



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 24, 2018

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**NON-PROFIT FOOD DISTRIBUTOR PARTNERS WITH LOCAL RESOURCE CENTER**

**CHIEFLAND, FLA** – The Tri-County Community Resource Center (TCCRC), a collaborative endeavor between Partnership for Strong Families (PSF), the grassroots group Tri-County Community Resources (TCCR) and other community partners, hosted a food giveaway this week. The event, which took place the morning of Monday, January 22, 2018, allowed families and individuals to receive free food from Farm Share, a non-profit organization that collects surplus produce from farmers across the state and distributes it to communities in need.

With help from 50 volunteers, event organizers delivered more than 30,067 pounds of fresh produce, breads and other foods to 1,037 individuals from 342 households. Volunteers included Mary Ellzey, Chiefland City Manager, PSF staff members and TCCR board members, Citizens on Patrol of Levy County Sheriff's Office, Chiefland Police Department officers, as well as individuals from North Florida Pediatrics, the Dixie/Gilchrist/Levy Health Department and other community members.

“This event was a huge success thanks to the dedicated volunteers from Farm Share and our local community,” said Beverly Goodman, Tri-County Community Resource Center. “This is only the first of what we hope to be many food distribution events benefitting the Tri-County area. We plan to host two giveaways each year moving forward.”

Farm Share, Inc., based in Homestead, Florida opened in 1991 with the mission to alleviate hunger and malnutrition by recovering and distributing fresh and nutritious food to those who need it most. The organization sorts and packages surplus food donated by Florida farms and distributes it to communities in rural areas and impoverished neighborhoods.

“This new partnership with Farm Share is just one of the ways that we seek to provide a robust and well-rounded array of services to families,” said Stephen Pennypacker, President/CEO of Partnership for Strong Families. “Obviously, one organization cannot meet every need of every family, so when opportunities to join forces with established programs which offer critical resources to the people we serve, it’s a win all around.”

Since April 2014, TCCRC has offered programming and services to families and individuals in Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy counties. Each service based on five protective factors, which, when present in families, have been shown to reduce the likelihood of child abuse or neglect. The new partnership with Farm Share is part of its increasing portfolio of services around the factor of concrete supports in times of need. The Resource Center is a critical component of PSF’s work to address the needs of families in crisis and help them avoid involvement in the child welfare system.

To learn more about the Center or how to contribute to its efforts, visit [www.pfsf.org/resource-centers](http://www.pfsf.org/resource-centers). To learn more about Farm Share, Inc., visit [www.farmshare.org](http://www.farmshare.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.