

# New Gainesville hybrid library and social services center opens.



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A brand new hybrid library and social services center opened its doors to the public Saturday. Take a look at some of the opportunities this new space offers for the community.

More than a hundred people came to check out Gainesville's new library partnership center which offers traditional library resources as well as services for families such as job finding, interviewing techniques and even a free clothing closet twice a week.

Library Director Shaney Livingston explained what a "partnership library" is. "What it allows for the citizens of Alachua County it allows for them to come to a one stop center to really be able to get an array of resources. Because in addition to the library the Partnership for Strong Families brings in over 20 agencies each week that they can get numerous services for."

Ken Cornell is a library governing board member who added on to that explanation with, "they're combining library services with social services to bring a kind of suite of services to the community in one location."

Livingston said the library side of the center has a few technology opportunities including kids and teens computer areas and a fully outfitted media room.

"we have added a new audio studio recording center here and it will be an opportunity for citizens to come in and do their own recording, their own digital doing and their own podcasting."

As people flooded in to see what the center had to offer many expressed their excitement for future opportunities ☒

Deborah Williams just wanted to see what the new building looked like and had to offer she said, "I always came to the partnership library at the old one but when I walked in here I loved it, it's bigger. I think they're going to have more material that we can use and choose from."



Including plenty of educational programs for kids of all ages.

Livingston mentioned a few of the programs which will be available all year for children of all ages. "The library is more than just books we've gone out to offer make a space program, 3-D printing, lego create space so there's just so many wonderful programs."

The center was originally budgeted for 1.9 million, the final product came in under budget at 1.7 million. The extra money will go to other library projects as well as more books.

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