



RESOURCE CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2020



NORTHSTAR
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



CONE PARK LIBRARY
RESOURCE CENTER



TRI-COUNTY
COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTER



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



LIBRARY
PARTNERSHIP
RESOURCE CENTER

INTRODUCING THE NORTHSTAR FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



Our newest Resource Center will be opening its doors March 18, 2021 in Lake City at the Richardson Community Center.

The name was proposed by Dr. Philip Mobley, Manager of the NorthStar Family Resource Center, who shared the following inspiration for the name:

"The **North Star** is a beacon of inspiration and hope for many. The North Star is the anchor of the northern sky. It is a landmark, or sky marker, that helps those who follow it determine direction as it glows brightly to guide and lead toward a purposeful destination. Professionally, the North Star represents an agency's unwavering definition of its purpose, its service and its clients. Clarity about a company's North Star leads leaders toward their goals and helps them to envision the company's future growth. For African Americans, the North Star is as real as it is inspirational, and as spiritual as it is celestial. Another very important aspect of the North Star for African Americans is the indication of freedom. When enslaved people in the southern United States sought freedom from those who held them as captives, they devised ways to escape toward the North. Finally, The North Star was the name of an anti-slavery newspaper. It was started by Frederick Douglass, also a former slave who understood the depth of the importance of light and guidance."

The logo, pictured above, carries the color and brand of the Richardson Community Center, home to the future NorthStar Family Resource Center. This location will allow us to reach many families within walking distance of the center and provides ample space for community events and programs.

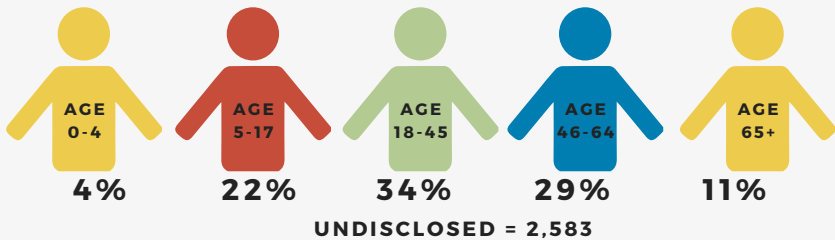
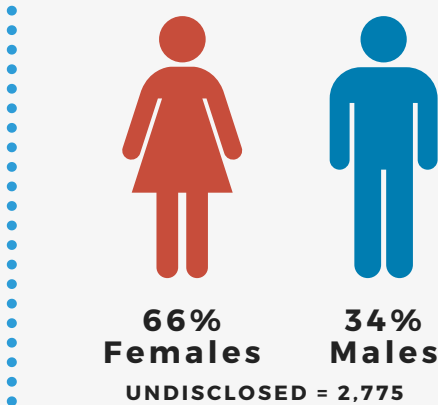
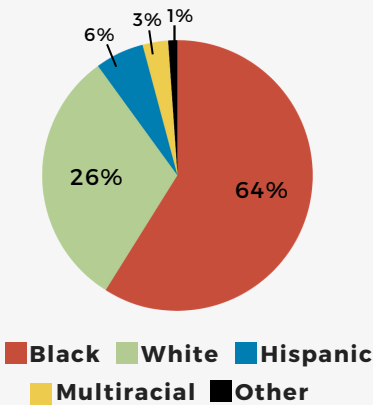
This expansion is supported by the five-year Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families grant we received from the Children's Bureau last year. We are excited about this important milestone and look forward to sharing more as our plans develop.



IMPACT STATEMENT

Since the 2008/2009 fiscal year, data from the Department of Children and Families shows a remarkable **79% decrease in the rates of verified child maltreatment** in the five zip codes served by our Alachua County Resource Centers.

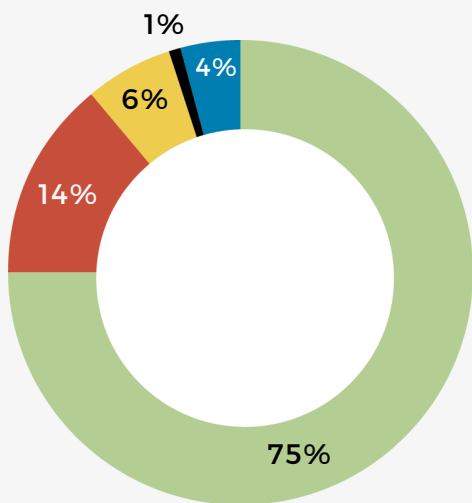
OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



26,095

SERVICES
REQUESTED

Every service is tied to one of five **Protective Factors**, which when present in families are shown to reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect.



Services requested by Protective Factors:

- Concrete Supports/Basic Needs**
Ex: Food, Clothing Closet, Rental/Utility Assistance, Computer/Fax
- Social Connections**
Ex: Capoeira, Girl Scouts, Movie Days, Beading Class
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development**
Ex: Homework Help, After School Enrichment, Story Time
- Nurturing and Attachment**
Ex: Holiday Crafts, Outdoor Movie Nights, Science Club Field Trips
- Family Functioning and Resiliency**
Ex: Health Information, Job Searching, Legal Assistance

\$95,190
IN-KIND DONATIONS

75+
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

64
VOLUNTEERS

6,557
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$250,287
GRANTS*

*Grants: Aldi, Capital City Bank, Women's Giving Circle, Clay Electric, CAPP Alachua County Grant, United We Care, Alachua County Cares, United Way, Children's Trust of Alachua County, Children's Bureau-ACF, Generous Anonymous Donors

EXAMPLES OF OUR PROGRAMS

ACADEMIC AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The Resource Centers offer a variety of academic and enrichment activities for students in grades K through 12. One of the most popular is Homework Help where students are offered after-school assistance with their homework, additional help with challenging subjects and tutoring focused on literacy skills. Some examples of enrichment programming also include Girls Scouts, Capoeira, yoga, African Drum, drama and more. During 2020, these activities were modified slightly to ensure safety precautions were in place during the pandemic.



FINANCIAL LITERACY/FIGHT FOR YOUR MONEY

Financial literacy classes, hosted in partnership with local businesses and other financial experts, teach participants skills such as budgeting, banking, saving, credit repair and more. Participants build a portfolio of financial lessons that can be used to create their own plan for financial stability and increased self-sufficiency. During 2020, Fight for Your Money was successfully hosted using a virtual format with plans to hold both virtual and in-person sessions in 2021.

CONCRETE SUPPORTS/BASIC NEEDS



As a result of the pandemic, the Resource Centers witnessed an increased need for concrete supports by our patrons. To help meet these needs, we partnered with local organizations to restock our emergency food pantries, provide hot meals, and distribute fresh produce, meat and more to those with the greatest need. We also continued to provide clothing, hygiene items and baby products at each of our locations. Additionally, through grant funding, the Resource Centers were able to assist patrons who were financially impacted by COVID-19, with monetary support for paying rent and utilities, along with some food and transportation-related needs. We also continue to work with our many community partners who act as referral sources to meet additional needs.



SUCCESS STORIES

CONE PARK RESOURCE CENTER GAINESVILLE, FL (EAST)

A long-term patron began coming to the Resource Center when she and her family were new to the area. Recently, after losing her job due to the pandemic, she was able to access concrete supports, such as free meals, through the Resource Center to help keep her and her family afloat. Most recently, she participated with the Fight for Your Money (FFYM) financial literacy program. She reported learning a number of valuable skills through FFYM and has since developed a household budget and opened both checking and saving accounts through one of the partnering banks.

SWAG FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER GAINESVILLE, FL (SOUTHWEST)

A mom registering her child for SWAG FRC's summer camp program shared that she was struggling with getting her daughter registered for school and was also trying to find housing, as they were staying temporarily with family. The mom was assisted with registering her child for school and applying for assistance through the McKinney Vento Homeless Prevention Program. The program was able to assist the family with move-in costs at their new home, along with partial rent for one year. During this time, the mother found out she was expecting another baby and was signed up to receive a baby basket with basic supplies and resources for parents of newborns. Once the new addition arrived, staff also assisted the mother with applying for WIC. The family is now in their own stable housing and the daughter is thriving in both SWAG's Homework Help program and school.

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP RESOURCE CENTER - GAINESVILLE, FL (NORTHEAST)

An adoptive family (a grandmother and two children) has utilized services through Library Partnership for more than 3 years. The children each display unique behavioral and learning issues. Over the years, the family has been connected with a variety of services including trauma counseling, social skills and resilience building programs, along with homework help. Staff has also worked with the grandmother to help build accountability and boundaries with the children. Over time, there has been significant improvement of the children's behavior and grades with both children receiving a "Character Award" through their school.

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER - CHIEFLAND, FL

A single mother who had relocated from another country, initially came to TCCRC to teach herself conversational English using the Resource Center's Rosetta Stone software. She also worked with the TCCRC Manager to develop a resume and apply for a job in housekeeping with a large organization. Due to her own hard-work and diligence she was quickly promoted to manager of her housekeeping division. More recently, the TCCRC Manager received word that this former patron has since been hired into a professional position with another agency.



FROM OUR PATRONS

THE AMAZING FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WE SERVE



"THE [FIGHT FOR YOUR MONEY] PROGRAM ENLIGHTENED ME IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS. I LEARNED HOW TO SAVE AND SPEND MONEY WISELY. I WAS CONNECTED TO A LOT OF RESOURCES AND A LOT OF GREAT PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TO HELP ME ACHIEVE MY DREAM OF OWNING MY HOME IN THE FUTURE." - CONE PARK PATRON

"I'M REACHING OUT TO LET YOU KNOW HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THE RESOURCES TO OFFICIALLY BECOME A CNA. THE TESTING PROCESS WAS DELAYED BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC, BUT THAT GAVE ME MORE TIME TO STUDY, AND ACE THE EXAM. I DID AWESOME; I PRAYED, AND ASKED GOD TO DIRECT MY THOUGHT PROCESS, HANDS, AND MEMORY. IT FLOWED PRETTY WELL. I AM ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE FIELD. THANK YOU AGAIN!" - LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP PATRON



ADJUSTING TO COVID-19

In 2020, our Resource Centers had to quickly adjust and change the way we operated due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In a short time, our staff was able to provide emergency support to the patrons of our Resource Centers by partnering with local organizations that offered free lunches and food distributions.

"[Family Resource Centers] have been there all the time, doing their jobs without fanfare or thanks... It's just taken a crisis to reveal how important they are." - Lexington Herald Leader

The Resource Center staff continued to work from each center passing out food or taking calls in order to fax or print documents for our patrons. With time, we were able to re-open our doors and offer in person services again such as Homework Help, financial workshops and family activities. Picture to the right is an outdoor movie night that Library Partnership Resource Center hosted in February. We are grateful to be able to see and interact with our patrons in a safe way after all that has happened in the past year.

