

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Erica Merrell, CFO, Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, 352-377-5690, ericam@peacefulpaths.org

Crystal Sorrow, CEO, Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, 352-377-5690, csorrow@peacefulpaths.org

**Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network: Free and Confidential
Services in Alachua, Bradford and Union Counties**

24 Helpline – 352-377-8255 / 24 Text – 352-727-0948 / Gainesville Outreach Campus – 352-377-5690

www.peacefulpaths.org

February 5, 2026

GAINESVILLE- Peaceful Paths is the state-certified Domestic Violence center serving Alachua, Bradford and Union Counties. In light of the domestic violence related murders experienced in Bradford and Union County recently, we extend our deepest sympathy to those involved and we would like to remind the community of our free and confidential services.

Our Gainesville Outreach Campus accommodates walk-in service options Monday through Friday during normal business hours of 9 am to 5 pm. Our campus offers a multitude of supports that include youth services, legal services, individual and family trauma-informed therapy, support group, financial literacy, housing advocacy, food and clothing pantries, and individualized case management.

Our 46-bed Gainesville Residential Campus provides emergency shelter for survivors and their families, and also includes a pet room for survivors that have small pets. We maintain seven supportive housing units that provide temporary housing for up to a year while survivors can utilize our wrap around services and address unique obstacles that may prevent them from accessing traditional independent housing. In 2025, we provided more than 60,000 services to survivors in our tri-county area.

Education and prevention are fundamental to create the lasting societal change needed to save lives. Last year Peaceful Paths empowered 3,786 youth with violence prevention education through school and community programming partnerships. Free training is available for youth and adults in workplace, faith-based or community settings.

“Peaceful Paths remains committed not only to the immediate work of keeping survivors and their dependents safe, but in vocalizing the need for fundamental systems change. We advocate for and strive to create a reality where we are not silent about violence and where we hold people accountable for perpetuating abuse,” states Chief Financial Officer, Erica Rodriguez Merrell.

Allies are fundamental to creating impactful change for survivors so Peaceful Paths relies on volunteers, interns, donation drives/events, and planned giving from community members to further our mission. More information on how you can uplift and support survivors in our area can be found online at peacefulpaths.org in the **Support Us** section.

If you or someone you know needs help, Peaceful Paths is here to offer support and information. 24/7 Helpline Advocates are available by phone (352-377-8255) or text (352-727-0948) to answer questions about our free and confidential services. More information can also be found online at www.peacefulpaths.org or by calling our main office at 352-377-5690.