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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Gulf Power Foundation contributes \$100,000 to help victims of child abuse in local community**

- *Grants have been awarded by the Gulf Power Foundation to children's advocacy centers throughout Northwest Florida*
- *Grants total \$100,000 in support of victims of sexual violence and child abuse in communities from Escambia to Bay counties*

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Between Hurricane Sally and COVID-19, it's been a tough year. But through all that, Gulf Coast Kid's House (GCKH) has continued to provide a safe place for children and families who are victims of child abuse, helping more than 3,000 children in 2020.

"Right now, 1 in 10 children in our community are impacted by abuse," said Stacey Kostevicki, executive director for Gulf Coast Kid's House. "Our child advocacy center serves the most egregious victims of child abuse in Escambia County. We combine all of the professionals and resources needed for the intervention, investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases under one child-friendly facility."

To support this mission, the GCKH is one of four centers in Northwest Florida to receive grants from the Gulf Power Foundation. The four – Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center, Gulf Coast Kid's House, Santa Rosa Kid's House and Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center – will receive \$100,000 to support their efforts throughout Northwest Florida.

"Agencies like the Gulf Coast Kid's House Center provide a critical need in our community for those that are most vulnerable," said Sandy Sims, executive director for the Gulf Power Foundation. "The Gulf Power Foundation is proud to be able to assist them in their important work. It's just one of many ways we seek to support our communities in Northwest Florida."

The grant will help GCKH with immediate family needs such as counseling as well as child abuse prevention programs. GCKH teaches all students K-12 regarding child abuse and child trafficking prevention and has created an online, 40-minute training, "Know Child Abuse" ([www.knowchildabuse.org](http://www.knowchildabuse.org)) so that all adults in our community can learn to recognize, report and respond to child abuse.

"Gulf Power Foundation is always so appreciated – and I can't say how much so this year," Kostevicki said. "We have seen a dramatic increase in child abuse cases as our community faces challenges from Hurricane Sally and the COVID-19 pandemic. We can never truly express our gratitude for Gulf Power Foundation's investment in GCKH and the children we serve."

The Gulf Power Foundation has operated for 30 years as an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, partnering and investing in communities throughout Northwest Florida. The

Foundation is one of the region's largest corporate foundations, funded entirely through resources independent of Gulf Power's customers. Learn more about the Foundation and its quarterly grant program here: <https://www.gulfpowerfoundation.com/>.

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#### **About Gulf Coast Kid's House**

Gulf Coast Kid's House is a private, not-for-profit which provides services to victims of child abuse in Escambia County. GCKH is a children's advocacy center serving Pensacola and Escambia County. As a children's advocacy center, they combine all of the professionals and resources needed for the intervention, investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases under one child-friendly facility. Child victims and their families also receive mental health counseling at their center. The goal of Gulf Coast Kid's House is to form a more collaborative response to child abuse cases so that they can improve case outcomes and minimize trauma to the children and families we serve.

#### **About Gulf Power**

Gulf Power is part of Florida Power & Light Company, which is the largest energy company in the U.S. as measured by retail electricity produced and sold. The companies serve more than 5.6 million customer accounts supporting more than 11 million residents across Florida with clean, reliable and affordable electricity, including more than 470,000 customer accounts in eight counties throughout Northwest Florida. In 2020, Gulf Power was recognized with the 2020 ReliabilityOne® Award for Outstanding Reliability Performance in the Southeast suburban/rural service area while FPL won the ReliabilityOne® National Reliability Excellence Award for the fifth time in the last six years. FPL is a subsidiary of Juno Beach, Florida-based NextEra Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NEE), a clean energy company widely recognized for its efforts in sustainability, ethics and diversity, and has been ranked No. 1 in the electric and gas utilities industry in Fortune's 2020 list of "World's Most Admired Companies." NextEra Energy is also the parent company of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, which, together with its affiliated entities, is the world's largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and sun and a world leader in battery storage. For more information about NextEra Energy companies, visit these websites: [www.NextEraEnergy.com](http://www.NextEraEnergy.com), [www.FPL.com](http://www.FPL.com), [www.GulfPower.com](http://www.GulfPower.com), [www.NextEraEnergyResources.com](http://www.NextEraEnergyResources.com).

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