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Featured Story

Learn more about
the new Community
Resource Navigator
at our Resource
Centers on page 6!

WISH UPON A STAR

by Jacob Clore, Community Engagement Specialist

As illustrated by the incredible numbers below, our donors and supporters helped us soar to new heights as we provided holiday presents for over 1,250 youth in care. With such a large volume of donations, we supplied our youth with neat gifts like an enormous LOL dollhouse, an outdoor basketball hoop, and a Jurassic Park Dino bicycle. One of our donors even bought a teen a fishing pole and arranged for him to go on a fishing trip on the Gulf Coast. We could not accomplish all that we do without our community of support. Partners we especially want to highlight include Campus USA Headquarters in Jonesville for donating our workspace and helping us meet our needs, our volunteers including Jim Morency who worked countless hours assembling bicycles and dollhouses, and PSF's team of transporters for delivering all gifts to our offices so our caseworkers could bring them to the children. We encourage you to browse over the names of all our supporters on the next page as we close another chapter of Wish Upon a Star.



1,275
youth in care
served



Total financial
impact of
\$114,739



191
individuals,
businesses, and
churches that
purchased gifts for
the youth we serve

**PSF BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

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Partner. Foster. Adopt.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Dear valued partners and friends,

As we welcome the new year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that we have accomplished together in the past six months and to look ahead at the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

These past six months have been a whirlwind of significant teamwork, adjustment, and self-assessment for our organization and staff. We successfully co-constructed a new strategic plan, reallocating resources and focus to areas staff and system partners have identified as priorities.

We have implemented a new continuous quality improvement process to drive culture change, set us on the path to financial viability and, most importantly, achieve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for the children and families PSF serves. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our talented team, system partners, and all of you who help support our mission. On behalf of the entire leadership team, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your contributions.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited to continue building on our successes and tackle the challenges that come with growth. We have several exciting projects in the pipeline, including implementing our new caregiver support model that will be a pivotal expansion of the support we provide caregivers.

I am confident that with continued hard work and commitment, we will achieve even greater things in the coming year. Thank you for your dedication and for being a part of our team/system of care.

Here's to a successful and prosperous new year for all of us!

Sincerely,

Ginger Griffeth
President/CEO

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

by Jenna Rowland, Community Relations Specialist



2022 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

ADMINISTRATION, QUALITY
ASSURANCE, AND CONTRACTS

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE:

Angela Moore

MOST VALUABLE PARTNER:

Patricia Braitsch

FINANCIAL SERVICES &
ELIGIBILITY

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE:

Tamela Wadsworth

MOST VALUABLE PARTNER:

Tina Buie

CLINICAL SERVICES &
UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE:

Jessica Kinton

MOST VALUABLE PARTNER:

Patricia Braitsch

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/
RECRUITMENT/ RESOURCE
CENTERS

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE:

Melissa Montrowl

MOST VALUABLE PARTNER:

Chelsea New

OPERATIONS, LICENSING, AND
PLACEMENTS

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE:

Melanie Mitchell

MOST VALUABLE PARTNER:

Kasey Henderson

ADOPTIONS

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE:

Sarah Aikin

MOST VALUABLE PARTNER:

Ashley Brown

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE:

David Glennon

MOST VALUABLE PARTNER:

Ramona Mount

HUMAN RESOURCES/ STAFF DEVELOPMENT

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE:

Tia Stover

MOST VALUABLE PARTNERS:

Danielle Alenda

Lora Jamerson

Jenna Rowland

Keysha Allen

Ramona Mount

Emily Quincy

Jace Pierce

CAMELOT- LIVE OAK/ STARKE

MOST VALUABLE PARTNER:

Leah Grace

CAMELOT- GAINESVILLE

MOST VALUABLE PARTNER:

Jason Weigel

Congratulations to our 2022 award recipients!



HEART GALLERY

Spotlight



HAILEY, 15 YEARS OLD

Hailey is an eager and determined young lady who wants to be a star. Hailey looks forward to attending church on Sundays. She loves to eat shepherd's pie. She desires to be a part of a two-parent family. Hailey wants to be a part of a small family that lives in or near a metro area. When she's had a stressful day, she enjoys listening to music and singing. Hailey also enjoys playing soccer. Does your family have shepherd's pie and a wonderful young lady in their future?

JA'VEONTAI, 16 YEARS OLD

Ja'Veontai enjoys all sports, however, he has a passion for basketball. He enjoys going to school and hanging out with his friends. In his leisure time, he enjoys playing basketball, fishing, and hunting. Ja'Veontai wants to be a part of a family that enjoys sports. Ja'Veontai inspires to become a D1 athlete in basketball. Many people around Ja'Veontai have described him as respectful and pleasant. Is your family ready to shoot hoops with this amazing young man?



INTERESTED IN FOSTER CARE OR ADOPTION?

Contact us at HopePartner@pfsf.org to learn more.

PARTNER ♥ FOSTER ♥ ADOPT

Thank you, 2022 Wish Upon a Star Donors!

101 Management Inc.
Ajsha Cannon
Alachua Academy
Alachua County Sheriff's Office
Alexis Stanley
Alice Pina
Alicia Phillips
Alive Church
Allstate Insurance-Kris Wagner Agency
Amanda Trask
Amanda Fowler
Amy Freeman
Amy Hill
Andrea McClintic
Anita Zucker Center
Anna Farmer
Anne Conklin
Anne and Jack Rowland
Ashley Barnett
Ashley Sharpless
Ashley Purdy
Axogen, Inc.
Barb Plasky
Benton Pediatrics
Bethany Adams
Betsy Stephens
Beverly Saviello
Bobbi Lyn Gonzales
Brooke Frye
Campus USA Call Center
Campus USA Headquarters
Candy and Marty Birch
Carol and Tedd Arnold
Carol Delany
Catherine Flores
Chelsea Poulin
Cheryl Charles
Cheryl Kylo
Cheryl Tryone
Chris Vulpe
Ciara Bringardner
Claudio Faenza
Colleen Kamody
Conference Catalysts
Congregation B'nai Israel
Cruz Davis Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
Dana Nichols
Danny Rohan
Deb and Claude Booska
Deborah Hunt
DeConna Ice Cream
Dominick and Michelle Giordano
Drue Jaquish
Edward Shaw
Elisha Johnson
Elite Auto Center of Gainesville, Inc.
Emily Dawson
Emily Waldron
Emma Kauffman
Erica Pollock
Eric Linn
Eric Vento
Erienne Blanchard
Ester Tibbs
Ethan Caldarelli
EXIT Realty Farm & Country
Fabco Air
Faydra Henry
Gainesville Association of Realtors
Geoffrey Orme-Evans
Grace at Fort Clarke United Methodist
Greenfield Preschool
Greenhouse Church
Haas Family

Happy Heart Films
Haylee Land
HCA North Florida Hospital
Health Sciences at Santa Fe College
Heather Ray
Heather Lamar
Hilary White
Hilary Spahr
Holly Beck
Infotech
Jacob Clore
Jacobs
Jacqueline and Joshua Priebe
James Moore & Co.
Jeffrey Rizzo
Jeff Thieman
Jen O'Flynn
Jenna Rowland
Jennifer Deane
Jenifer and Vlad Petrescu
Jessica Heft
Jessica McCoy
Jolleen Cason
Jonathan Miot
Jonathan Dreyer
Julie Samples
Justin Lee Maynard
Kaitlin Arnold
Kaley Anne Behl
Karen Weinstein
Karen Evans
Kathryn Wheeler
Kathy Bolick
Katie Dressel
Katy McCrary
Katy Yanosky
Kay and David Ayers
Kerryn O'Neal
Kim Lewerenz
Kim Williams
Kim Slone
Kim and Will Powell
Kimberly Mahoney
Kirk Ruth
Kitty McElhaney
Kristi Kautz
Kristina Marijan
Kristina Sills
Lauren Weseman
Les and Lesly Gallagher
Leslie Carroll
Lindsay Hanson
Lisa Quirk
Lisa and Joe Kern
Lydia Brady
Lymaris Barger
Lynn McKenzie
Madelyn Brenner
Madison Kiwanis Club
Marcia Swope
Marisa Stukey
Marissa Overson
Marlena Berkow
Matthew Wollack
Meizon Mission
Melissa Watson
Melissa Stephens
Merry Lynne Wilson
Michael Carr
Michelle Peeler
Michelle Belcher
Nadia Clark
Nancy Birkmaier
Michael Carr

Michelle Peeler
Michelle Belcher
Nadia Clark
Nancy Birkmaier
Neighborhood Housing and Development
Noel Barefoot
Northeast Florida State Hospital
Oakmont
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Owen Kalinic
Palms Medical Group
Pam Cannon
Pam Thompson
Pamela Gonzales
Patricia Medlock
Pascha Coonradt
Pebbles Edelman
Progressive Orthodontics
Promised Land Family Ministries
Prudence Tucker
Ramses Neris
Rebekah McKinzie
Redline Profusion
Regenerative Biologics
Resolutions Health Alliance
Risen Strength CrossFit
Robert Smith
Robyn Smith
Roselyn Monoe
Rose Christy
Sandie Houder
Sandra Chitwood
Santa Fe College
Sarah Cafarelli
Shalante James-Woodley
Shanaz Sawyer
Shannon Moser
Shannon Walker
Shari Mack
Sidney Starr Downing
Sivagamasundari Srinivasan
Sophia Maggiore
Special Friends Care, Inc.
Stacey Kirkpatrick
Stacey Starling
Star Canine
Stephanie Calo
Stephanie Koberlein
Stephanie Seguin
Stephen Foster Elementary
Stephen Pennypacker
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
Susan Naj
Sweetwater Inn
Ted and Elisabeth Braitsch
The Arnold Family Trust
The Bailey Family
The Best Restoration
The Orthopaedic Institute
Thomas Guilfoyle
Tricia Braitsch
Troy Battle
UBS Financial
UF College of Medicine Finance and Administration
UF Department of Emergency Medicine
UF Efron Research Lab
UF Health Pediatric Unit
United Healthcare
United Methodist Women's Council
Unity Foster Ministries
Vern and Marite Haynes
Viktoriya Caneva
Wray Ramsey
Yolanda Thomas

INTRODUCING THE NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE NAVIGATOR POSITION

by Stacy Merritt, Director of Resource Centers

We are excited to share about the roll-out of Partnership for Strong Families' Community Resource Navigation (CRN) Program, serving Alachua County residents. The CRN Program is part of our Resource Center Network and is designed to reach children and families who live in communities with historically limited access to resources, outside of our current service areas. The CRN Program is funded by the Children's Trust of Alachua County, and we appreciate their support as we work to better meet the needs of local children and families.

The Community Resource Navigator, Ariana Young, uses shared space, provided at no cost by community partners, to meet in-person with patrons, providing a variety of family support services to those with an identified need. We have spent the past several months researching locations and meeting with partner agencies to identify our service sites. Our first two sites are the Alachua Branch and High Springs Branch libraries (see additional details below). Our partnership with the Alachua County Library District is not a new one. Two of our existing sites (Library Partnership and Cone Park Library Resource Center) are co-located with full library branches in Gainesville, so this expanded collaboration seems to be a natural fit. Outreach at these two sites began in November 2022, and the program rolled out fully in January 2023. We continue to seek a third location for the CRN Program.

As part of the program, the Community Resource Navigator helps patrons meet their immediate needs (e.g. food, clothing, housing), identify strengths and potential areas for improvement (e.g. financial stability, employment, education, mental health), set obtainable goals, and connect with existing community resources. As with our Family Resource Centers, all services are free of charge to the community and are tied to one of five caregiver protective factors known to reduce the risk of child abuse/neglect when present in families. Additionally, the Community Resource Navigator helps patrons to navigate existing systems and overcome common barriers to service attainment and on-going self-sufficiency.

Community Resource Navigation Program

The Community Resource Navigator can help find resources for you and your family, including:

- Concrete Supports (e.g. Food, Clothing)
- Job Searches & Resume Assistance
- Connections to Other Social Service Agencies
- Much More!

Community Resource Navigator
352-363-0097



RECRUITMENT UPDATE

by Melissa Montrowl, Recruitment and Outreach Manager

January is often the time to slow down a bit after a busy holiday season, but that's not the case here at PSF! With the new year, we are diving into our recruitment and outreach efforts with a renewed enthusiasm to bring awareness in the community and to better support the families in our area. Our first PRIDE training class for prospective foster and adoptive families has already begun, and our second class launches in just a few weeks. After 3 long years, we are finally able to reintroduce in-person classes, allowing our families to begin building community support even before a child comes to their home.

PRIDE (Parent Resource for Information, Development, and Education) is one of the first steps for a family trying to foster or adopt. While this 9-session training sometimes seems like a time-consuming formality in getting families to the finish line, it's vital to take that time to dive into the realities of child welfare, your motivation, and how you can best meet the needs of our children. Every single youth in our care comes from traumatic events, and we don't expect everyone to have prior knowledge of how to best handle helping that child grow through those experiences. If you're interested in learning or know someone who wants to learn more, email our recruitment team at HopePartner@pfsf.org.



2023 PRIDE Class Schedule

Parent Resource for Information, Development, and Education

PRIDE Class		Eligible Counties	Screening Deadline
January Class January 12th - March 9th Every Thursday, 6 - 9 PM	In person: Gainesville	FC: Alachua, Bradford, Union	Friday, December 16th
		ADPT: Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy	
February Class February 9th - April 6th Every Thursday, 6 - 9 PM	In person: Lake City	FC: Columbia, Baker, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee	Tuesday, January 24th
		ADPT: All counties outside of Alachua, Gilchrist, and Levy	
March Class March 7th - May 2nd Every Tuesday, 6 - 9 PM	In person: Trenton	Gilchrist, Levy, Dixie, Alachua, Taylor <i>*This class is Foster Care only</i>	Friday, February 10th
April Class April 1st - May 13th Biweekly Saturdays, 10 AM - 4 PM	In person: Gainesville	FC: Alachua	Tuesday, March 7th
		ADPT: Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy	
May Class May 4th - June 29th Every Thursday, 6 - 9 PM	In person: Lake City	FC: Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee	Tuesday, April 11th
		ADPT: All counties outside of Alachua, Gilchrist, and Levy	
June Class June 3rd - July 29th Biweekly Saturdays, 10 AM - 4 PM	Virtual	Union, Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Alachua <i>*This class is Foster Care only</i>	Tuesday, May 9th
July Class July 13th - September 7th Every Thursday, 6 - 9 PM	In person: Trenton	Gilchrist, Levy, Dixie, Alachua <i>*This class is Foster Care only</i>	Tuesday, June 20th
August Alachua Class August 3rd - September 28th Every Thursday, 6 - 9 PM	In person: Gainesville	FC: Alachua	Tuesday, July 11th
		ADPT: Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy	
August Class August 19th - October 14th Biweekly Saturdays, 10 AM - 4 PM <i>*No class September 2nd</i>	Virtual	FC: Hamilton, Madison, Lafayette, Taylor, Suwannee	Tuesday, July 25th
		ADPT: All counties outside of Alachua, Gilchrist, and Levy	
October Class October 7th - November 4th Every Saturday, 10 AM - 4PM	Virtual	Open to all counties <i>*This class is Foster Care only</i>	Tuesday, September 12th





PARTNERSHIP FOR
**STRONG
FAMILIES**

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

Learn more
about how
our innovative
services are
keeping our
community's
children safe.
Visit us at
www.pfsf.org



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

Memories Made :

***Teenager has birthday party at a
trampoline park***

Donor support helped fund a trampoline birthday
party for a teen in care!



Our normalcy program allows us to provide unique and important opportunities for youth in care. The funds for our normalcy program are sourced entirely from our donors! We have had many uses of normalcy funds over the past several months, but we wanted to highlight one of our favorites. A teenage boy celebrated his 13th birthday in January, and we worked alongside his caseworker and foster parent to provide a special birthday party at a local trampoline park for him and his friends to enjoy. We appreciate our donors for allowing us to provide experiences like this for youth in care! If you would like to donate to support more experiences like this for youth in care, please scan the QR code below!



#PartnerFosterAdopt



@partnershipforstrongfamilies



Partnership for Strong Families