



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2016

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS COME TOGETHER FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH EVENT

GAINESVILLE, FLA – On Saturday, April 2, the Alachua County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force will host Celebrate the Child at the Rotary Boys and Girls Club on SE 17th Dr. to kickoff Child Abuse Prevention Month, an awareness campaign celebrated nationally each April. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Celebrate the Child is a family friendly event that is free and open to the public. There will be food, entertainment, information from local child-serving agencies, games and prizes.

“We are excited to partner with the Rotary Boys and Girls Club to host Celebrate the Child this year. The new location will allow us to better reach the community,” stated Cathy Winfrey, chair of the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force and program manager for Healthy Families.

The event will host participants from community agencies within the Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce as well as other local agencies that are dedicated to serving the children of our community. Participating agencies include: Healthy Families Florida, Partnership for Strong Families, Florida Department of Children and Families, Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County, Child Advocacy Center, StayWell Kids, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Children’s Medical Services, Boys & Girls Boys Club of Alachua County, Peaceful Paths, Alachua County Sheriff’s Office, Children’s Home Society of Florida, Early Steps, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), MomCare, Kids Central, Kid Care, Florida and Virgin Islands Deaf-Blind Collaborative, Alachua County Library District, Biker’s Against Child Abuse, Epilepsy Foundation of Gainesville Junior League Read to Me and the UF Child Protection Team.

The Child Abuse Prevention Task force, along with other organizations, are also planting pinwheel garden displays throughout Gainesville. Several of these gardens can be seen around the community, with the largest placed in front of North Florida Regional Medical Center on Newberry Road. The use of Pinwheels has created an iconic symbol that helps bring recognition to Child Abuse Prevention Month.

“Pinwheel gardens are just one way we are increasing awareness of child abuse prevention,” stated Jenn Petion, director of community and government relations for Partnership for Strong Families. “Pinwheels are a symbol and reminder of the happy, healthy childhood that all children deserve.”

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.