

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Kates Foundation Grant to Forty Carrots to Benefit Teen Parents**

**SARASOTA, FL – The Kates Foundation** has granted \$10,000 to Forty Carrots Family Center in support of its programs providing parenting education and mental health services to teen parents and their children at Riverview High School and North Port High School. Forty Carrots' program fosters healthy relationships between young parents enrolled in Sarasota County Schools' CYESIS Teen Parent Program and their children, strengthening the parent-child bond and reducing the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The program also empowers young parents to be their children's first teacher, providing the skills they need to foster early literacy and school readiness for their children.

"Teen parents face the same challenges as all of us in trying to do what's best for their child," says Michelle Kapreilian, Executive Director of Forty Carrots Family Center. "Yet they also have the additional pressures that come with being a teenager, including competing demands of school, work and an often unstable home life. We work to build confidence and skills to create a better future for the whole family.

Forty Carrots delivers parenting education and mental health services to teen parents at their high school as part of their weekly class schedule, through a partnership with Sarasota County Schools that has been in place since 1996. The agency receives no funding from the Schools and raises the money to provide the program through grants, individuals and special events. More information is available at [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org) or by calling 941-365-7716.

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