FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Fifty Years of Bringing Hope and Change**

*Saving lives and creating change is central during Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

[www.peacefulpaths.org](http://www.peacefulpaths.org)

GAINESVILLE- Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network will commemorate National Domestic Violence Awareness Month during October 2024, and encourages you to learn more about domestic violence and supporting survivors in our area. Since January 2024, Peaceful Paths has provided services to 3,453 survivors and their children through residential and outreach programs, demonstrating that Intimate Partner Violence continues to seriously impact Alachua, Bradford, and Union County communities.

In celebrating 50 years of service to the tri-county region, Peaceful Paths reflects on the journeys of the 10,000 families supported with shelter services through the years. The agency strives to fill gaps, meet emerging needs, and build best practice for survivors and their families. Peaceful Paths’ advocates, leadership, and Board of Directors work to ensure that survivors can access what they need, when they need it, to move forward in the way that is best for them. This is the legacy Peaceful Paths has built and will continue to build upon. A survivor shares, “I can’t express how grateful I am for all that you’ve done for me…I know it sounds strange, but your concern for me helped me feel that same kindness for myself when I felt unworthy and helpless.”

Peaceful Paths offers free and confidential services and a helpline that is available to survivors and allies seeking assistance 24/7. They offer free education on Intimate Partner Violence and building healthy relationships to students, organizations, and businesses.

**2024 October Events**

**Domestic Violence Awareness Displays** | October 1-31

The community can experience the Clothesline Project in displays around the community. This project highlights the experiences of survivors through hand-illustrated t-shirts. This year, host sites will feature a shirt and awareness materials that can help the public learn more. Sites include the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Santa Fe College, City Auto, Alachua PD, Best Restoration, and the Community Foundation of North Central Florida.

**22nd Annual Guest Chef Gainesville**| October 3 5:30-9:00

Guest Chef Gainesville is Peaceful Paths' annual signature fundraising event to support our mission to save lives and create change. Make a significant impact on the lives of domestic abuse survivors while you sample more than 30 delicious dishes prepared by local foodies that advocate for our cause. Socialize comfortably both indoors and outdoors while sipping complimentary beer and wine. Browse our extensive list of silent auction items on your mobile device. Enjoy entertainment from amazing musical performers, free valet parking, and much more. Purchase tickets here: [www.guestchefgainesville.com](https://peacefulpaths.ejoinme.org/guestchefgainesville)

**Business Before Hours** | October 15 8:30-10
Join us for Business Before Hours, a structured yet relaxed environment for making effective connections within the Chamber business community. This is your opportunity to experience a unique look into our mission in action. Network and tour our Outreach Campus to learn about how you can support survivors. Attendance is limited to 50. Register here: https://gainesvillechamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/35678

For more information on the agency or any of these events, please contact Crystal Sorrow at 352-377-5690,csorrow@peacefulpaths.org, or visit us on the web at [www.peacefulpaths.org](http://www.peacefulpaths.org)

***We exist to save lives and create change.***