold by the end of the night and all proceeds go directly to the youth who created them. The event also allowed children available for adoption to meet potential families and socialize with PSF employees, Board members and other visitors.

“I’ve always had a heart for kids and adoption specifically,” said White. “This project is a way I can offer a voice kids who need it most and help raise awareness for their needs while offering them extra resources.”

The Made New Arts program is ongoing and will continue to help empower participants through the creative arts and social interaction. Monetary and in-kind donations of art supplies are welcome and can be arranged by visiting [madenewartsinitiative.com](http://madenewartsinitiative.com). Volunteers will also be needed for additional youth-oriented projects beginning soon.

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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.