



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Organizations Come Together for Child Abuse Prevention Month Event

GAINESVILLE, FLA – On April 14, the Alachua County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force will host “Celebrate the Child” at the Depot Park in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, which is celebrated nationally each April. The event is free and open to the public.

The family-friendly event will run from 10 a.m. to noon. This will be the first year the event will be held at the renovated Depot Park. “Celebrate the Child” will feature themed booths, giveaways and activities for children of all ages. It will also offer safety information, parenting resources and health tips.

“We’re excited to join up with all the different agencies participating in ‘Celebrate the Child this year,’” stated Cathy Winfrey, chair of the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force and program manager for Healthy Families. “The new location gives us an opportunity to increase our community reach in an area where our mission is so critical. This event is really about making connections and equipping families with resources.”

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 Alachua County. Participating agencies include Alachua County Library District, Alachua County Perinatal Mental Health Coalition, Alachua County Sheriff’s Office, Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Child Advocacy Center, Children’s Services Advisory Board, Department of Children and Families, Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County, Early Steps, Gainesville Fire Department, Gainesville HIPPI, Healthy Families, La Leche League, Moms Demand Action, Partnership for Strong Families, Peaceful Paths, Safe Routes to School, Staywell, the UF Child Protection Team, the UF College of Dentistry, the United Way of North Central Florida and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Office.

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force has also joined organizations throughout Florida in planting pinwheel garden displays that can now be seen around Gainesville, the largest of which is in front of the UF Health Shands Hospital.

“These gardens serve as a reminder that we all play a role in the healthy development of our community’s children,” stated Patty Carroll, director of community relations and recruitment for Partnership for Strong Families. “Each pinwheel represents the happy, healthy childhood that all children deserve.”

Cathy Winfrey received Alachua County's Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation on Tuesday, April 10 and will receive the City of Gainesville's proclamation on April 19.

To learn more about Child Abuse Prevention Month efforts, visit <https://ounce.org>. 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.