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## *Featured Story*

**Learn more about  
our presentation at  
the FL Children and  
Families Summit on  
Page 5!**

## NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

by Tricia Braitsch, Post-Adoption Liaison



Each November is celebrated as National Adoption Month. This initiative originally began as National Adoption Week in 1984, as proclaimed by President Reagan. Then in 1995, President Clinton proclaimed the first National Adoption Month, which we still recognize to this day. The purpose of National Adoption Month is to spread awareness about adoption by encouraging people to learn about adoption, holding adoption related events, and acknowledging adoptive families.

Partnership for Strong Families hosts several events during National Adoption Month. For the last couple of years, PSF has celebrated the adoptive families from the previous year with a drive through celebration, which includes food, festivities, and fun for the whole family. PSF also has a closed Facebook group for our adoptive parents that provides daily giveaways of gift certificates for food and activities for the family as a way to say thank you and continue to support and encourage our adoptive parents.

It is important that PSF celebrates National Adoption Month, as our adoptive families have opened their hearts and homes to children needing forever families. For more information on adoption, please check out our website, [www.psf.org](http://www.psf.org).

## PSF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# Partner. Foster. Adopt.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

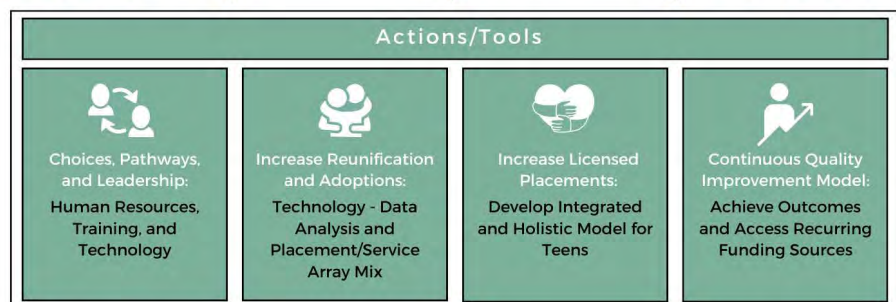
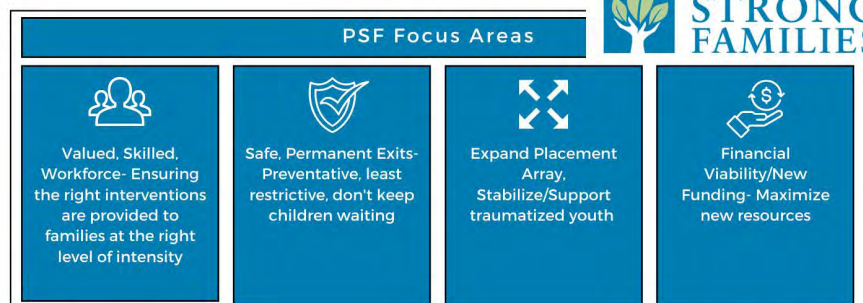


Greetings,

It is truly an honor to be serving as the new president and CEO of Partnership for Strong Families (PSF). I joined PSF on June 10th, and since that time, I have been reinvigorated by the passion, dedication, and expertise of the staff, partners, and Board. In the first 90 days here at PSF, a lot has been accomplished to set the course for the upcoming year, including budget meetings, provider contract negotiations, data analysis of performance and trends, new legislation implementation, and, most important, meetings with internal and external groups across the catchment area. Those meetings will continue as we set the stage for the co-construction of our new strategic plan for PSF.

The review of the data and feedback from our system partners has informed the construction of four priorities that we, as an agency, must focus on over the next three years.

I look forward to the journey ahead, working in partnership with families, providers, the community, and the entire system of care to further build upon the impactful legacy PSF has established over the course of almost two decades.



### PHASE 1

Exploration and Installation

JULY - OCTOBER 2022

### PHASE 2

Stabilization and Improvement

NOVEMBER - JUNE 2023

### PHASE 3

Innovation and Reinvestment

JULY 2023

Sincerely,

Ginger Griffeth  
President/CEO



# WISH UPON A STAR 2022

by Jacob Clore, Community Engagement Specialist

## A season of wish granting is on the horizon!

With the end of the year in sight, the Partnership for Strong Families elves are planning to serve local youth in care during our Wish Upon a Star holiday toy drive. PSF serves children from 13 counties who have experienced abuse or neglect, making the holidays a difficult time to navigate for these youth, as more than half of them will be away from home during a time emphasizing the importance of family. That is why we work in collaboration with our generous donors to grant their holiday wishes.

YOU can brighten the holidays of a local child by participating in one of the following ways:

- 1) **ELF OPTION:** This option allows sponsors to personally purchase a child's wish list items. As a WUAS donor, you will receive a star for each child you choose to sponsor. This star will have the child's name, demographics, and their wishes. We ask that our donors supply at least 2 of the 3 requested wishes. If 2 of the wishes do not amount to \$50, we kindly ask donors to ensure their donation is worth at least \$50.
- 2) **SLEIGH OPTION:** PSF often gets requests for wishes in December as children enter our care. To help us meet these wishes, donors can purchase donations of general new toys and drop them off or purchase them via our Amazon link and have them shipped to us.
- 3) **STOCKING OPTION:** If you would like to provide a financial contribution, we will do the shopping for you. Donations will be accepted on our website at [www.pfsf.org/donate/](http://www.pfsf.org/donate/). You may also send a check written out to Partnership for Strong Families with Wish Upon a Star in the memo. Please address the envelope to Jacob Clore and send to 5950 NW 1st Place, Suite 300 Gainesville, FL 32607.

Scan here to  
sign up!



# SUPERHERO 5K

by Jenna Rowland, Community Relations Specialist

Calling all superheroes! We are excited to be hosting our 8th annual Superhero 5K to benefit local adoptive youth. This year's race will take place at Westside Park in Gainesville and will begin at 8:30 AM. We encourage all participants to dress up their race outfits with capes, masks, and their best superhero powers! This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals to support local youth in their community. All funds raised by the 5K are used towards recruitment efforts for children awaiting their forever families. Participants can register by scanning the QR code below or by going to [psfsuperhero5k.org](https://psfsuperhero5k.org). A race t-shirt is included in the registration and will be picked up prior to the race.

## SCAN HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT!



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

We are excited to begin our Wish Upon A Star Holiday Drive. Our office is already beginning to look like Santa's workshop with toys all over, and we look forward to the joy that children in our area will have when receiving them! Thank you to our incredible community for continuing to support this drive. We could not do this without you.

The Community Relations Team is also excited to begin recruiting for our 2023 PRIDE training. This is the class that all prospective foster and adoptive parents take to become licensed here at PSF. The need for foster parents is currently critical. If you are interested or would like to learn how you can become an advocate and help us further spread this mission into the community, please reach out to us at [HopePartner@pfsf.org](mailto:HopePartner@pfsf.org).



Stevie Doyle  
Director of Communications  
and Engagement



# FLORIDA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PRESENTATION

by Toni Spoliansky, Project Director

On September 1, staff from PSF's Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families Grant presented at the Florida Children and Families Summit in Orlando, Florida. This is considered the largest child welfare event in Florida, with a convening of more than 3,000 child welfare professionals and related partners, including attorneys, case managers, child advocates, child protective investigators and supervisors, Child Protection Team staff, child welfare trainers, court staff, DCF staff, relative caregivers, foster and adoptive parents, guardians ad litem, judges, law enforcement, juvenile justice professionals, service providers, youth, and many others.

Christen Lancaster, Toni Spoliansky, Robin Perry, and Pebbles Edelman presented a workshop to over 50 individuals titled "Partnering with Patrons to Strengthen Families - a Service Model Evaluation." While the focus of the workshop was an overview of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), the presentation highlighted PSF's Federal Grant project, funded by the Children's Bureau, and provided examples of how the project and the agency's Resource Center Model implements methods of CBPR in daily activities related to the daily operations of the Resource Centers as well as in project evaluation activities. This is done in effort to increase the Resource Centers' potentials for enhancing families' protective factors and prevent child maltreatment. Participants of the workshop were given the opportunity to explore the strengths, benefits, and create a community stakeholder "road map" to be applied to their own agencies' evaluation or program development.

PSF is gearing up to start the 4th year of a 5-year federal grant awarded by the Children's Bureau, to evaluate and refine the agency's network of Resource Centers and establish a new center in Lake City, the NorthStar Family Resource Center which opened in March of 2021. Funding provided by the Children's Bureau through the Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families Grant emphasizes the need for a collaborative, community-based approach to serving children and families. Likewise, PSF's Resource Center Model is rooted in the belief that services provided at our Resource Centers must be responsive to the local neighborhoods and communities they serve.



## WELCOME TO THE PSF BOARD



**Scott Wenger**  
HCA Florida North Florida Hospital  
Director of Employee Health &  
Company Care Occupational Health

Scott Wenger has lived in Gainesville since 2009 and works at HCA Florida North Florida Hospital as the Director of Employee Health and Company Care Occupational Health. Mr. Wenger graduated from Florida State University in 2009 with his undergraduate degree and received his MBA in Healthcare Management from The Florida Institute of Technology in 2014. Through his role at North Florida Hospital, he is actively involved in the Workforce Health and Safety program as well as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion council.

Mr. Wenger and his husband adopted their two sons through the assistance of Partnership for Strong Families, and as a board member, he is eager to bring the adoptive parent perspective to the table.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

by Jenna Rowland, Community Relations Specialist

We are always trying to grow our social media reach so that we can share our resources and our need for foster parents with members of the community. If you are looking for a quick way to support us, please share our posts on social media to help us deliver our message. We often give our followers the chance to win prizes by interacting with our posts, so always be on the lookout for our next post!

## NATIONAL CARE FOR KIDS DAY



PARTNERSHIP FOR  
STRONG  
FAMILIES

Show that you  
care for youth in  
foster care by  
learning more  
about becoming  
a foster or  
adoptive parent!



## National Parents Day Off

Tag a parent who  
you think deserves  
a \$20 Gators  
Dockside gift card  
for a chance for  
them to win it!



PARTNERSHIP FOR  
STRONG  
FAMILIES



@partnershipforstrongfamilies



Partnership for Strong Families



## HEART GALLERY SPOTLIGHT



### ANTONIO, 15 YEARS OLD

Antonio has an easygoing personality with adults. He likes making friends, using social media, playing video and computer games, skating, and running in his free time. He also enjoys serving in his community as a volunteer. Antonio desires to be adopted and looks forward to life with his forever family. He desires a loving traditional two-parent home. Antonio would best thrive in a home with older children and a family that has the time to provide him with consistent one-on-one attention, especially when it comes to his educational needs. Antonio currently has a close relationship with his sibling and uncle; thus, it is essential that any family that adopts Antonio has the willingness to continue to foster these important family relationships.

For more information on Antonio, please contact Kim Johnson at [Kim.Johnson@pfsf.org](mailto:Kim.Johnson@pfsf.org) or 352-244-1555.



**Are you interested  
in a career at PSF?**

[www.pfsf.org/join-our-team/](http://www.pfsf.org/join-our-team/)

**Are you interested in subscribing to our  
digital newsletter as well?**

**Scan here to let us know!**





PARTNERSHIP FOR  
**STRONG  
FAMILIES**

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5950 NW 1st Place  
Suite 300  
Gainesville, FL 32607  
352.244.1500

Learn more  
about how  
our innovative  
services are  
keeping our  
community's  
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Visit us at  
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Partnership for Strong Families is a community-based care lead agency contracted with the Department of Children and Families.

We are in urgent need for foster families across all of our 13 counties! Youth are often moved outside of their home county due to lack of foster homes near them. This displacement can be challenging for youth who are familiar with their surroundings and are often experiencing stress due to their circumstances. Please consider opening your home and your heart to local youth in need. If you are interested in learning more, please contact our Recruitment Specialist at [HopePartner@pfsf.org](mailto:HopePartner@pfsf.org).



PARTNERSHIP FOR  
**STRONG  
FAMILIES**

# FOSTER CARE BY THE NUMBERS

ALL 13 COUNTIES



# 420

CHILDREN IN FOSTER  
CARE

# 108

FOSTER HOMES