



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Resource Center Opens to Serve the Tri-County Community

CHIEFLAND, FLA – Citizens, elected officials and community leaders of Levy, Gilchrist and Dixie counties will gather tomorrow, March 19, for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to mark the opening of the Tri-County Community Resource Center (TCCRC). The resource center is the result of a collaboration among Tri-County Community Resources, Partnership for Strong Families (PSF), the City of Chiefland and several additional key community partners.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony will include addresses from representatives of the Department of Children and Families, Partnership for Strong Families, Tri-County Community Resources, the City of Chiefland and the Child Protection Team, who will also have space at the facility. Guests will be invited to tour the center, which has recently undergone major renovations in preparation for the opening.

The resource center will serve residents of Levy, Gilchrist and Dixie counties by providing free services and resources that have been identified by citizens as some of their top needs. Services will include employability assistance, social services, education/GED assistance, substance abuse and mental health services, children's activities, emergency clothing and food assistance, domestic violence help and health care referrals.

"We want people to know that this is the kind of place anybody would want to use, not just because you are down and out or in crisis," stated Diana Child, Tri-County Community Resources board member.

The Tri-County Community Resource Center is PSF's fourth resource center and their first outside of Alachua County. The agency currently operates the Library Partnership, SWAG Family Resource Center and Cone Park Library Resource Center in Gainesville.

"Our first three resource centers have been extremely successful in strengthening families and reducing risk factors of abuse and neglect, and we look forward to witnessing the same impact with the Tri-County Community Resource Center," stated Stephen Pennypacker, President/CEO of Partnership for Strong Families. "The synergy in the Tri-County community is growing, and it is creating the momentum needed to make the resource center successful."

The Tri-County Community Resource Center, located at 15 N Main Street in Chiefland, will officially open to the public on March 23.

To learn more about Partnership for Strong Families, please visit 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.