



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michelle Kapreilian, Executive Director

Phone: 941.365.7716; Email: Michelle.Kapreilian@fortycarrots.com

Momentum Builds for Forty Carrots Free Community Outreach Expansion

January 28, 2015 – Area donors are joining together to support an expansion of free parenting education and mental health services offered by Forty Carrots Family Center. The agency has recently received several generous grants and gifts totaling more than \$250,000 designated for its Community Outreach Program to help reach the goal of increasing free services by over 40%.

“The agencies we partner with in the community have been requesting that Forty Carrots increase the services delivered to their clients, and new community partners like Salvation Army have come on board” says Michelle Kapreilian, Executive Director. “We are so grateful to these generous donors for making such a significant contribution towards meeting the need in our community.”

Forty Carrots Free Community Outreach program travels into the community five days a week fostering essential parent-child bonds, preventing child abuse and increasing school readiness for children from all walks of life. In addition to services offered at the Family Center, classes take place at 27 partner agency locations throughout Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

Recent donations in support of this effort were made by: Dart Foundation; Sarasota County Government; Elizabeth Moore; William G. and Marie Selby Foundation; Allen Wirtz Nobbe and Jo Bowen Nobbe Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County; Ashley Kozel; Montei Foundation; Mildred & Bernard Doyle Foundation; Wilson Wood Foundation; Heron Creek Community Foundation; Scott & Annie Loratan; The George J. and Alice Pugh Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County; Lakewood Ranch Community Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation; and two major donors who prefer to remain anonymous.

"The impact that Forty Carrots is having on our community through its outreach program is life-changing for many parents," says Ashley Kozel, Forty Carrots Trustee. "Through it we are reaching families who can benefit the most from our services. I enthusiastically donated a fourth van for use in the Community Outreach program to enable our amazing program staff to further their impact in Sarasota and Manatee counties. It is my hope that parents of all backgrounds in our broader community will be strengthened by the expansion made possible with this additional van together with the generous donations of others."

“We are grateful beyond words for these generous gifts, and are working diligently to raise the balance of funds needed to support this critical expansion of services,” said Kapreilian. “We know that a child’s early years provide the foundation for lifetime success, and reaching as many families as possible with information, skills and support will improve lives and strengthen our community.”

Forty Carrots Family Center, 1500 South Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota FL 34239, 941.365.7716, www.fortycarrots.org



Founded in 1993, Forty Carrots Family Center is guided by a vision that all parents will provide their children with experiences and environments that are emotionally and physically safe so that they can grow into capable and caring young people. In addition to its NAEYC-accredited Preschool and award-winning Parenting Center, the agency provided more than 845 free parenting education and mental health classes throughout the community last year. The agency is undertaking an expansion of its free Community Outreach Program, projecting a 40% increase in the number of free classes provided this year at 27 partner locations. For more information: www.fortycarrots.org.

Photo: The new Community Outreach van donated by Ashley Kozel, used to deliver free parenting education, early childhood education and mental health services throughout Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Pictured: Ashley Kozel, Donor and Trustee; Christina Rodrigues, Parenting Program Director; Meredith Piazza, Parenting Program Assistant Director & Therapist, Elizabeth Hautamaki, Parenting Educator, Tylar Smith, Therapist.



-###-