



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA COUNTY GRANT BRINGS SUPPORT TO TEEN MOTHERS

Sarasota, June 23, 2011 – The Community Foundation of Sarasota County has awarded Forty Carrots Family Center a grant of \$10,000, made possible through the Edward K. Roberts Fund, to support community outreach parenting education classes for single teen mothers through Forty Carrots' *On Wheels* Parenting Program. Because this program empowers young mothers with the information, skills and support they need to raise their children in a safe and healthy environment, it was a natural fit for the Fund's mission to help single mothers.

"Forty Carrots tailors their parenting programs to the specific audiences that Mr. Roberts cared so much about," said Wendy Hopkins, Vice President of Grant and Program Services at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. "Being raised by a single mother himself, he was sensitive to the challenges they face. We're so happy to be able to fulfill Mr. Roberts' wishes."

Since 1996, Forty Carrots has partnered with CYESIS, Sarasota County's Teen Parent Program, to provide young mothers with the education they need to be confident, capable parents. At present, Forty Carrots facilitates a total of 8 classes per week at Riverview and North Port High Schools for pregnant and parenting teens as part of the students' class schedule.

More than 95% of those served by CYESIS are single mothers, reflecting the national trend that 95% of teen mothers aged 15-17 are not married. Forty Carrots classes are open to all teen parents enrolled in CYESIS and young fathers have accounted for 3% of participants in the last two years.

Adolescent parents and their children represent populations at increased risk for medical, psychological, developmental, and social problems. Research documents the link between adolescent mothers and child abuse, thereby underscoring the critical need for abuse-prevention programs. Forty Carrots Family Center's own research shows that their curriculum impacts factors linked to a lower incidence of child abuse and neglect.

"It is incredibly uplifting to observe these young girls developing parenting skills and growing into the role of motherhood knowing that their children will benefit in the end." said Betsy Kane-Hartnett, Executive Director of Forty Carrots.



Forty Carrots Family Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field. Forty Carrots offers a variety of classes for families with children ages 0-5 at their Kane Campus (1500 South Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota) and at all eight Sarasota County Libraries. Forty Carrots also offers a NAEYC-accredited, 5+ Stars (Look for the Stars) preschool program for children ages 2-5. Details on the Preschool and the Parenting Program, including a complete listing of classes, can be found at www.fortycarrots.org or by calling 365-7716.

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is a public charity founded in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council as a bridge between caring individuals and the causes they support, enabling them to make a charitable impact on the community that is For Good. For Ever.® With assets of approximately \$190 million in more than 750 funds, the Community Foundation awards grants and scholarships totaling 6 to 11 million dollars annually, in the areas of arts, culture and humanities; education, civic engagement, health, human services, animal welfare and the environment. The Nonprofit Resource Center of the Community Foundation provides education, training, workshops, consulting, digital resources and more to nonprofits to support and strengthen their ability to fulfill their missions. Roxie Jerde is president and CEO. For more information, please visit www.CFSarasota.org.

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