



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUPERHERO 5K AIMS TO RECRUIT FOSTER, ADOPTIVE PARENTS FOR LOCAL YOUTH**

**Gainesville, Fla** – Partnership for Strong Families (PSF), the lead community-based care agency for Florida Judicial Circuits 3 and 8, will host a “Superhero 5K” on November 14 at Kanapaha Park in Gainesville. All funds raised from the event will go toward recruiting foster and adoptive families for local foster youth.

The race will begin at 8:30 a.m. for runners and at 8:45 a.m. for walkers. Check-in and packet pick-up will begin at 7:00 a.m. the day of the race. Participants can also choose to pick up their packet and check-in early on November 13 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Fit2Run in the Oaks Mall.

Registration is \$5 for children ages 6 – 15 and \$20 for ages 16 and up. Children 5 and under are free. Registration includes a race timing bib for runners, goodie bag and race t-shirt for the first 200 adult registrants. Children’s t-shirts can be purchased for an additional \$5. Late registrations on-site on race day are \$30.

PSF is hoping this event is a catalyst to increase awareness of the need for foster parents, or Partner Families as the agency calls them, and to change the conversation around adoption.

“We want this event to be a special opportunity for our children who have been adopted see that adoption is something to celebrate, not be ashamed of,” stated Jenn Petion, Director of Community and Government Relations. “As an adoptive parent myself, I want my son to know that overcoming that early trauma makes him a superhero in our eyes. And as a system advocate, I want the community to know we need more loving families to adopt these super kids.”

The agency also says the need for Partner Families in North Central Florida is great.

“We have seen a statewide increase in the number of children being removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect over the past year, and we have truly felt the effects of that increase locally,” said Stephen Pennypacker, President/CEO of Partnership for Strong Families. “We need more Partner Families in our community to provide a safe and stable environment for these children, and we need Adoptive Families willing to open their hearts and homes to the more than 30 local children currently available for adoption.”

Event sponsors include Giggle Magazine, Village Counseling Center, Glassman & Zissimopoulos Law, Fit2Run, Skate Station and Splitz Funworks, Treefrog Photography, Law Office of Mary K. Wimsett, Perry Roofing Contractors, Kim Kazimour, Capoeira Academy of Gainesville, Kids ‘n Capes, Publix and the Bagel Bakery.

For more information or to register for the Superhero 5K, visit [www.PSFSuperhero5K.org](http://www.PSFSuperhero5K.org).

For more information about Partnership for Strong Families, please visit [www.pfsf.org](http://www.pfsf.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.