

Evolution of the Resource Center Model

PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG FAMILIES



In 2008, Partnership for Strong Families (PSF) collaborated with the Department of Children and Families and Casey Family Programs to create a Resource Center that would increase access to resources for families in the 32601 and 32609 zip codes, which had some of the highest child maltreatment rates in Alachua County. With plans to open a new branch in the area, the Alachua County Library District was eager to partner, helping to create an environment that would reduce the stigma associated with asking for help through collocation. With support and input of our partners and patrons, the Library Partnership Resource Center opened in 2009.

For a number of years, the Southwest Advocacy Group (SWAG) had worked toward improving the lives of residents in southwest Gainesville by conducting needs assessments and advocating to increase their access to resources. Seeing the success at the Library Partnership, SWAG approached PSF about opening a similar center to serve the 32607 and 32608 zip codes. As the area had historically seen high rates of child maltreatment, PSF was quickly on board. With a building donation from the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and tremendous community support, the SWAG Family Resource Center opened in 2012.

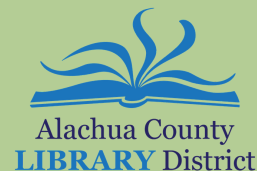


When the Alachua County Library District began plans to open a new branch in the 32641 zip code, PSF was given another opportunity to partner. Data supported the need for a Resource Center in the area, and PSF began conducting community needs assessments to further understand the needs of families in the area and connect with new partners who could help us fill resource gaps. In 2013, the Cone Park Library Resource Center opened part-time; however, utilization rates quickly highlighted the need for a full-time center. The center began operating full-time in May 2014.

In 2014, PSF was at last able to grow our network of Resource Centers outside of Alachua County. Tri-County Community Resources (TCCR) had long been advocating for the needs of families in Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy Counties, where major barriers to accessing services had long plagued families. After a tour of one of the Gainesville Resource Centers, TCCR approached PSF about bringing the model to Tri-County. PSF and TCCR worked together to conduct needs assessments in the community prior to the opening of the center to best serve residents. The City of Chiefland gladly donated the use of the old city hall building, and Tri-County Community Resource Center opened its doors in 2015.



In 2019, PSF was selected as one of only nine sites in the nation to receive the *Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families* grant from the Children's Bureau. This five-year project will bring in more than \$2.7 million to rigorously evaluate the three Gainesville Resource Centers, identify ways we can refine and strengthen Resource Center programming and services and establish a new Resource Center in Lake City. PSF has established a new Resource Center Advisory Council in Lake City to give voice to the community's strengths and needs as we plan to open the the Lake City Resource Center in early 2021.



TO LEARN MORE, VISIT WWW.PFSF.ORG/RESOURCECENTERS

Resource Center Model

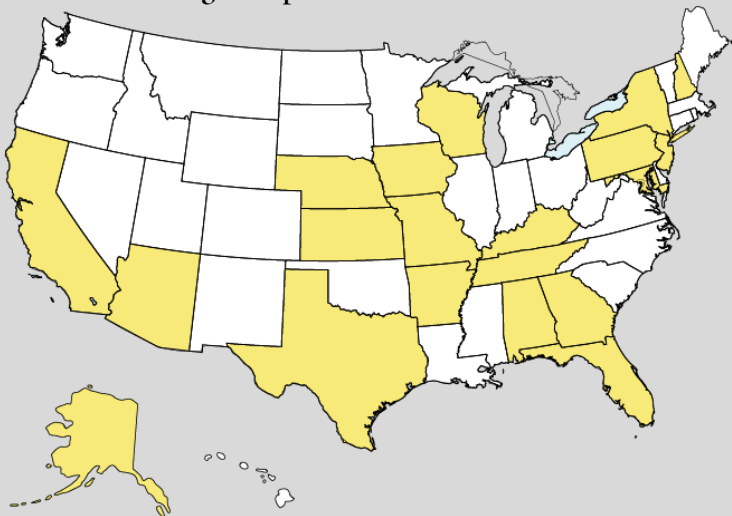
As the lead community-based care agency responsible for providing child welfare services in 13 North Central Florida counties, Partnership for Strong Families' (PSF) mission is to enhance the community's ability to protect and nurture children by building, maintaining and constantly improving a network of family support services. PSF's Resource Centers help us achieve our mission by providing easily accessible, non-stigmatizing environments for community members to seek needed resources to strengthen their families. Thanks to partnerships with more than 75 organizations, every service and resource is provided at no cost to patrons.

Staff and volunteers at the Resource Centers utilize the protective factors framework, a proven model for child abuse prevention that focuses on reducing the likelihood of child abuse and neglect by increasing the presence of **five protective factors** in families.

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|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Concrete Supports | Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development | Social & Emotional Competence of Children | Social Connections | Family Functioning & Resiliency |
| Clothing Closet, Food Pantry, Rent/Utility Assistance, Job Board, Computer Use | Parenting Resources/Classes, Developmental Fairs | Educational Support, Summer and Spring Break Camps, Youth Financial Literacy | Special Events, Fitness Activities, Community Dinners | Employability Services, Financial Literacy Programs, Mental Health Support |

Beyond our Community

PSF has shared our Resource Center Model on a local, state and national level. Our experiences and success are helping pave the way for communities looking to replicate a similar initiative in their areas.



Impact to Date*

238,000+

VISITS TO THE RESOURCE CENTERS

284,000+

SERVICES PROVIDED

\$769,000+

IN-KIND DONATIONS RECEIVED

\$477,800+

GRANT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

*Data through calendar year 2019.