

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: (941) 365-7716**

## **Announcing Champagne Reception at Wine, Women & Shoes 2011 To Benefit Parenting Education Programs**

(Sarasota – Sept. 12, 2011) Kick up your heels with a new event at Forty Carrots Family Center's 7<sup>th</sup> annual **Wine, Women & Shoes** fundraiser set for **Nov. 4-5, 2011** benefiting community families.

Patrons can sip and shop as presenting sponsor **Center For Sight** hosts a **Champagne Reception** at the **Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota**, immediately following the sold-out luncheon on **Friday, Nov. 4 from 3–4:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$50. Designers will showcase exclusive shoes, accessory lines and collections not typically available at area retail stores. Patrons will have the chance to meet many of the top designers while browsing the latest in Fall fashion. 'Champagne' will accompany the shopping experience. Following the reception patrons can share shopping finds with friends in the festive Ca d'Zan Bar.

"We are thrilled to add the Champagne Reception to the Wine, Women & Shoes line-up. The event has been a great success and for the first time we are able to include this abbreviated shop and sip experience for budget conscious supporters. More women can do something they love; shop with girlfriends - while raising money for a great cause; building strong parent-child relationships in our community," says Emily Stroud, volunteer event co-chair.

"Women will get a chance to meet local and national designers during the Champagne Reception and see collections not typically at our area retailers. It's like being in New York or LA and making a difference for a local meaningful cause. Good parenting lasts forever and so Wine, Women & Shoes is expanding to continue to change the face of our community one family at a time," adds Emily Tack, volunteer event co-chair.

**Wine, Women & Shoes** is the area's unique fundraiser where ladies and the gentlemen who love them get the opportunity to sample and buy excellent wines and shop for fashionable shoes, jewelry and accessories all for a worthy cause. This event is a fun, interactive - taste, shop and learn experience. All proceeds from the events benefit the nonprofit **Forty Carrots Family Center's parenting education program**:

1. **Friday, Nov. 4 \* The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota**

**10:30 a.m.: Signature Luncheon presented by Center For Sight and Fashion Show produced by Neiman Marcus Tampa Bay and Southpointe Land Rover – SOLD OUT**

**3–4:30 p.m.: Champagne Reception presented by Center For Sight -**

**Tickets AVAILABLE for \$50**

**2. Saturday, Nov. 5 \* Wine Tasting & Wine Dinners**

**2–4 p.m.: Wine Tasting at Michael's Wine Cellar – featuring Wine, Women & Shoes selected vintners. The tasting is free to Gulf Coast Connoisseur Club Members and anyone making a \$10 donation to Forty Carrots Family Center at the door or online at [www.fortycarrots.com/support.cfm](http://www.fortycarrots.com/support.cfm).**

**Space AVAILABLE**

**7 p.m. : Evening Winemaker Dinners at various homes and locations –**

**LIMITED tickets remaining for \$150 - \$275.**

**Dinner Selections Include: Alex Miller & Chris Voelker; Hautamaki & Horiuchi; Viking Culinary Center; Bob & Ariane Dart and Chris & Aimee Cogan; Christopher Roy and Pam & John Mader; Felice Schulaner and Dennis Rees; Betsy & John Kane-Hartnett.** Each wine dinner features selected vintners paired with chef inspired cuisine. For example at Bob & Ariane Dart and Chris & Aimee Cogan's winemaker dinner patrons can let the good times roll during an evening filled with culinary delights from celebrity chef, Clay Conley and Blackbird Vineyard's Kimberly Miller. Chef Conley is a national award winning 5 star chef and is the owner of the highly acclaimed Buccan in Palm Beach and the former chef at Azul of the Mandarin Oriental. A guest chef on TV shows such as Good Morning America, and Fox and Friends, Chef Conley is sure to create a dining experience that guests will savor from beginning to end.

Designers: Guest appearances at The Signature Luncheon and Champagne Reception may Include: Matt Bernson with Addison Craig; Diana Kelly with Diana E. Kelly; Kande Hall with French Kande; Jennifer Zeurner with Influence Boutique; Niko Papadatos with Inner Circle Spa; Lisa Mackey with Lisa Mackey Designs; Lindsay Phillips, Creator Lindsay Phillips with Molly's – A Chic and Unique Boutique; Natalie Williams, Nicole Miller Corporation with Foxy Lady; Paul Mayer, Attitudes Footwear, Inc.; Emily Harris, EMS b. Jewelry, Adam Sirak, Sirak; Julies Burt, Michael Pasinkoff, Little Eric & Michael Pasinkoff, Andrea Posse NYC; Jim Woodside, Isabella Adams with T. Georgianos.

Retail Partners Include: Addison Craig, St. Armands \* T. Georgianos \* Foxy Lady \* Diane E. Kelly \* Influence Boutique \* The Inner Circle Spa \* Molly's, a Chic & Unique Boutique \* Lisa Mackey Design \* Louts \* June Simmons \* Patrice

Vintners Include: Eagle Eye; Michael David Winery; Blackbird Vineyards; The Four Graces; 2880; Tyler Florence Wines; Grgich Hills; Quintessential Wines; Vintage Point – Layer Cake; B Cellars; Alexander Valley Vineyards; The Terraces; Tres Sabores

For more information please call Forty Carrots Family Center at (941) 365-7716 or visit our website at [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org)

**Forty Carrots Family Center** is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field. Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, Forty Carrots is Sarasota's only agency whose singular focus is early childhood and parenting education. Each year, Forty Carrots works with nearly 2,000 families with young children. Today, 92% of their clients receive free services as Forty Carrots' ongoing commitment to providing all parents – regardless of any social criteria – access to the information, education and support needed to help them do the best possible job in raising their children. The agency serves Sarasota County families partnering with 15 local agencies serving at-risk parents as young as early teens to adults-ranging from young, homeless pregnant women to well-educated mature adults to grandparents and single fathers. Each striving to do the hardest job parents and caregivers have in life: Parenting.

**Wine, Women & Shoes** is a national women's charity and wine education program created by Elaine Honig. Visit [www.winewomenandshoes.com](http://www.winewomenandshoes.com)

# # #