



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM BOOSTED BY SPECIAL VISIT**

**GAINESVILLE, FLA** – The SWAG Family Resource Center (SWAG FRC), a collaborative endeavor between Partnership for Strong Families (PSF), the Southwest Advocacy Group (SWAG) and other community partners, is organizing a unique event focused on mental health. “Cracked Not Broken: Shattering the Stigma” will take place Wednesday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m. at Infinite Energy and will feature local mental health resource agencies as well as guest speaker Kevin Hines, nationally known mental health advocate.

Cracked Not Broken is designed to educate attendees on the importance of mental health, especially for teens and their families. Kevin Hines, a suicide survivor and global activist for mental health and suicide prevention, will be the keynote speaker. Hines is one of the few who has survived a suicide attempt of jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge, and he shares his story of building his toolkit for mental wellness across the world. Local representatives will include: Santa Fe College Counseling Center, UF Counseling and Wellness Center, Alachua County Crisis Center, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, CDS Family & Behavioral Services, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Alachua County School Board – School Counseling & Student Services and therapy dog, Beau.

The event is made possible by a generous mental health-focused grant from the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners. This grant has also supported similar long-term programming offered at SWAG FRC, including the WhyTry social emotional learning program held regularly at the Resource Center.

“We are looking forward to hosting this esteemed guest,” stated Stephen Pennypacker, President/CEO of Partnership for Strong Families. “His unique insight as a suicide survivor and his credentials from national and international groups make his voice a welcome one in the critical conversation surrounding mental health in our community. We’re grateful to the Board of County Commissioners and other partners who have contributed to this event and other programming we are proud to offer at the Resource Center.”

Since 2012, SWAG FRC has offered programming and services based on five protective factors, which, when present in families, have been shown to reduce the likelihood of child abuse or neglect. “Cracked Not Broken” is part of its increasing portfolio of services around the factor of family functioning and resiliency and social connections.

For more information on the event, visit Partnership for Strong Families’ Facebook site and click on the event page. To learn more about SWAG FRC or how to contribute to its efforts, visit [www.pfsf.org/resource-centers](http://www.pfsf.org/resource-centers).

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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.