

Administration

1769 E. Moody Blvd Bldg 2
Bunnell, FL 32110



www.flaglercounty.org

Phone: (386)313-4001

Fax: (386)313-4101

Julie Murphy
Flagler County
Public Information Officer
(386) 313-4039
Email jmurphy@flaglercounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Donations sustain Sally's Safe Haven

January 30, 2019 – Donations will sustain Sally's Safe Haven – a supervised visitation and safe exchange center – after February 28 when its current grant funding period ends.

"I am challenging other businesses to come forward with donations," said Joe Mullins, as a private citizen and business owner of The Mullins Companies, on Wednesday when his company donated \$10,000 to the Children's Home Society specifically for Sally's Safe Haven. The exchange center, which is located in Bunnell, is a Flagler County Program that is operated by the Children's Home Society.

The center, which opened in December 2014 and was accredited in May 2017, provides a location for supervised visitations and exchanges for families in crisis with a nurturing, safe and secure setting to foster healthy relationships.

"We come to government for money all the time, but there is only so much of it and it all comes from one place – taxpayers," Mullins said. "The public is tapped; we have to get the private sector involved."

Sally's Safe Haven is the only visitation center of its type in Flagler County.

It provides safe, affordable, age-appropriate and activity-appropriate means of visitation and exchange of children whose families have been involved in domestic relationship cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. An eligibility interview is required before services are provided.

Flagler County applied for a \$550,000 three-year federal grant, but won't find out if it receives it until September 30 – one day before the funds are available for use.

"Deputy County Administrator Sally Sherman pursued and received other grants and donations to tide us over until October, but our grant funding is so important," said Christie Mayer, Flagler County Program Coordinator for Sally's Safe Haven. "You never find out about federal grants until official announcement from the Office of Women Against Violence."

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Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Joe Mullins
District 4

Donald O'Brien, Jr.
District 5