



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NATION LEARNING FROM GAINESVILLE RESOURCE CENTERS**

**GAINESVILLE, FLA** — Three community Resource Centers in Gainesville are receiving national attention for their innovation and success in addressing Gainesville’s communities that have historically shown the highest rates of crime, poverty, domestic violence and child abuse. The development of the three centers – the Library Partnership, SWAG Family Resource Center and Cone Park Library Resource Center – was chronicled by Casey Family Programs in a report titled, “Strong Families and Safe Children: How Community Resource Centers are Helping Families in Gainesville.”

Casey Family Programs, the nation’s largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the needs for foster care and building Communities of Hope for children across America, has been an integral partner in the Gainesville Resource Centers since their inception. The centers are operated by Partnership for Strong Families and are supported by more than 40 local partners and providers.

“We believe our Resource Center Model has seen such success in offering the services and resources needed to support the family, thanks to the collaboration of community partners and patron involvement,” stated Stephen Pennypacker, President/CEO of Partnership for Strong Families.

This success is supported by community-level data, which shows a 44-58% reduction in the rates of verified child maltreatment from 2009-2015 in the zip codes served by the three Resource Centers. Now, national leaders are looking to Partnership for Strong Families’ model to replicate these proven child abuse prevention strategies.

“We’ve been impressed by their ability to bring people in to address a crisis need, but then move them along a path to self-sufficiency to a place where they then want to give back. That’s what strengthens communities,” shared Paul DiLorenzo, senior director for Casey Family Programs.

PSF has successfully replicated their model in Chiefland, a rural town located in Levy County, and hopes to continue this model across North Central Florida. Next, agency representatives will travel to Washington D.C. in March to present at the Child Welfare Leave of America’s 2017 national conference.

To learn more about the success of Partnership for Strong Families’ Resource Center Model, download [“Strong Families and Safe Children: How Community Resource Center are Helping Families in Gainesville.”](#)

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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.