



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER CELEBRATES ONE YEAR

CHIEFLAND, FLA – The Tri-County Community Resource Center (TCCRC) will be celebrating its first year of providing services and resources to Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy Counties with a free community-wide celebration on Saturday, April 30, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The event will take place at the center, which is located at 15 North Main Street in Chiefland.

The event is made possible by more than 20 community sponsors who have pledged to donate goods, provide services at the event or have helped to fund the event's activities. The celebration will feature refreshments, information booths, games, prizes, a bounce house and family-friendly activities.

The Tri-County Community Resource Center first opened its doors to the community in March 2015 thanks to a partnership between Partnership for Strong Families (PSF) and the grassroots community group Tri-County Community Resources. Since that time, the center has developed more than 40 partnerships to help meet the needs of the surrounding communities. Services include financial literacy programs, educational and enrichment programs for children, an emergency food pantry, a clothing closet for children, legal workshops, parenting groups, CPR certification classes, employability assistance and one-on-one consultations to discuss patron's specific needs.

More than 3,500 visits have been documented in the center's first year of operation, with an average of 286 visits per month.

"The Tri-County Community Resource Center has really grown over the past year thanks to the support of the community, both from the patrons who access services and the partners who have helped to enhance those services," stated Stephen Pennypacker, president/CEO of Partnership for Strong Families. "The center's success has exceeded our original expectations, and we are proud to take this time to celebrate our collaboration with the community."

The Tri-County Community Resource Center is the fourth resource center operated by PSF, and the first to open outside of Alachua County. Each center focuses on collaborating with the local community to build upon their assets and strengthen families.

"What's making this center strong is the tremendous backing we've received from the community," said Beverly Goodman, resource center manager. "While PSF covers staff and operational costs, we rely on community

support, local partnerships and grant funding for the majority of our programs and services. We are grateful for the support we've received so far and look forward to expanding our current partnerships to bring even more services to our community.”

To learn more about Partnership for Strong Families or their Resource Center Model, 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.