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**LOCAL FOSTER FAMILIES HONORED DURING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH**



Staff Reporter • Wed, May 03, 2017

**GAINESVILLE, FLA** – Partnership for Strong Families (PSF), the lead community-based care agency in North Central Florida, is once again celebrating National Foster Care Month during the month of May. PSF will host a banquet to honor local foster parents at the Best Western Gateway Grande in Gainesville on May 17th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The banquet will honor Partner Families, the term the agency uses for foster parents, for their dedicated service to victims of child abuse and neglect.

The banquet, titled “A Night on the Red Carpet,” will include dinner and an awards ceremony. Each Partner Family will also receive a gift basket put together by PSF staff and donated by community members, organizations and churches. The baskets are filled with gifts that promote togetherness and family activities with items that both children and caregivers can enjoy.

“We hold this event each year to honor our Partner Families who open their homes to youth who need a safe, nurturing environment in order to thrive,” stated Stephen Pennypacker, President/CEO of Partnership for Strong Families. “These Partner Families provide love and stability to children until they can be safely returned to their biological parents or find permanency through adoption. The need for these heroic Partner Families cannot be overstated and we are truly grateful for their commitment to the children of our community.”

The need for new Partner Families is also great. PSF serves 13 counties and is actively recruiting new foster parents in each of them to prevent children from being placed outside of their home counties. Throughout the remainder of 2017, PSF will be facilitating training for new foster and adoptive parents at various locations in its catchment area. [PE1]

During National Foster Care Month, PSF is running a social media campaign to dispel myths about foster parenting as well as celebrate the current foster parents in its system of care. The campaign's theme is, “Ordinary people can make an extraordinary impact.” PSF is also highlighting ways that all community members can support current foster families as they care for children. Every Friday, PSF is highlighting children available for adoption with the hashtag #FosterCareFriday on its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter platforms.

To learn more about Partnership for Strong Families or for information on becoming a Partner or Adoptive Family, please visit [www.partnerfamily.org](http://www.partnerfamily.org) or contact one of PSF's recruitment specialists by calling (352) 244-1500.

From Sr. Community Relations



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