



PARTNERSHIP FOR
**STRONG
FAMILIES**

Partnership Connection

JANUARY-MARCH
2022

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Featured Story

View our
Resource Center
update on page 6!

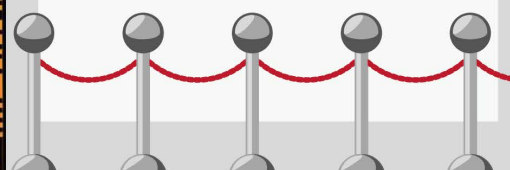


Adoption Superstars Celebration

In honor of National Adoption Month, we hosted our 2nd Annual Adoption Superstars Celebration at our Headquarters office. We safely recognized each of this past year's adoptive families with a drive-through red carpet event.

Each family was cheered on as they drove towards the dance party led by several PSF staff members. Each family had the opportunity to enjoy a meal and a professional photo session while enjoying the company of fellow adoptive families.

This was truly a wonderful night to share with our adoptive families and PSF staff as we celebrated the addition of new families!



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1,258

children in care
received gifts
through Wish
Upon a Star!

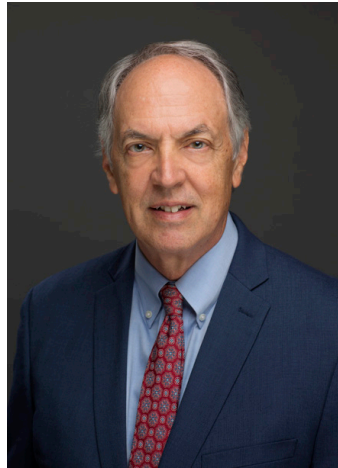


Celebrate with
us on page 4



Partner. Foster. Adopt.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



First of all, I would like to wish a happy new year to everyone! The holiday season certainly kept many of us on our toes as COVID-19 cases mushroomed due to the Omicron variant. As we remain vigilant, we also maintain our optimism that 2022 will be a year of triumphs for our system of care and the families we serve.

Back in the fall, our Board of Directors held their annual retreat virtually. The retreat included presentations by Mario Rubio, the Northeast Region Managing Director for the Department of Children and Families, Kurt Kelly, the President of the Florida Coalition for Children, and Corey Best from Casey Family Programs on our Racial Equity Workgroup. This day invigorated all in attendance and encouraged us to continue steering PSF in a positive direction.

I'd like to take a quick look back at the holiday season to recognize our incredible donors for making the 13th annual Wish Upon a Star holiday toy drive a definitive success. Over 200 individuals or companies sponsored holiday wish lists for over 1,250 children in our care while 28 donors donated financially and 9 donors provided donations of general toys. Our Community Relations team spends 4 months planning and executing this drive, communicating with our Family Care Counselors and donors, and organizing gifts to ensure our children have a bright holiday. I would like to thank them for their hard work and thank Campus USA Credit Union for hosting us for four weeks at their headquarters office in Newberry.

On January 11th, the Florida State Legislature began their legislative session, with Governor DeSantis's proposed budget including \$40 million in new funding for community-based care. We are encouraged by this movement at the state level and hope to receive this new funding to better provide for the families we serve.

Up in Lake City, we have moved our office closer to the center of town. The new location places us at 971 West Duval Street near the intersection of US 90 and Baya Avenue. The building gives us more space for a lower price, more parking spots, and is more centrally located. We look forward to calling this space home.

As we move deeper into the year, I wish everyone the best and look forward to getting the Omicron variant behind us.

Stephen Pennypacker
President/CEO

SUPERHERO 5K RECAP

by Tricia Braitsch, Post Adoption Liaison

After having a virtual 5K last year, Partnership for Strong Families held our 7th annual Superhero 5K back in person for 2021! The 5K was on Sunday, November 7th at Westside Park in Gainesville. All money raised from the 5K goes towards finding forever families for children awaiting their permanent homes. This year we had a successful turnout with over 125 participants and the 5K raised nearly \$2,800. We appreciate all of our sponsors and participants who made this year a success!



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: Community Relations and Recruitment Update

It is hard to believe that January 25th marks one year at Partnership for Strong Families in my current role. This year was also my first Wish Upon A Star donation drive as a Community Relations team member. It was an incredible experience to work for months to give back to so many youth that we serve. I couldn't be more proud of my team as they worked tirelessly to ensure that every youth in our care received all of their wishes. I am also so grateful to the generous donors that support PSF, we would not be able to do what we do without our community.

I look forward to a great year as we plan for numerous ways to give back to all of the children in our care, support and learn from our amazing foster parents, and further refine strategies to impact foster care family recruitment. Our network of family resource centers remains a great place of hope for our organization, and we will continue to seek out grants and find ways to make a huge impact in each community those centers serve.

As we enter 2022, I hope that each of you remains healthy and re-energized after the holiday season and that we all have a bright New Year.



Stevie Doyle
Director of Communications
and Engagement

WISH UPON A STAR

by Jenna Rowland, Community Relations Assistant

The 2021 Wish Upon a Star drive was an amazing success due to the collaboration between our wonderful donors, Family Care Counselors, volunteers, and our Community Relations team! This year we distributed gifts to 1,258 children in our care throughout all of our 13 counties. This Wish Upon a Star was the first for many of our donors, and also many of our staff! Despite the majority of our team having never facilitated a Wish Upon a Star drive we had a blast fulfilling the holiday wishes of so many children and working together as a team.

The success of this drive would not be possible without the support from our donors and our volunteers. We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to all of our new and returning donors, our wonderful volunteers, and to Campus USA for allowing us to utilize their space. It truly is a joy to see our staff and community come together to fulfill holiday wishes and celebrate the power of giving.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR WISH UPON A STAR DONORS

101 Management Inc.
Abbie Campbell
Adrienne Widener
Alachua County Sheriff's Office
Alexis Stanley
Alicia Phillips
Allison Novak
Allison Sell
AllState Insurance- Kris Wagner
Agency
Amanda Hewes
Amanda Trask
Amy Freeman
Andrea McClintic
Andrea Wood
Andrickson Camacho
Angela Stone
Anita Zucker Center
Anne Banks
Anne Conklin
Ashley McCool
Ashley Sharpless
Austin Forbrick
Barbara and Robert Plasky
Benton Pediatrics
Bethany Adams
Beth Zack
Betsy Stephens
Beverly Saviello
Beverly Sleeper
Beverly Wonders
Bobby Sutton
Brenda Oliver
Brent Miller
Brian and Karen Shultes
Briana Shearer
Candy Birch
Carol M. West
Carolyn Delany
Carolyn Wallace
Cathy Flint
CED Raybro Electric Supplies
Centro Espirita Beneficiente
Chelsea Poulton
Cheryl Charles
Cheryl Phillips
Cheyenne Conrad
Chrissy Holloway
Christina McQuinney
Cindy Etienne
Civic Engagement at Santa Fe College
Claudio Faenza
Clyde and Michelle Anderson
Colleen and Steve Kamody
Comfort Temp Company
Congregation B'nai Israel
Corey Harris
Dana Nichols
Darlene Morrison
Dawn Michalski
David Mosch
Debbie Hunt
Dena R Lay
Donna Jackson
Donovan Shaw
Dorothy Melker
Drue Jaquish
Elizabeth Dudenhausen
Elizabeth Smith
Ellen Satteson
Emily Dawson
Emily Moser
Emma Kaufmann
Emma Westberry
Erica Matthews
Erica Pollock
Erika Long
Erin Miscioscia
Ester Tibbs
Evan and Megan Johnson
Fabco Air
Faydra Henry
Fracture

Frederick and Andrea Smith
FYCS Graduate Association
Gabriela Carranza
GACAR
Gainesville High School
Gainesville High School Gender and Sexualities Alliance
Gianni Pena
Grace at Fort Clarke United Methodist Church
Greenhouse Church
Hannah Hooper
Hazel Surrency Circle, United Methodist Women
Health Sciences at Santa Fe College
Heart Happy Films
Heather LaMar
Heather Ray
Helen Hafers-Walker
Hilary Spahr
Hilary White
Holly Beck
Hometown Mortgage Services, LLC
Infotech
Jack and Anne Rowland
Jacob Clore
Jade Salamone
James Moore & Co
Jamie Zinn
Janene Lovullo
Janet Silver
Jeffrey Rizzo
Jenifer and Vlad Petrescu
Jen O'Flynn
Jenna Rowland
Jennifer Bolick
Jennifer Dasher
Jennifer Deane
Jennifer Nino
Jennifer Prevatt
Jennifer Shifflet
Jennifer Taylor
Jerry Hunter
Jesse and Leigh-Anna Boone
Jessica Maynard
Jessica Ngyuen and Jordan Smith
Jessica Rhome
Jhanna Gilbert
Joanna Weber
Joe and Lisa Kern
Joe Mosca
Jonathan Miot
Jorelle Degen Counseling Services, LLC
Joseph Lindner
Joseph W. Little
Joshua and Bailey Lessman
Julie Samples
Kay Ayers
Kai Ogra
Karen Wable
Karen Weinstein
Katherine Morgan
Kathryn McElhaney
Kathy Stutt
Kathy Wheeler
Katie Boudreau
Katie Dressel
Katie Langford
Katie Sims
Kayla L. Helton, P.A.
Kayley and Jamie Harris
Kelly Quintana
Kelsey Weston
Kenny Brighton
Kersten Reitz
Kim Biddle
Kim Mahoney
Kimberly Farris
Kimberly Jacobs
Kim Slone and Niki Dahlem
Kirk Ruth
Kristina Dorman
Kristen White

Kylie Gamber
Lakiesha Williams
Landon Chairez
Layne Morton
LeAnn Campbell
Lemerand Athletic Center
Lesley Banis
Leslie Carroll
Leslie Jones
Les and Lesly Gallagher
Leslye Pennypacker
Liliana Salazar
Lindsay Hanson
Lindsey Krieg
Lisa Faga
Lizz Schmidt
Lorena Hitchcock
Luisa Pena
Lydia Brady
Lymaris Barger
Lynn McKenzie
Marci Brown
Marcia Swope
Marcia Wiesel-Leary
Margot DeConna
Marisa Ramirez-Stukey
Mary and Larry Patterson
Marshleen Pleak Ryan
Matt and Bobi Frank
Meagan
Meizon Mission
Melissa Tomzick
Mercury Systems
Meredith Panaghi
Merry Lynne Wilson
Michael Carr
Michelle Belcher
Michelle Clark
Michelle Peeler
Mikaela and Brendan David-John
Morgan Starling
Music with Katrina, Inc.
Natalie Shrader
Needham Family
Nicole Propper
Nicole Ruby
Nilanjana Caballero
Noel Barefoot
Oakmont
Palms Medical Group
Pamela Blasetti
Pam Cannon
Pamela and Chip Gonzales
Pam O'Flynn
Parrish McCall Constructions
Pascha B. Coonradt
Patty Carroll
Peggy DeBow
Progressive Orthodontics
Prudence Tucker
Pyne Family
Rachel DiSesa
Ralph Kubicsek
Rebekah McKinzie
Regenerative Biologics
Resolutions Health Alliance
Risen Strength CrossFit
Royal Element Wraps
Sachi Pena
Samantha Cowan
Sandra Houser
Santa Fe College Office of Advancement
Sarah Carlson
Sarah Nesmith
Scott Kolenda
Shalante James-Woodley
Shannon Moser
Shari Mack
Sheena Asbell
Sidney Downing
Sophia Maggiore
Special Friends Care Inc.
Stacey Kirkpatrick

Stacey Starling
Steffanie Peters
Stephanie Calo
Stephanie Seguin
Stephanie Stein
Stephanie Sutton
Stephen A. Bagen & Associates
St. John the Evangelist DBA Council of Catholic Women
Sunshine Health
Suwannee/Lafayette County Health Department
Tabitha Petri
Tara Thompson
Tatia Miller
Ted and Beth Braitsch
Teresa Dorman
Terri Lynn Sutton
The Bartlett/Johnson Family
The Best Restoration
The Conner Family
The Kawaja Family
The Orthopaedic Institute
Tina McCann
Tracey Phillips
Tricia Braitsch
UBS Financial
UDV Gainesville
UF College of Education Post-Awards
UF College of Medicine Finance and Administration
UF Department of Emergency Medicine
UF Department of Surgery
UF Department of Surgery Sepsis Center
UF Department of Veterinary Medicine
UF Health Pediatric Unit
UF OB/Gyn Residency Program
University of Florida Sharma Lab
Unity Foster Ministries
Upper Room Ministries
Vern and Marite Haynes
Vickie Turman
Village Counseling Center
Wenda Lewis
Will and Kimberly Powell
William A. Fox-Alvarez
Wray Ramsey
Yolanda Thomas

THANK

YOU

to all of our
wonderful
donors!



We hope to see you
next year!

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER THROUGH OUR RESOURCE CENTERS

by Stacy Merritt, Director of Resource Centers

This holiday season, in addition to regular programs, our Family Resource Centers participated with holiday themed events designed to meet the concrete needs of families, while also providing opportunities to celebrate and come together as a community.



In early November, Cone Park Library Resource Center helped to celebrate the pending holidays with their Fall Festival, an annual event bringing together families and our community partners for resource sharing and fun.



First United Methodist Church of Chiefland (FUMC) provided Tri-County Community Resource Center (TCCRC) with gift cards for local families to purchase food during the holidays. FUMC, along with the Children's Table and Sav-A-Lot, also provided 25 Thanksgiving baskets for TCCRC families, and Sav-A-Lot also donated non-perishable, emergency food items.

Additionally, our Gainesville Family Resource Centers distributed nearly 250 Thanksgiving baskets. The Southwest Advocacy Group led this effort at the SWAG Family Resource Center (SWAG FRC), distributing approximately 200 baskets. Library Partnership Resource Center (LP) and Cone Park Library Resource Center partnered with Trinity United Methodist Church to provide baskets to approximately 40 families. LP also received an additional 4 baskets through the Florida A&M University Alumni Association. In November, SWAG FRC also hosted a Thanksgiving-style meal for families, in partnership with the Junior League of Gainesville.

NorthStar Family Resource Center partnered with the Richardson Community Center and a private donor to provide a sit-down Thanksgiving dinner and Thanksgiving baskets for local families. Families were also provided with holiday assistance through partnerships, including the faith-based community.

Tri-County Community Resource Center led efforts to ensure the Toys for Tots (T4T) initiative was available to tri-county residents. This year, 850 tri-county children received gifts through T4T. Our three Gainesville locations also acted as T4T verification sites for Alachua County residents. The Gainesville sites also distributed 35 vouchers for Miracle on Main Street, an annual holiday assistance program hosted by the Junior League of Gainesville.



SWAG Family Resource Center (SWAG FRC) after-school participants, along with their siblings, were provided with STEAM gifts through the support of the Southwest Advocacy Group. This year, 10 families attended the Annual Family Holiday Party where the families enjoyed a Gingerbread House Contest, shared milk and cookies, and took pictures with Santa. SWAG FRC also hosted a holiday-themed Community Dinner in December. SWAG FRC was able to sponsor an additional 45 children through the generous donations of local sponsors including MOMS Demand Action, Exit Reality, the Interventional Radiology Department at UF Health, the Women's Radiology Group, and private donors.



Library Partnership Resource Center hosted a Happy Holly Health and Wellness Expo which combined access to community health resources with fun, holiday-themed activities for families including pictures with Santa, chance drawings, crafts, games, and refreshment - 85 community members attended this joyous event!

SOCIAL MEDIA

By Jenna Rowland, Community Relations Assistant

We celebrated National Adoption Month this past November by honoring several of our adoptive families from recent years. This extended to our Adoption Superstars celebration, in which we recognized our most recent adoptive families and their loved ones. The majority of December was spent showcasing the success of our Wish Upon a Star annual gift drive. We celebrated the success of our drive by recognizing our supportive donors and sharing what our Wish Upon a Star Elves were up to for the month of December!



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Partnership for Strong Families is a community-based care lead agency contracted with the Department of Children and Families.



PARTNERSHIP FOR
**STRONG
FAMILIES**

2020-2021 YEAR IN NUMBERS

**RESOURCE
CENTERS**



20,892

PATRON VISITS

28,580

SERVICES REQUESTED

9,216

HOURS VOLUNTEERED

\$114,769

GOODS DONATED